**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees December 21, 2016 Minutes**

Meeting held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 7:00 pm

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

**Others Present:**

**Village Officials:** Clerk Ann Balloni, Treasurer Deborah Brooks, DPW Superintendent Kurt Wilmot, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Planning Board member Pat Foser, and ZBA member Laura Holland

**Wells College Representatives:** President Jonathan Gibralter and Facilities Manager Brian Brown

**Local Residents:** Arthur Bellinzoni, David Brooks, Robert Cerza, Marie Dentes, Dimitris Dimopoulos, Virgil Farlow, and Attilio Rezzonico

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance

**Changes to the Agenda:** Wells College water system discussion moved from New Business to Visitor Welcome.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the November 16, 2016 meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

**Mayor:** Mayor Bennett informed the trustees that Marie Taylor resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Taylor for her years of service and commitment to various organizations throughout the village.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (IO) received a grant for various lake studies. The IO is instrumental in engaging all the municipalities affected by the Cayuga Lake watershed, not just those that border the lake.

The Cayuga County Water Authority also received a grant from New York State for mapping the water resources and needs of Cayuga County. The organization is familiar with the situation in Aurora of Wells College wishing to turn responsibility of the water plant over to the village and has indicated that water concerns in Southern Cayuga are a priority.

Cargill Salt Mine also received grant money from the Economic Development Fund to build a new salt shack further north on Cayuga lake from their location in Lansing. Mayor Bennett noted environmental and geologic concerns with the project and recommended further consideration.

Mayor Bennett attended a meeting on the planned re-configuration of Interstate 81 through Syracuse. Three plans were initially considered:

* Create a tunnel
* Repair the deteriorating viaducts
* Create a boulevard through Syracuse connecting to a 481 bypass

Mayor Bennett noted that the boulevard is the favored option of the New York State Department of Transportation and that it could have the unintended effect of creating more truck traffic through the villages and towns west of Syracuse. Onondaga County State Senator DeFransisco and Congressman Katko both spoke in favor of re-considering the tunnel option to prevent increased truck traffic on these rural roads.

**Clerk:** Ms. Balloni informed the trustees that the list of mortgage tax payments is included in their packets. The Village of Aurora received $2,356.85.

**Visitor Recognition:**

Wells College president, Jonathan Gibralter, discussed the unique position of Wells College running a water treatment plant and supplying water to the village, as well as to the campus. The water treatment plant has been in operation since 1927 and the infrastructure, including the plant pumps and filters, the water tower, and the distribution system is deteriorating at an overwhelming cost to Wells.

President Gibralter acknowledged previous attempts by the village to take over the water treatment system, only to be rebuked by Wells, and insisted that will not happen again. President Gibralter believes that an educational institution should not be in the water business and Mayor Bennett agreed with him. Mayor Bennett noted that to prevent a repeat of failed attempts, an agreement will be drawn up between the village and Wells confirming each entities intentions and President Gibralter agreed.

President Gibralter discussed the options of building a new plant at Wells, building a new independent plant, or piping water in from another municipality. The grant received from the Cayuga County Water Authority will help finance a feasibility study to determine the best option for Wells and the village, though President Gibralter noted that a new plant at Wells is not a viable scenario. President Gibralter further indicated that Wells and the Inns of Aurora were committed to help offset the cost to the village of a new water system.

Mayor Bennett recognized members of the public with comments/questions:

* Bob Cerza commended Wells for acknowledging the problem and researching solutions and agreed that the village should be responsible for the water system.
* Virgil Farlow questioned the ratio of water usage between the village and Wells and Mr. Brown and Mr. Wilmot replied that it is approximately 50-50.
* Arthur Bellinzoni questioned why the quarterly water bills come from the village and not Wells. Mayor Bennett replied that Wells bills the village for water and the village then bills the village residents for their usage and distribution costs.
* Marie Dentes remarked that when her husband John was employed at Wells, he recommended that Wells charge the village 3x the current water rate. Mayor Bennett reminded her that in 2015 Wells did increase the water rate to the village from $1.25/gallon to $4.40/gallon.

Mayor Bennett thanked President Gibralter and remarked that the village is eager to work with Wells on finding the best solution for all involved.

**Treasurer’s Report**: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the village board voted to accept the October and November treasurer reports.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Modifications**

**General Fund:** $545.35From: A1990.4 Contingent Account

$452.59 To: A1440.4 Engineering – Contractual

$24.40 To: A1620.21 Buildings – Post Office

$68.36 To: A7510.4 Historian - Contractual

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Fund:** Move $5,000.00 from F915 Unappropriated Fund Balance to create an expense account F8320.41 Source of Supply – Engineer

Mayor Bennett noted that this fund would help to cover costs for researching the needs of a new water system.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the Water Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer Fund:** Correction of November 16, 2016 budget modification of $1,465.06 From G1990.4 Contingent Account To G8130.7 Sewage Treatment – Sludge

TO:

$1,465.06 From: G8130.2R Sewage Treatment – Capital Improvement

To: G8130.47 Sewage Treatment – Sludge

Payment was of the removal of sludge as part of the stabilization tank #2 refurbishing project.

Mr. Wilmot asked the Treasurer to correct the previous modification as the bills pertained to the renovation project at the WWTP.

**Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #245-255, 257, 259-267, 270-278, 280-283, and 285-289

Total: $14,694.02

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #245, 249, 256, 257, 264, 270, 272, 274, 282, 284, 286, and 289

Total: $4,600.03

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #245, 249, 251-253, 256-258, 264, 266, 268-270, 274, 279, 282, and 286

Total: $54,982.88

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Trust & Agency:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Trust & Agency Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #278

Total: $385.10

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Code Officer:** No report

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the current displays at the Aurora Historical Society/Village History Center and assisting the Town of Ledyard historian set up her newly renovated space.

Dr. Schwab also submitted a yearend report highlighting the importance of preserving the full history and character of our village.

**Buildings and Grounds:** No report, but Mayor Bennett noted that the pavers in front of the post office were moved to the correct location.

**Parks and Recreation:** No report

**Streets and Public Safety:** Trustee Van Orman questioned the slope that was built into Lafayette St and Mr. Wilmot informed her that that is where the crosswalk will be placed. Trustee Murphy questioned the status of Cherry Ave and Mayor Bennett replied that it will remain two-way until the Lafayette St project is completed.

**Water and Sewer:** No report

**Old Business:** No Old Business was discussed.

**New Business**

**Cayuga County Planning Board Appointment:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to re-appoint Pat Bianconi as Aurora’s representative on the Cayuga County Planning Board.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the village board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk