

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees June 19, 2019 Minutes

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

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett; Trustees Grace Bates, Janet Murphy and Kit Van Orman

Absent: Matt Bianconi

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, ZBA member Laura Holland, and Village Resident Barbara Blom

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: Discussion of the Village Ethics Policy is tabled from Old Business and the Williamson Law Book contracts are added under New Business.

Approval of Minutes: Trustee Bates requested that the May minutes be amended to note the number of petition signatures in the sentence "Ms. Brown submitted two petitions on behalf of "a concerned citizen" regarding solar arrays proposed by Wells College." Trustee Bates argued that the amendment gives more neutrality to the minutes and reflects village residents and non-residents strong support for solar. Mayor Bennett and Trustee Murphy countered that the amendment makes the minutes less objective due to the overly general nature of the petition which states: "I am in favor of the Village Board approving Wells College's renewable energy project." Mayor Bennett questioned how the petition would have been received if it read: "I am in favor of a 20-acre solar array in the Village of Aurora".

Trustee Bates moved that the May 15, 2019 minutes be amended to say, "Ms. Brown submitted two petitions on behalf of "a concerned citizen", reflecting 100+ people in support of solar, regarding arrays proposed by Wells College." There was no second.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the May 15, 2019 minutes as submitted.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor:

- Due to complaints of vehicles parked on Cherry Ave too close to the corner of Rt 90, "no parking" stripes were painted on the space
- The US Army corps of Engineers sent packets to all residents advising them of the 2019 Hydrilla Eradication Plan
- A community band concert is scheduled for August 25 in the Village Park

Clerk: The Audit Committee completed an Audit Report, received May 21, 2019 for financial review of October 2019-January 2019, and all is in good order.

Visitor Welcome

Laura Holland: Ms. Holland questioned Trustee Bates on the "neutrality" of the solar support petition, commenting that it was "politically motivated" and signers were "cherry picked", noting that anyone who might have questioned the petitions were not asked to sign it. Ms. Holland also questioned the anonymity of the "concerned citizen" who

submitted it and added that there is no application from Wells College to construct a solar array, yet the Village is perceived as “stonewalling” their project.

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

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

General Fund

\$.18	FROM	A1990.4 Contingent Account
	TO	A1490.1 Public Works – Personal Services
\$ 366.99	FROM	A1410.1 Clerk – Personal Services
	TO	A1410.12 Treasurer – Personal Services
\$ 114.80	FROM	A1410.43 Clerk - Postage
	TO	A1410.42 Clerk - Phone
\$ 131.42	FROM	A1620.12 Buildings - Custodian Per. Serv.
	TO	A1620.1 Buildings - Personal Services
\$ 1,001.32	FROM	A5110.1 Village Maintenance Person #1 Per. Serv.
	TO	A5110.12 Village Maintenance Person #2 Per. Serv.
\$.08	FROM	A7520.4 Historical Preservation - Contractual
	TO	A7510.4 Historian – Contractual

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, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water Fund

\$ 269.74	FROM	F8340.4 Transmission & Distribution - Contractual
	TO	F8340.1 Transmission & Distribution - Personal Services
\$ 29.25	FROM	F9040.8 Worker's Compensation
	TO	F9030.8 Social Security

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, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Fund

\$ 509.48 FROM G8130.4 Sewage Treatment – Misc Contractual
TO G8130.1 Sewage Treatment – Personal Services

\$ 133.49 FROM G9040.8 Worker’s Compensation
TO G9010.8 Social Security

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

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

Encumbrances

\$ 266.80 A8020.4 Planning Board – Contractual- PB Chair Conference Mileage
\$ 500.00 G8130.4 Sewage Treatment - Misc Contractual- Electro-lite Powder
To Historical Preservation Reserve A7520.2 \$1,200.00 + A7520.4 \$2808.97 = \$ 4,008.97
To LaBella Reserve A1440.41 \$7,142.24 + A8010.43 \$10,000 + A8020.41 \$10,000 = \$27,142.24

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to accept the Encumbrances.

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

Bills

Ms. Brooks noted that there is a corrected copy of the General Fund abstract that now includes voucher #45.

General: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #3-8, 11-14, 16-19, 22, 23, 26-38, and 40-45
Total: \$15,668.40
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #1, 2, 9, 15, 19, 21, 27, 29, 32, 39, 41, and 43
Total: \$7,420.64
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #6-10, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, and 41
Total: \$5,735.63

AYES: Bennett, Bates, 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 Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #6-10, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, and 41

Total: \$5,735.63

AYES: Bennett, Bates, 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 current and upcoming displays, queries and preparing for the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit.

Dr. Schwab added that the Aurora Historical Society has received a \$2,000.00 matching grant from the Community Fund for the restoration project at Patrick Tavern. Trustee Bates questioned if the \$2,000.00 was coming out of the Village Budget and Dr. Schwab explained that the Historical Society applied for the grant and is supplying the amount matched by the Community Fund from their budget.

Miscellaneous: The Board discussed their dissatisfaction regarding access to the Village Park, noting that the new landscaping that the Inns of Aurora added diverts people coming down the steps away from the Village Park toward the Inns of Aurora.

Trustee Murphy reported that a construction vehicle working on the former Shakelton's Funeral Home damaged the street sign on the corner of Lafayette and Court Streets. Mayor Bennett will address this concern with Inns of Aurora General Manager, Sue Edinger.

Old Business: No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

Williamson Law Book Contracts: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to renew the Accounting, Payroll, Tax Collection and Water & Sewer software contracts with Williamson Law Book.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Solar Law Work Session: The Village Board tentatively scheduled a work session to discuss regulating solar arrays for June 25, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Mayor Bennett will check with Trustee Bianconi for his availability.

Drainage Issue: The Village Board discussed the ongoing drainage problems stemming from the blocked/broken culvert that runs through 327 Main St, including under the house. Heavy rain events have contributed to significant flooding at 323 Main St, the neighboring property to the south, as the overflow from the catch basin in front of 327 Main St is diverted directly to their backyard.

Mayor Bennett met with the Village Attorney and the Code Enforcement Officer to review the history of placing the house over the culvert and confront a problem that has plagued the village for thirteen years. A condition of the Planning Board approval in 2008 is for the owners of 327 Main St to submit a copy to the Village of a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) permit to re-direct the culvert. No permit was issued/submitted.

The NYSDOT attempted to fix a portion of the culvert in 2011, but that did not alleviate the problem. In April of this year, the NYSDOT copied the Village on a letter to the owners of 327 Main St informing them of a plan to relieve the blocked portion of the pipe that extends into their yard, with the understanding that the owners are then responsible for any future repairs beyond the NYSDOT's Right-of-Way from State Route 90. The NYSDOT has not yet received consent from the property owners to begin repairs.

The Village Attorney and Code Enforcement Officer would like the Village Board to authorize them to continue reviewing the situation and are considering issuing an Order to Remedy to the property owners as they never received the NYSDOT permit to redirect the pipe. Mayor Bennett is contacting NYSDOT for any pertinent documents and to discuss solutions with them.

Trustee Bates asked for assurance that any Order to Remedy would not include forcing the property owners to move their house and Mayor Bennett replied that it won't come to that. Trustee Van Orman added that a solution is needed, including on the part of the property owners, to prevent anymore flooding of the 323 Main St property.

On motion by Mayor Bennett, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to authorize the Village Attorney and Code Enforcement Officer to continue to review the drainage problem at 327 Main St with the understanding that the Village Code Enforcement Officer may issue an Order to Remedy, as needed.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk