

MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING
80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois
Thursday, June 27, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION
ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Dolores Hicks gave the invocation. Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll and established a quorum with the following officials and board members present: Supervisor Catching, Trustee Dolores Hicks, Trustee David Moore, Trustee Sam Núñez, Assessor Davis Offutt, and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens, who arrived a few minutes late. Trustee Juanita Wells was excused absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson. Public present: Adam Pauley, Tony Passaro, Dr. Peggy Hicks, and Dr. Alejandro Benevides.

II. Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of the Minutes of The Regular Board Meeting of June 13, 2024**, which was seconded by Trustee Núñez. Without discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills

a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve the combined Town Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, General Assistance Fund, Mental Health Fund, Equipment & Building Fund, Town IMRF Fund, Town Social Security Fund, Road & Bridge Social Security Fund, and R&B IMRF Fund bills as presented to the board. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$37,381.51
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$27,835.28
General Assistance Fund.....	\$3,409.44
Mental Health Fund.....	\$684,757.06
Equipment & Building Fund.....	\$3,304.55
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$572.92
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$269.70
Social Security Fund.....	\$6,072.74
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$1,422.93

The total for all funds is \$765,026.13. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. REPORTS

a. ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Davis Offutt submitted a written report and said the books will be turned in to the county on June 28.

b. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens submitted a written report of the usual duties of the department and said the Blackberry Heights drainage and resurfacing project, in conjunction with the Village of Montgomery, has commenced and we are sponsoring a portion, so we will soon see invoices for the work. He also mentioned that he has a new foreman, Todd Niedzwidz, and the previous foreman will stay on as a regular maintenance worker, where his knowledge and experience will be useful.

c. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Supervisor Catching said Kane County Deputy Sheriff Brian Demeter, who works with the township regularly, was involved in an on-duty accident and has several serious injuries but will recover. Catching wished him well on behalf of the entire township board.
- Supervisor Catching stated he attended a Township Officials of Illinois educational seminar in Rockford last weekend and noted that the township clerk will need to notify the chairs of each party by August 15 regarding the primaries.
- Catching thanked Patty Richardson for helping with staff management and organization. He said they had a staff meeting and will hold them quarterly from now on.

d. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson presented the board with the May 31 financial statements and said everything looks normal. She stated that we got a large payment from Kane County from the property taxes and our next large distribution will arrive in September.

e. KANE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S REPORT - none

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Update on Changes to Aurora Township's Bill Payment Process

Director Richardson presented a written report of several problems the township has had with checks for several months. Some never made it to the vendors but later were presented for cashing at the bank. She said that with the detailed system at the bank, they can catch the fraud, notify her, and she can deny payment, so the township hasn't actually lost any money except for the time and cost of replacing and mailing new checks. She noted that these checks were mailed at the downtown Aurora post office and that the recipients had post office boxes also at the Aurora post office. Richardson said she will no longer use window envelopes for checks.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - none

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Tom Passaro of Carillon at Stonegate reported that a dead tree had fallen and was now attracting many wild animals which was undesirable. He stated it was on unincorporated property. Supervisor Catching said he would look into it.
- Dr. Peggy Hicks thanked everyone who volunteered at the Kidz 'n' Boats event and said everyone enjoyed the boat rides and lunch provided.
- Adam Pauley said the 708 Board [Mental Health Board] met June 17 and he said they gave \$10,000 in services to people in Aurora Township. He expressed regret that board members cannot serve on committees.
- Dr. Alejandro Benavides wanted to know how the township will guard against liability regarding the half-finished project led by Ricky Rodgers on S. Kendall where there is a large hole dug for a foundation for a proposed museum. He said, according to an article in the Beacon News, the project may be permanently stalled. DISCUSSION: Supervisor Catching said the township has no authority to tell Mr. Rodgers to fill in the hole. Dr. Benavides suggested we offer to fill the hole to save ourselves (and taxpayers) the money for renting the fence. Dr. Peggy Hicks said we should have a meeting with Ricky Rodgers and the board of directors of the project and see where they are in their process. Catching said Kane County is the enforcing body for this problem. Highway Commissioner Owens said the Kane County Department of Transportation will have a meeting on Monday, July 1, to address the approval of the museum project, and although he is not invited to the

meeting, he gave comments to board member Monica Silva. Trustee Núñez asked if this meeting would approve the project. Owens answered that it was only to approve the plan, which has been in the works since 2018, and includes architect plans. Núñez asked how long the fence contract was for and Catching replied one year. Trustee Núñez also expressed concerns that the taxpayers were paying for the fence for a private concern.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Peggy Hicks said the Men Who Cook fundraising event will take place Saturday and Supervisor Catching mentioned there will also be a Tejano Fest this weekend in Aurora.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassidy Alexander", written in a cursive style.

Town Clerk Cassidy Alexander