**VILLAGE OF AURORA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**October 18, 2017 Regular Meeting**

**Held in the Firehouse Meeting Room**

Present:Mayor Bonnie Apgar-Bennett, Trustees Bates, Murphy, Ominsky and Van Orman

Also Present: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Zoning Board of Appeals member Laura Holland, Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Inns of Aurora Manager Sue Edinger, Aurora Historical Society President Tracy Leffingwell and resident David Brooks.

Absent: Village Clerk Ann Balloni

Mayor Bennet called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bennett informed the Board that there was a change to the agenda and added to Old Business an amendment to the painting contract at Patrick Tavern. Trustee Ominsky moved to add this to Old Business with Trustee Van Orman seconding. Motion Carried 5:0.

Mayor Bennett asked for comments to the September 20, 2017 Monthly Minutes. Trustee Ominsky moved approval of the September 20, 2017 Minutes with Trustee Van Orman seconding the motion. There was no discussion. Motion Carried 5:0.

**Announcements:** Mayor Bennett announced that she would like to hold a Special Meeting with the Ithaca Housing Authority. She asked the Board to consider the dates of Wednesday 10/25/17 or 11/1/17 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the meeting room. The Board agreed that Wednesday, October 25, 2017 was the better date. Ms. Brooks was asked to do the public notices.

Mayor Bennett informed the Board that at this time there are no plans for “Christmas in Aurora” by the AAMA. She proposed the Village hold their annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 9, 2017. She noted that she recently purchased Christmas ball ornaments which she hoped could be sold as a fund raiser for the Historical Society that evening as memorials/best wishes to family or friends with the possibility having music or sing-a-long. She added Aurora Volunteer Fire Department will be having a “Pizza Night” that evening so this would round out the festivities. Ms. Schwab added that she would be glad to inform the churches and the **Library. Mayor Bennett** asked Ms. Edinger if the Inns of Aurora would like to participate. Ms. Edinger replied that they will not be doing anything.

Deputy Clerk Brooks read the thank you letter received 10/2/17 from Assembly Minority Leader, Brian Kolb, regarding the Board’s resolution pertaining to the impact of Cargill’s expansion. (see attached). Ms. Brooks reminded the Board of the upcoming Cayuga County Village Association Dinner on Tuesday October 24, 2017. No one will attend.

Mayor Bennett read an email from Planning Board Chairwoman Patricia Bianconi asking that the Village Board hire a professional planner to help guide them through the Inns final phase and into the future. (see attached) The Board felt this would be of great help to them and the Mayor will look into this.

**Visitor Recognition:** Mayor Bennett recognized Sue Edinger to do a presentation on the Inns of Aurora’s Anticipated Development Plans 2017-2018. Ms. Edinger highlighted each space from the handout (see attached).

Discussion: Trustees Bates and Van Orman remarked several times throughout the discussion that they wished they had received the handout prior to the meeting night so as to formulate questions for Ms. Edinger.

1] Trustee Murphy asked why there were no plans listed for the use of the Van Duyne House, Wallcourt Cottage and the “Chimney Corner” house. She remarked that these homes need people to maintain them. Trustee Van Orman added that it is not good to just own a residence and not use it as the structure will just deteriorate. She commented that she knew of three (3) potential buyers for the Van Duyne house before Pleasant T. Rowland got involved. Ms. Edinger responded that Ms. Rowland was just buying property and had no plans for them at the present time. She will discuss the possibility of selling or renting these homes with Ms. Rowland.

2] Webster Barn: Ms. Edinger noted proposal for offices and storage of truck, tractors, etc. Mayor Bennett noted that the land is zoned agricultural and can’t be used for commercial space. Ms. Edinger informed the Board that currently the Taylor House garages are being used as work space and storage of their vehicles.

3] Bush Farm proposal, located in the Town of Ledyard, is for the “Spa” to be located in the two (2) barns behind the house. Ms. Edinger remarked that the house is too beautiful to gut for the spa. Trustee Ominsky asked if the land at the Bush Farms might be considered being annexed to the Village. Ms. Edinger saw no reason for Ms. Rowland to want to do this.

4] Heary Building proposal is to take one large space and divide it into two on the main floor. One space would be for a gym and the other for cooking demonstrations. Vintage Lighting and the Aurora Historical Society will remain in the basement area. Upstairs would remain the “Loft” yoga area.

5] The Aurora Inn proposal is to build a glass enclosed structure behind the current facility in order to have year-round events with a view of Cayuga Lake. Ms. Edinger noted that this would eliminate the tent they put up seasonally. Trustee Ominsky asked where this structure would be located. Ms. Edinger responded that they still had not decided on where to actually put it yet, but felt the majority of this structure would be located behind the current Inn starting on the south side near the “J” driveway and go to the north.

6] The Zabriskie House located at 441 Main Street, Ms. Edinger informed the Board that the Inns would like to demolish and would be seeking approval in the near future. She further noted that the Inns would build a new home north of the Webster Barn and sell it to a family. The Board felt that the Zabriskie House would be ideal for the Inns growing need for offices.

7] Dorie’s is closed, but the Inns is offering the space for lease.

