

**MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING**

**80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois**

**Thursday, September 26, 2024**

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

Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4:03 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, Trustees Dolores Hicks, David Moore, and Juanita Wells; Assessor Davis Offutt, and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Trustee Sam Núñez was excused absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson. Public present: Dr. Peggy Hicks, Betty Carter, Patricia A. MacDougal, Linda Martin, and Rick Martin.

**II.** Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of the Minutes of The Regular Board Meeting of September 12, 2024**, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. 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, 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 Moore. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$77,157.82
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$7,455.32
General Assistance Fund.....	\$4,907.49
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$491.27
Town Social Security Fund.....	\$4,544.93
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$1,119.83
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$130.37

The total for all funds is \$95,807.03 The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. REPORTS**

a. ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Davis Offutt submitted a written report of the usual duties of the department. He said the equalization factor for Aurora Township will be 1.1192%, which reflects an increase of .1192% based on recent property sales. He also invited everyone to look at the assessor's website, which now has photos and sketches of Township properties.

b. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens said they are finishing up their resurfacing project and will be landscaping before the end of the season. He mentioned that the test on a new process for resurfacing roads did not work well.

c. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Supervisor Catching said there was a nice event last Sunday dedicating the historic Austin-Western Boxcar Camp and Hwy. Commissioner Owens was the emcee. Catching said about 35 people attended, some from out of state. The Supervisor thanked Fire Chief Waterman for bringing the Honor Guard to the ceremony, and for giving a discount on the plaque, as well.
- Catching said he wrote a letter of support for the grant application for the Aurora Housing Authority for their Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator (ROSS) Program.
- The Supervisor stated he gave out another payoff letter request to Gray's Mill, which owes the Township about \$522,000, and spoke to a co-owner who said they are trying to refinance.

d. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson presented the board with the August 31 financial statements and said we are in good shape. She said we got the September tax distribution, which means most of our money has come in. She said one air conditioner for the second floor was installed and approved and the second one was just installed and will be on the approval requests at the next meeting. She added that they are still trying to get quotes for the play yard project.

e. KANE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S REPORT - none

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – none

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve the Hiring of Full-time Ride-In-Kane Employee, LaToya Taylor**. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching presented the board with Ms. Taylor's credentials. There was no objection, and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve an Increase in the Hourly Rate for Full-time Ride-In-Kane Drivers, per the Written Table of Rates Presented to the Board**. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. DISCUSSION: The board was presented with a written table of proposed rates for full-time and on-call drivers, with years of service taken into account. Catching said this was a necessary move to retain and hire good drivers. Hwy. Commissioner Owens said the new rates are very fair. Patty Richardson said we require a CDL now. She said they used to have more retirees driving, and wages were not as much of an issue, but now they mostly have younger people whose sole income is from this job, so we need to be competitive. Catching said we will still be able to stay within budget, partly from appropriated salaries that weren't used due to vacancies, and partly by eliminating one position entirely. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

c. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve Resolution 2024-23 Transfer of Appropriations – Town Fund**. The second was Trustee Moore. Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson said the main amount of funds was needed for costly repairs to one vehicle. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Supervisor Catching moved to **TABLE Resolution 2024-24 Setting Compensation of Township Officials for the Four-Year Term Beginning May 2025**. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Supervisor Catching distributed some charts comparing salaries for different position within 12 townships in Kane County. He said there are other salary surveys still being conducted, including one by the Township Officials of Illinois. Catching said the final deadline to approve salary changes is in the second meeting in October. The motion to table carried unanimously.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Wells said she thought the ceremony honoring the Boxcar Camps had a nice turnout and thought it was a very good event.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Linda Martin said she would have attended the Autin-Western ceremony but didn't know about it.
- Dr. Peggy Hicks said the F.V.C.M.A. Scholarships will be given out the first Saturday in November and they have 8 applications so far. She thanked Aurora Township for their financial assistance and hoped to have continued support. Dr. Hicks also announced that her non-profit company, Hicks-Wright, has gotten a National Science Award Grant for their S.T.E.M. program.

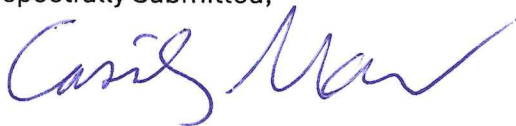
**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Supervisor Catching said the Township Officials of Kane County Annual Dinner Meeting will be held October 23 at Lincoln Inn Banquets in Batavia. Tickets are \$20 and please RSVP to [office@bataviatownship.com](mailto:office@bataviatownship.com) by October 11.
- Rick Martin said there will be a fundraising event at St. Rita's Church on Old Indian Trail Rd. on September 28 and 29 to help people newly released from prison to integrate with society. They will sell tamales for \$20/dozen.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Wells. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Town Clerk Cassidy Alexander