

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees May 15, 2019 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, Janet Murphy and Kit Van Orman

Others Present

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

Wells College: Sustainability Director Marian Brown

Members of the Public: G. Alan Clugston, Marie Dentes, Robin Driskel, Donna Goddard and Lydie Haenlin

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: The annual Benefits Package Resolution is added to Old Business

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the April 17, 2019 minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor:

- The Inns of Aurora are moving forward with the process for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement
- LED streetlights are installed
- Work is continuing with the Patrick Tavern renovation
- Aurora is hosting the May 28 Cayuga County Association of Villages dinner at the Aurora Inn with Doug Selby from Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority as the guest speaker
- The Village received notification from a law firm that is advocating for a class action suit on behalf of municipalities to hold those accountable for the increase in PFAS contaminants in drinking water
- Stressed the importance of the Trustees reviewing packet materials and signing vouchers in advance of the Board meeting in order to be fully prepared

Clerk: The quarterly tax figures are included in the member packets

Visitor Welcome

Laura Holland: Ms. Holland questioned the vagueness of section 407.B in the Village of Aurora Zoning Law, which prohibits front yard parking. Mayor Bennett replied that the Village Board does not give interpretations of the zoning law, that is under the Zoning Board of Appeals purview.

Marian Brown: Ms. Brown submitted two petitions on behalf of “a concerned citizen” regarding solar arrays proposed by Wells College.

Donna Goddard: Ms. Goddard expressed anger and confusion upon receipt of a packet from the Village regarding water/sewer rates for residents who live outside the village. The amended water law passed in August 2018 (Local Law #4 of 2018) increased the outside user rate to 1 ½ times the rate charged to village residents. The rate change will be reflected in the outside users bills in the July billing, the first billing of the new budget year.

Ms. Goddard was outraged by the lack of prior notification by the Village and blamed the construction of the new spa by the Inns of Aurora, as the catalyst for the rate increase. Mayor Bennett explained that, since outside users do not pay village taxes, it is reasonable to charge a higher rate and the Village Board agreed with the recommendations of the Village Attorney when revising the law.

Treasurer’s Report: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to accept the April Treasurer’s Report.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

General

\$1,000.00 From: A5110.2 Street Maintenance – Sidewalks

\$540.00 From: A1450.1 Election – Personnel Services

\$185.00 From: A1450.4 Election – Contractual

\$1,725.00 To: A1420.4 Law – Contractual

\$109.99 From: A1450.1 Election – Contractual

To: A1410.42 Clerk – Phone

\$353.16 From: A1620.44 Buildings – Electricity

To: A5182.4 Street Lighting

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer

\$185.14 From: G1990.4 Contingent

To: G8120.4 Sanitary Sewers – Contractual

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Encumbrances

G8340.47 Sewage Treatment – Sludge \$3,620.00

G8130.2 Sewage Treatment – Equipment \$13,195.40

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the Encumbrances in the Sewer Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

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

Voucher #430-432, 434-444, 447-459, 461, 463-465, 469, and 470

Total: \$100,828.89

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #443-445, 452, 453, 460, 462, and 468

Total: \$6,120.23

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #433, 442-446, 449, 452, 455, 466, 467, 469, and 470

Total: \$5,098.14

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Trust & Agency: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #453

Total: \$477.70

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #353

Total: \$645.60

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Doyle reported on recent permit activity.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the current display at the Aurora Historical Society, recognizing 100 years of service by the fire department, and presentations by fire department members. Dr. Schwab continues to work on the upcoming Smithsonian Institute Water Ways display, queries, and grant writing.

Miscellaneous: Trustee Bates questioned the status of the Comprehensive Plan update. Mayor Bennett replied that it will be re-visited during the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) with the Inns of Aurora and while working on the Fireworks/Solar regulations.

Trustee Murphy reported that the 3rd annual, Traditional Memorial Day Celebration will take place at St Patrick's cemetery at 5:30 on May 30. Ms. Murphy contacted representatives from the American Legion Post in Union Spring, who will be in attendance, along with local veterans and musicians. Ms. Murphy, Mayor Bennett and Dr. Schwab will finalize plans following the board meeting.

