

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

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

**Thursday, February 27, 2025**

**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, Trustee Dolores Hicks, Trustee David Moore, Trustee Sam Núñez, Trustee Juanita Wells, and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Assessor Davis Offutt was excused absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson and Interim Director of Community Services Jennifer Haurykiewicz. Public present: Dr. Peggy Hicks, Lillie Glover, Deputies A. Vidrio and L. Alvarez of the Kane County Sheriff Department, Adam Pauley, Angie Thomas, John E. Burch III, Kevin Hale, Carlos A. Toledo, J.L. Harris, Sherry Spears, Arlissa Dockery of ECHO Development, John Taylor, Shanay Charles, and Lillian Perry.

Supervisor Catching moved for **Approval of the Minutes of The Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2025**, which was seconded by Trustee David Moore. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. 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, Road & Bridge Equipment & Building Fund, Town IMRF Fund, Town Social Security Fund, Road & Bridge Social Security Fund, and Road & Bridge IMRF Fund bills as presented to the board. It was seconded by Trustee Núñez. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$47,178.23
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$25,140.83
General Assistance Fund.....	\$1,110.62
R&B Equipment & Building Fund.....	\$62,660.94
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$457.27
Town Social Security Fund.....	\$4,555.78
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$1,708.54
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$185.45
TOTAL for all funds.....	<u>\$142,997.66</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

**III. REPORTS**

a. ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Davis Offutt submitted a written report stating the usual activities of the department.

b. HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens said 80% of the salt for winter has been paid for. He added they bought a Hydro Seeder, because after renting one, it was found to be significantly more efficient in reseeding. Owens stated that the Township's part of the bill (which is 40%) for the Blackberry Heights project shared with the Village of Montgomery (at Orchard and Route 30), was \$677,000, which is \$27,000 higher than estimated. He added that Montgomery fronted the bill.

c. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Catching thanked Trustee Moore for filling in for him at the last Township meeting. Catching said we now have the bills through December for Ride-In-Kane, which, though not ideal, is a considerable improvement from the previous 6-month lag in presenting bills. Catching noted that employee evaluations will start next week. The Supervisor added that longtime community activist Marjorie Logman passed away. He said she was a tireless advocate for seniors and the disabled and she will be missed. Visitation will be March 8th, from 1 to 3, at Moss Funeral Home in Batavia.

a. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson submitted January's financial statement to the board and said she is conferring with each department head to develop next year's budget. When finished, it will be on display for 30 days at the Township Office. She said she expects it to be ready for either the first or last April Board meeting.

b. KANE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S REPORT - none

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve **Resolution 2025-02 Transfer of Appropriation – Town Fund**. Trustee Hicks seconded. Trustee Núñez asked about the \$10,000 for the senior lawn/snow services and could more people be covered, and Catching said no, that it was capped at 150 people. Catching added that outsourcing this task has been more efficient and cheaper than in-house. Trustee Núñez also asked why health insurance charges were going up. Director Richardson explained that we used to have more employees who were on Medicare who would waive our health insurance, but now we have more young employees who want the insurance. Without further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Supervisor Catching said recently the Governor's Office proposed an initiative to consolidate townships. It would not allow townships under 5,000 population, allow county boards to initiate referendums to eliminate townships, and cut the petition threshold in half, among other things. Catching voiced his opinion that many other government entities could be cut back and that townships are the best way to govern locally. He added that county services are usually more expensive, so we would not save money. Highway Commissioner Owens said that township miles account for about 49% of all miles in Illinois. Both Trustees Hicks and Moore said they have seen this kind of talk before and it doesn't come to anything. Supervisor Catching pointed out this governor has a super-majority in the Illinois Congress.

Trustee Wells congratulated the winners of the consolidated primary and urged those who didn't make it to run again in four years. Wells then brought up the denial of funding to ECHO Development and stated that, having seen their application, it looked neat, accurate and fine. She suggested that they receive some grant money from the township.

Catching answered that these are competitive grants, and that other organizations have been denied before. He added that there is another round of funding coming up in March and the Township usually grants money to several longstanding partners. Director Richardson said some grants are for Youth and money is budgeted for other organizations. There was a discussion about the need to follow up to make sure the money granted was used for what was claimed in the letter. There followed a discussion about how an organization could receive one of those grants, what the requirements are, and who within the charity should contact the township. Catching said anyone representing the group should write him a letter. Trustee Hicks added that the INC Board also gives grants to organizations.

Supervisor Catching said those who serve on the Aurora Township Senior Services Referendum Grant Committee are volunteers and the board has approval of their recommendations. Trustee Wells asked how one gets appointed to that committee and Catching said he makes recommendations and the board approves, but he is open to suggestions, at which point Wells suggested herself.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

J.L. Harris said he was worried about where the Township's money is going and said it was a good idea to follow up to see how the money was being spent. He said it seems unfair that the same people get the money.

Arlissa Dockery of ECHO Development said she appreciated the process, that ECHO was worthy and goes through an auditing process and asked that the process be fairer.

Lillian Perry said she was on the original group to pass the Senior Referendum and is concerned that none of the grant money be spent outside Aurora Township, and that it not be put into the general budget.

Adam Pauley gave a report on the recent 708 Board, saying their strategic plans were approved and that they were partnering with the Regional Office of Education.

Sherry Spears asked again how someone on a grant committee could be part of an organization that receives a grant. Supervisor Catching stated that no member of the commission was part of an organization that received the Senior Service Referendum grant.

Pastor John Burch of the Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance, and who was on the Senior Services Referendum Committee, clarified that his organization did not and never has gotten a grant from the township. He said their organization holds fundraisers for college sponsorships for which the township is a sponsor.

Patty Richardson pointed out that FOIA requests and sponsorships were two different things.

Shaney Charles asked if her organization wanted a sponsorship, does she have to be on the board. Catching replied no, her charity could host an event and ask for sponsorship.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS - none**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn which was seconded by Trustee Wells. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassidy Alexander,  
Aurora Township Clerk