

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees January 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi, Alan Ominsky, and Kit Van Orman

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Planning Board Chairperson Pat Bianconi and ZBA member Laura Holland

Town of Ledyard Officials: Supervisor Mark Jordan, Town Board members Jim Frisch & Scott Heinekamp and Planning Board Chairperson Deborah Ross

Inns of Aurora: General Manager Sue Edinger

Members of the Public: David Brooks, G. Alan Clugston, John & Marie Dentes, Margaret Flowers, Dana Havas, Tracy Leffingwell and Bill Tultz

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

Changes to the Agenda: A land use discussion is added under New Business

Approval of Minutes

December 18 Work Session: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the December 18, 2019 work session minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

December 19, 2019 Regular Meeting: On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the December 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Bennett discussed the proposed Governor's budget including:

- Permanent Tax Cap
- \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure
- No increase in CHPS (highway) funding
- Continuing downtown competitions
- \$16 million decrease in AIM funding

Mayor Bennett emphasized the decrease in AIM funding which will result in a loss of \$10,206.00 for the Village Budget income for 2019. Mayor Bennett is composing a letter of protest and is contacting the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) for their advice.

Clerk: Ms. Balloni read a letter from (former Mayor) Tom Gunderson and his wife, Maralee, thanking the Village Officials for their hard work and dedication.

The Trustees were informed of the quarterly sales tax figures, included in their packets, the celebration honoring Dave Brooks for his service to the community on January 27 and reminded of the Cayuga County Association of Villages dinner meeting on January 29. Mayor Bennett and Ms. Balloni are attending the dinner meeting.

Visitor Welcome: Several members of the public addressed the fireworks display of October 20, 2018 which resulted in the loss of sheep at Margaret Flowers farm just outside the village. Letters were submitted (attached) from Ms. Flowers, Kathryn Baxendell DVM, Susan Engwall DVM, and Dana Havas DVM noting the potential danger of fireworks displays on livestock.

Town of Ledyard officials also voiced their concern with fireworks displays and noted that their municipality does not issue fireworks permits and are instituting a 12-month moratorium on commercial fireworks displays. Supervisor Jordan remarked that his cows stampeded during a firework display and emphasized the need to protect livestock in the agricultural community.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Budget Modifications

Sewer:

\$2,250.00 From G1990.4 Contingent Account
To G8120.4 Sanitary Sewers - Contractual

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #8 for payment.

Voucher #285-289, 291-296, 298, 303-308, 310-313, 315 and 316

Total: \$59,186.91

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #8 for payment.

Voucher #285, 297-301, 305, 308, 309, 313 and 314

Total: \$9,811.61

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #8 for payment.

Voucher #286-288, 290, 298, 300, 302, 312 and 313

Total: \$6,141.43

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the latest display at the Aurora Historical Center entitled The Work of Our Hands, planning for the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit and recent queries. Dr. Schwab also supplied the Village Boards with access to information on solar arrays in Historic Districts.

Aurora Historical Society (AHS): President Tracy Leffingwell submitted the AHS annual report (attached) and thanked the Village Board, Village DPW and the Inns of Aurora for their support throughout the year.

Members of the AHS discussed upcoming exhibits, work on Patrick Tavern and grant funding with the trustees.

Miscellaneous: Trustee Ominsky reported that the new LED lighting is installed at the Post Office.

Old Business: No Old Business was discussed

New Business

Local Law #1 of 2019: Local Law #1 of 2019 is an amendment to the Village Zoning Law to include solar regulations. The Village Board completed Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR).

The Board members discussed appropriate setbacks for large solar arrays as Main St/State Rt 90 is a scenic byway. Mayor Bennett noted that the standard setback from public ways for County 239 review is 500'. Trustee Bates and Trustee Bianconi measured the distance from Main St to an area of Wells College proposed for a solar array and argued that 500' is too far. As it was decided previously that 300' was not adequate, Trustee Bianconi suggested amending the distance from a scenic byway to 400'.

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to amend proposed Local Law #1 of 2019 by changing the distance of a large solar array from a scenic byway to 400'.