Trustee Van Orman suggested a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign at the corner of Cherry Ave and Main St, due to difficulty turning onto Cherry Ave when vehicles are parked close to the corner.

Old Business

Outside User Agreement: No discussion

Ethics Policy: Trustee Van Orman suggested changes, including the definition of Personal Financial Benefits, as well as adding exceptions to the policy. Trustees Bates, Bianconi, and Van Orman expressed concern that the policy is too strict while Mayor Bennett and Trustee Murphy feel that a small village requires stringent regulation. The discussion was tabled to give the Board time to review Trustee Van Orman's revisions.

Resolution #19-26 Benefits Package: The Village Board tabled a vote on the Benefits Package during their Annual Organizational meeting due to clarification of a typo where "employee" should have read "employer". The correction was made to the resolution.

VB RESOLUTION NO. 19-26 BENEFITS PACKAGE

HOLIDAYS

- * New Year's Day
- * Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- * Presidents Day
- * Memorial Day
- * Independence Day
- * Labor Day
- * Veterans Day
- * Thanksgiving Day and Friday
- * Christmas Day

When New Year Day, Independence Day and Christmas Day fall on Sunday, employees shall have Monday off. When they fall on Saturday, they shall have Friday off.

When Christmas falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, employees shall have one-half (1/2) day on December 24th.

VACATIONS - NON-CUMULATIVE:

- Ten (10) days after first year of employment
- Fifteen (15) days after five (5) years of employment
- Twenty (20) days after ten (10) years of employment

Vacation dates to be set in consultation with supervisor.

PERSONAL TIME - NON-CUMULATIVE:

- Two (2) days in each of first five (5) years
- Three (3) days in each year thereafter

SICK TIME – NON-CUMULATIVE

One day per month worked, cumulative to a total of sixty (60) working days.

*Non-cumulative - Not reimbursable if not used.

HEALTH INSURANCE (1/16/94):

1. Active Employees:
 - a. Full-time: village will pay full cost of individual or family policy, as provided through Excellus of Central New York.
 - b. Part-time: part-time employees are eligible for coverage but must pay the premium through payroll deduction.
2. Retirees:

Full-time employees who have served the village faithfully and conscientiously for at least 20 years and choose retirement at age 62 shall have coverage continued until age 65 at which time the retiree shall be provided with individual Medicare supplementary coverage.

RETIREMENT:

Coverage under the New York State and Employees Retirement System Tier III, Tier IV, Tier V, and Tier VI. Coverage paid – 97% by the Village and 3% by the employee.

SOCIAL SECURITY:

Employer pays 7.65% of income earned by employee into system. Employee has a like amount deducted from earnings.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION:

Coverage paid in full by employer for injury or illness of employee that occurs while at work.

NEW YORK DISABILITY INSURANCE:

Coverage paid in full by **employer** for injury or illness of employee that occurs while not at work.

Motion by Trustee Van Orman
Seconded by Trustee Murphy
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously

New Business

Delinquent Water & Sewer Accounts:

Resolution # 19-27: 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 totaling \$3,868.72.

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

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Hiring Lifeguards: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the hiring of the following as lifeguards for the Summer Swim Program at \$11.10/hour:

Alex Larsen, Ian Murray, Jamison Murray and Emma Van Amburgh

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy and Van Orman
NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Contract: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to authorize Mayor Bennett to sign the contract with Blair Law Firm following corrections to the pay schedule.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Ledyard Youth Program Contract: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the 2019 Youth Program Contract with the Town of Ledyard.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Scat Van Contract: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to appropriate \$700.00 for the Cayuga County Transportation Project.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Aurora Free Library Contract: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to authorize Mayor Bennett to renew the 2019/2020 contract with the Aurora Free Library, appropriating \$2,400.00.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Morgan Opera House Contract: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to appropriate \$2,400.00 for the Morgan Opera House for 2019/2020 with the following added to the annual contract: "shall use these funds for an event or events and activities offered to village residents without fees or other restrictions, and present a financial record of the use of village funds to the party of the first part before renewal of this agreement."

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni, Village Clerk