8] Shakelton Guest House would have 14 guest rooms. Ms. Edinger noted that revised plans had been filed with the Clerk.

9] Taylor House is being proposed as a Guest House with two (2) rooms. The majority of the floor space would be used as social areas or conference space. Ms. Edinger noted the dining room area and front rooms could be used for small weddings or a private party. Trustee Van Orman questioned using this space as commercial when the property is zoned residential. Trustee Bates noted that the Hotel Law allows for five (5) rooms to be called a “Guest House” and this proposal only offers two (2) rooms.

10] Vacant farm land: Mayor Bennett asked what the Inns might do to develop these properties if Pleasant leaves. Ms. Edinger noted that there is no interest to develop these properties. Ms. Schwab informed Ms. Edinger that Dan Hill of the Indian Nations is interested in replanting six (6) Oak Trees for the six (6) nations to continue the circle of life of the Nations as has been done by previous generations.

Trustee Bates asked if this land would be considered for use as part of the Fitness Trail. Ms. Edinger remarked there would be a lot of opportunity to do walking trails on the Webster Farm land.

The Board thanked Ms. Edinger for her presentation and noted that there may be questions in the future to answer from them. Ms. Edinger noted that she would be giving the Village Planning Board a more detailed description of these properties at their meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. (Leffingwell & Holland left meeting at 7:45 PM).

**Treasurer’s Report:** Trustee Ominsky moved to accept the Treasurer’s reports for June and July. Trustee Van Orman seconded the motion. Motion Carried. 5:0. Ms. Brooks informed the Board that she has filed the Annual Update Document for fiscal year ending 5/31/17 with the NYS Comptroller’s Office.

**Budget Modifications:**

**General:**

$ 78.77 FROM: A1990.4 Contingent Account

$ 27.87 TO: A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance – Contractual

$ 50.90 TO: A 7180.4 Recreation Facilities – Contractual

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, 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.

**Bills:**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #5 for payment.

Voucher #157-160, 162--165, 167, 168, 170, 171, 175-187, 189, and 190.

Total: $13,795.59

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #5 for payment.

Voucher #166, 168, 173, 177 and 188.

Total: $4,449.13

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #5 for payment.

Voucher #159-161, 164, 168, 169, 171, 172, and 174.

Total: $3,771.57

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Trust and Agency:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #5 for payment.

Voucher #163, and 182.

Total: $207.00

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

**Committee Reports:**

**Code Officer** (see attached): Officer Doyle submitted reports on recent permit activity and zoning projects.

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent queries and intern research projects.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Trustee Ominsky reported that the Historic sign post is loose in the ground and needs attention. Mayor Bennett reported that the trellis has been installed at the Post Office for the new Clematis.

**Parks and Recreation:** Ms. Murphy reported that she still needs to meet with Mr. Wilmot on placing the signs for the Fitness Trail.

**Streets and Public Safety:** Trustee Van Orman no report. Ms. Brooks noted she needed to check on street lights that are out in front of the College.

**Water and Sewer:** Trustee Bates no report.

**CPP & PB** Draft Minutes emailed to the mayor/trustees.

**Old Business:**

Mayor Bennett informed the Board that when they reviewed the painting quotes for Patrick Tavern they neglected to do the deck/stairs area on the east side of the building. Mr. Nick Collacchi who was hired to paint the building has offered to paint the deck/stairs area at the cost of $1,500.00. Cost includes $1,200.00 for labor and $300.00 for paint/stain. Trustee Ominsky moved approval to accept this proposal with Trustee Van Orman seconding. Motion Carried 5:0.

**New Business:**

**Resolution #17-37: To Adopt Employee Titles to comply with Civil Service Mandates**

**WHEREAS:** The Cayuga County Civil Service Commission mandates certain titles for municipal employees; and

**WHEREAS:** The Village is working toward full compliance with the Cayuga County Civil Service Commission; and

**WHEREAS:**  employees at the Waste Water Treatment Plant do not have titles that conform with Civil Service;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees adopt the civil service title of Waste Water Treatment Plant Trainee and bring current employees into compliance.

FIRST: Murphy

SECOND: Ominsky

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

NAYS: none

Trustee Murphy moved to appoint Adam Van Horn and Michael White to the positions of Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Trainee in addition to their current positions of Village Maintenance Person. Trustee Ominsky seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: none

Mayor Bennett explained to the Board that the Village needs to update its policy on appointing the Village Clerk & Deputy Clerk. At the NYCOM training school, she learned that the position of clerk runs for two (2) years and can be for four (4) years as the appointment runs with the term of the Mayor. She asked the Board to consider the term of office and be prepared to vote on this change next month.

Treasurer Brooks explained the letter of request (see attached) from Mr. James Maloney pertaining to his Mother’s house (#1052) October 2017 Water/Sewer bill. Ms. Brooks explained that, in the past, residents have been obliged to pay for the water, but were relieved of any associated sewer costs beyond the average fee. Ms. Brooks further explained that the adjustment would amount to a $406.00 savings for Mr. Maloney.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to adjust account # 1052 per Ms. Brooks calculation.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Brooks

Deputy Village Clerk