AYES: Bates, Bianconi, Van Orman

NAYS: Bennett and Ominsky

Carried 3-2

VB Resolution 19-01: To Introduce Local Law #1 of 2019: To Authorize Zoning for Solar Energy as an Amendment to Local Law #1 of 2018: To Regulate Land Use and Provide for Historic Preservation

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of this local law to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of and visitors to the Village of Aurora, including:

- . (1) Taking advantage of a safe, abundant, renewable, and non-polluting energy resource;
- . (2) Decreasing the cost of energy to the owners of commercial and residential properties, including single-family houses;
- . (3) Providing property owners and business owners/operators with flexibility in satisfying their energy needs;
- . (4) Increasing employment and business development in the region by furthering the installation of Solar Energy Systems;
- . (5) Mitigating the impacts of Solar Energy Systems on neighboring properties as well as environmental resources such as important agricultural lands, forests, wildlife and other protected resources;
- . (6) Reducing overall energy demands within the municipality and to promote clean energy;
- . (7) Integrating solar energy systems seamlessly into the Village's neighborhoods and landscapes without diminishing quality of life in the neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora has received information regarding the effective use and regulation of solar electric energy systems from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora would benefit from the installation of solar electric energy systems on private property within the community; and

WHEREAS, residents of, and businesses within, the Village of Aurora may wish to install solar electric energy systems on their property; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora can use the proposed Zoning for Solar Energy as an amendment to Local Law #1 of 2018: To Regulate Land Use and Provide for Historic Preservation (Village Zoning Law) to meet the need of residents and businesses and to facilitate the review of installations of solar electric energy systems; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Zoning for Solar Energy as an amendment to the Village Zoning Law of the Village of Aurora will add Section 408 including definitions for solar photovoltaic systems and by amending Section 404 Table of Uses to permit certain solar photovoltaic systems as accessory uses in any zoning district; and

WHEREAS, this is an Unlisted Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (20 & 27) requiring the Village Board to complete an environmental review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees declares itself Lead Agency for the State Environmental Quality Review;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Village Board of Trustees hereby introduces Proposed Local Law #1 of 2019 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and adoption.
2. The Board of Trustees hereby determines that the adoption of the aforementioned Local Law #1 of 2019 is an Unlisted Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (20 & 27) requiring the Village Board to complete an environmental review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and
3. The Board of Trustees shall forward a copy of Local Law #1 of 2019 to the Cayuga County GML239-1 m & n Review Committee; and
4. The Board of Trustees shall hold a public hearing on the 25 day of February 2019 at approximately 7:00 P.M., at the Village Office, at 456 Main Street, Aurora, New York, pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the proposed Local Law which provides for the regulation of Solar Energy Systems through the Village of Aurora.
5. That the Village Clerk is authorized and directed to cause a copy of the proposed Local Law in its final form to be mailed to each of the trustees at least ten (10) days exclusive of Sundays before final action shall be taken thereon; and to cause notice of the public hearing to be published at least five (5) days before the public hearing.

The question of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote, motion made by Trustee Bates and seconded by Bianconi and upon roll call was as follows:

Mayor	Bonnie Apgar Bennett	AYE
Trustee	Grace Bates	AYE
Trustee	Matthew Bianconi	AYE
Trustee	Alan Ominsky	AYE
Trustee	Kit Van Orman	AYE

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

Land Use: The Village Board discussed with Sue Edinger, Inns of Aurora General Manager, the on-going legal problem of the Inns wanting to convert Taylor House to a conference center, which is not allowed in residential zones, and the Village concerns of Pleasant Rowland's ownership and right of first refusal on residential houses and vacant land within the village. Ms. Edinger assured the Village Board that if they move forward with a path to legalize converting Taylor House to a conference center, either by re-zoning or allowing conference centers in residential zones in the Village Zoning Law Table of Uses, the Inns of Aurora will conduct a Generic Environmental Impact Study (GEIS) of all their land/properties. Ms. Edinger emphasized that she understands that a GEIS does not guarantee approval of any specific project but that it negates the need for a SEQR for each project. Ms. Edinger further agreed to negotiate with the Village for land for a new Village Hall and renting/leasing their unoccupied residential houses to interested renters.

Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Edinger and Ms. Rowland for their attention to the Village concerns and reiterated the necessity of the Village to understand the Inns projects in order to move forward with municipal planning.

February 20, 2019 Village Board Meeting: Mayor Bennett informed the Board that she is out of town for the February 20, 2019 meeting.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to change the meeting date for the February Village Board meeting to Monday, February 25, 2019.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk