**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 20, 2015**

**Present:** Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, Janet Murphy, Alan Ominsky, and Kit Van Orman

**Others Present:** Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Village Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Planning Board members Pat Foser & Michele Murphy, Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, David Brooks, Laura Holland, and Hilary Lambert.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the April 15, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the April 19, 2015 special meeting minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Announcements:** Clerk Balloni reminded the trustees of the upcoming Village Association dinner at the Aurora Inn and informed the trustees that the sales tax distribution list is included in their packets. Also, the Aurorafest committee submitted their request for funding (attached).

**Visitor Recognition:** Dr. Linda Schwab expressed the following: “As a resident I wish at the appropriate time in this meeting (a) to protest Wells' high-handed preemption of municipal process in its letter about water rates (b) to deplore the errors that letter contained; and (c) to question the some of the assumptions and figures Wells used to support its claim of unfairness.”

**Treasurer’s Report:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board approved the March and April treasurer’s reports.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Modifications**

**General Fund:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications to the General Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

$1,8855.13 From A1410.2 Clerk/Treasure – Equipment

$1,855.13 To A1410.1 Clerk/Treasurer – Contractual

$102.05 From A1410.2 Clerk/Treasurer – Equipment

$102.05 To A1410.4 Clerk/Treasurer – Contractual

$40.46 From A1410.2 Clerk/Treasurer – Equipment

$40.46 To A1410.42 Clerk/Treasurer – Telephone

$1,284.70 From A1320.4 Auditor – Contractual

$1,284.70 To A1420.4 Law – Contractual

$1,096.25 From A1320.4 Auditor – Contractual

$1,096.25 To A8010.12 Code Officer – Personal Services

$229.60 From A7310.1 Youth – Personal Services

$229.60 To A8010.4 Zoning – Contractual

$600.00 From A7410.4 Library – Contractual

$600.00 To A7987.4 Culture – Morgan Opera House

**Water Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications to the Water Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

$34.80 From F8340.4 Transmission & Distribution – Equipment

$34.80 To F8340.1 Transmission & Distribution – Utilities

**Encumbrances**

**Sewer Fund:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the encumbrances to the Sewer Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

$4,916.85 G8130.2 Equipment

$5,230.00 G8130.44 Equipment Repairs

$5,169.80 G8130.41 Utilities

$3,315.85 G8130.4 Contractual

+ $4,172.12 G8130.47 Sludge

$22,804.62 Refurbish second stabilization tank at WWTP

**Added Budget Transfers**

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the added Budget Transfers.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

A1620.22 Buildings – Patrick Tavern $2,000.00

A1620.23 Buildings – Firehouse $1,849.90

**Bills**

**General Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #428, 430, 431, 434-445, 447-450, 452, 453, 455-464, 466, and 467.

Total: $60,006.42

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman.

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #429, 432, 438, 439, 444, 446, 450, 452, 454, and 467.

Total: $4,129.20

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer Fund:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #430, 431, 433, 439, 443, 452, 461, 465, and 467.

Total: $9,200.44

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Code Enforcement:** No report

**Village Historian:** (see attached) Dr. Schwab submitted an invitation to a display of artifacts excavated from Patrick Tavern (Aurora’s oldest building) on May 29th from 11:00-3:30 and May 30th from 11:00-4:00, at Patrick Tavern.

Dr. Schwab also reported that Nancy Nelson offered to donate a Stickley dining room table to the Aurora Historical Society and Mayor Bennett commented that Ms. Nelson should submit her donation in writing to the Village Board.

**Buildings and Grounds:** No report.

**Parks and Recreation:** Trustee Murphy reported that the Swim Program will begin on June 29th and the Village Board needs to hold a special meeting to hire the summer lifeguards.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to schedule a special meeting within two weeks to hire lifeguards for the Swim Program.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Murphy also reported that she is in the process of getting quotes from sign companies for the fitness trail markers.

**Streets and Public Safety:** Trustee Van Orman reported that significant damage is occurring on Court Street due to the construction renovation project at Wallcourt. Trustees Bates and Murphy concurred with Ms. Van Orman’s concerns. Mayor Bennett will discuss the issue with Inns of Aurora General Manager, Sue Edinger.

It was also noted that Miller Tilling Construction has a trailer parked on the street in front of 16 Cherry Ave. As the trailer takes up two parking spaces and more than half the width of the street, the Village Code Enforcement Officer will address the problem.

**Water and Sewer:** Trustee Bates introduced Hilary Lambert from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. Ms. Lambert is requesting funding from the municipalities along Cayuga Lake to strengthen their Intramunicipal Organization.

**Old Business**

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Network:** Hilary Lambert presented reasons why the Village of Aurora should join with 15-18 municipalities involved in an Intramunicipal Organization (IO) to address Cayuga Lake Watershed concerns, including:

* Hydrofracking
* Hydrilla (an invasive weed)
* Runoff
* CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)
* Climate Change

The IO believes that they will be eligible for State funding if more municipalities join and their goal is to hire a grant writer for municipal projects. Mayor Bennett noted that there should be a meeting of the municipal leaders.

Concerns regarding joining included:

* The focus would be on Ithaca and the south end of the lake
* Agriculture exemptions when trying to control runoff
* Less than half of the municipalities are involved

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to join the Cayuga Lake Watershed IO and pay the $900.00 in dues.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Resolution # 15-28: 2014-2015 Delinquent Water and Sewer Accounts**

**RESOLVED** that there be levied and assessed against the real property of the Village of Aurora, the following sums for the fiscal year 2014-2015 totaling $5,354.87.

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to add the Delinquent Water and Sewer Payments onto the Village Tax Bills.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

**Water Rate Increase:** The Board discussed their options regarding the Wells College request to increase rates for water. Dr. Schwab suggested that the Village gain transparency from Wells of figures for year to year contracts.

Discussion ensued on updating the agreement with Wells College that designates water from Wells College to the Village and sewer from the Village to Wells College. Issues included:

* The historic agreement reflecting 60% Wells College and 40% Village use of sewer that costs $100,000.00/year to operate is no longer accurate.
* How best to work out the accounting when the Village saves for equipment/repairs while Wells College’s method is depreciation.
* Bring in a third, impartial, party to negotiate an agreement
* Consider exploring other options to obtain water for the village
* Calculate sewer rates for the college the same as village residents
* Maintain rates for a year while working on a fair plan for both entities that no longer results in the Village subsidizing sewer for Wells College
* Ensure that Wells College is as transparent with their figures as the Village is required to be per Freedom of Information Laws.

Mayor Bennett informed the Board that DPW Superintendent Wilmot and Treasurer Brooks are progressing on a new Sewer rate proposal for Sewer to Wells College.

**RESOLUTION #15-29: TO RAISE WATER RATES IN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA**

**WHEREAS:** Wells College supplies water to the Village of Aurora; and

**WHEREAS:** Wells College is increasing the amount charged to the Village of Aurora from $1.25/1000 gallons to $4.40/1000 gallons as of July 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Aurora passed the 2015-2016 budget on April 15, 2015 based on the $1.25/1000 gallons rate; and

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Aurora wishes to limit the immediate impact of such a large increase on users while working within the budget;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the rate for usage greater than 3000 gallons/quarter increases from $6.00 to $7.80/1000 gallons, the Village of Aurora quarterly access fee for water remains at $25.00, and the minimum charge for water usage under 3000 gallons remains at $40.00/ quarter.

FIRST: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

**Contracts Renewals**

**Village Attorney:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to renew the contract with Cheney and Blair, LLP.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Youth Program (Town of Ledyard):** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Youth Program contract requesting $2,500.00 in funding from the Town of Ledyard.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Aurora Free Library:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve donating $2,400.00 to the Aurora Free Library from the 2015-2016 budget.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Morgan Opera House:** On motion by Ominsky, seconded by Bates, the Village Board voted to approve donating $2,400.00 to the Morgan Opera House from the 2015-2016 budget.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Aurorafest:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to donate $2,750.00 to the Aurorafest Committee from the 2015-2016 budget.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Scat Van:** Treasurer Brooks informed the Board that the voucher for the 2014-2015 donation to the Scat Van is included in the General Fund bills. The new contract will be voted on next month.

**Williamson Law Book Tax Software:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Tax Software contract with Williamson Law Book from June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water and Sewer Law amendments:** Mayor Bennett explained Department of Public Works superintendent, Kurt Wilmot’s recommendation to update the Village Water and Sewer laws to reflect current standards. The proposed amended laws also reflect standard municipal utility easement regulations. Mayor Bennett informed the Board that letters should be sent to residents regarding easements to gain access to services and all members agreed that the village should pay for the filing.

**Resolution #15-30 Introduction of Local Law #4 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #2 of 2001 for Rules and Regulations Governing the Use and Supply of Water**

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora occasionally needs to update Local Laws; and

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora seeks to bring Local Law #2 of 2001 to current standards; and

**WHEREAS:** A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 17th, 2015 at approximately 7:00 pm;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Village of Aurora introduce Local Law #4 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #2 of 2001 for Rules and Regulations Governing the Use and Supply of Water.

**FIRST:** Trustee Bates

**SECOND:** Trustee Ominsky

**AYES:** Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

**NAYS:** None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution #15-31 To Introduce Local Law #5 of 2015 To Amend Local Law #1 of 2010: Sewers**

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora occasionally needs to update Local Laws; and

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora seeks to bring Local Law #1 of 2010 to current standards; and

**WHEREAS:** A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 17, 2015 at approximately 7:00 pm;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Village of Aurora introduce Local Law #5 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #1 of 2010: Sewers.

**FIRST:** Trustee Van Orman

**SECOND:** Trustee Bates

**AYES:** Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

**NAYS:** None

Motion carried unanimously.

**New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Culvert Plan:** Tony Amodei, a NYSDOT representative, met with Mayor Bennett and DPW Superintendent Kurt Wilmot to discuss rerouting the pipe that runs underneath 327 Main Street. Mr. Amodei discussed two options, one of which placed the new pipe on the Village Right-Of-Way, south of United Ministry church. As the Village Board has designated that area for one of the new kayak racks, and would prefer to keep the area easily accessible for residents and visitors, the Village Board preferred the second option which reroutes the pipe along the shared driveway between 327 Main St and 331 Main St.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to deny the NYSDOT plan to reroute a pipe along the Village Right-Of-Way, south of United Ministry Church.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Southern Cayuga School Budget Vote:** Mayor Bennett thanked all who voted in the recent school board election and especially for passing funding the renovation for the planetarium.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Next meeting:** June 17, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk