

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees December 18, 2019 Public Hearing and 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, Janet Murphy and Kit Van Orman

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA Member Laura Holland, Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Local Residents Shirley Egan and Dr. Margaret Flowers

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: No changes

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Bennett directed Trustee Bates to cease emailing draft copies of Board meeting minutes to select members of the public. Trustee Bates argued that citizens have a right to know what is happening at Board meetings, so they are informed for the next meeting. Mayor Bennett reminded Trustee Bates that meetings and agendas are posted on the Village website and both Village bulletin boards for residents to access. Mayor Bennett further noted that the Village Board may want to make changes/corrections so waiting until minutes are approved before posting on the Village website prevents residents from receiving misinformation. Trustee Murphy added that trustees are representative to all Village taxpayers, not a select group, and if Trustee Bates is not distributing the minutes to all residents she shouldn't be distributing to any.

Trustee Bates noted that minutes are supposed to be available to the public within two weeks of a meeting. Mayor Bennett explained that the minutes are available by following the policy for requesting draft minutes posted on the Village Website. Ms. Balloni added that, per the Village Attorney, a Village Trustee distributing draft minutes is inappropriate. Mayor Bennett again instructed Trustee Bates to stop distributing draft minutes and Trustee Bates requested that the discussion be continued at the end of the meeting.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the November 20, 2019 minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Bennett announced that the Village experienced a successful Christmas in Aurora and Ms. Balloni added that the Fire Department sold out of pizza and, happily, did not turn anyone away.

Clerk: Ms. Balloni referred to an email from a village resident inquiring about the lack of Christmas lights in the village, compared to years past. Ms. Balloni noted that the Inns of Aurora are no longer lighting the trees along Main St in the commercial district due to the cost. Mayor Bennett added that residents are encouraged to decorate for the holidays and there are Christmas lights around the village.

Ms. Balloni distributed notice of a NYCOM training for Village Officials in Geneva on January 15 and strongly encouraged the trustees to attend.

Trustee Bianconi: Trustee Bianconi informed the Board that he is working on organizing a “town-gown” community dinner for Village residents and Wells College.

Visitor Welcome: Mayor Bennett welcomed all visitors and there were no comments.

Public Hearing

Local Law #1 of 2020 To Regulate Fireworks

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2020 at 7:15 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bennett read the intent of Local Law #1 of 2020.

Public Comment

Dr. Linda Schwab (see attached letter): Dr. Schwab spoke in favor of adopting Local Law #1 of 2020, not only for the health and consideration of animals, but humans as well who are distressed by fireworks.

Dr. Margaret Flowers (see attached letter): Dr. Flowers spoke in favor of Local Law #1 of 2020 to help prevent future loss of livestock, referencing the death of her sheep following a firework display in October 2018.

Shirley Egan: Ms. Egan spoke in favor of the regulations but expressed concern that Local Law #1 of 2020 does not address noise and time limits. Ms. Egan suggested adding language to address this issue. Mayor Bennett informed Ms. Egan that the Village does have a Noise Ordinance that prevents music, fireworks, etc. after 11:00 p.m. Ms. Egan replied that reiterating the noise regulations within the proposed law will strengthen the regulations.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2020 at 7:25 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent displays and queries, Christmas in Aurora, grant writing and a gift of the original letterpress blocks for the “Aurora Gazette” from the Frontenac Historical Society.

Miscellaneous

Mayor Bennett discussed moving forward with water plant discussions, following a meeting with the Village Engineer, the Cayuga County Department of Health (CCDOH), the Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority (CCWSA) and Wells College. The CCWSA is preparing a referendum to bring to County residents regarding their intent to build a secondary source County water plant near Long Point State Park. CCDOH noted concerns with Wells pumping capacity during heavy storm events and Mayor Bennett and Village Engineer Ken Teter are requesting a timeline from CCWSA for the potential new plant.

Trustee Bianconi requested an update to the Board from Mr. Teter and Mayor Bennett replied that will happen when they receive the information from the CCWSA.

Old Business

Inns of Aurora Conference Center: Trustee Van Orman expressed concern over the Village Planning Board Resolution approving the Inns of Aurora's plan to convert Taylor House to a conference center. Trustee Van Orman noted that the resolution implies that music is allowed outside on the patio, which the Village Zoning Law prohibits. Mayor Bennett contacted the Planning Board Chairperson, who contacted the Village Attorney, and the resolution will be amended and clarified at the next Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Bennett read a letter from Court St residents, Jim & Julie Orman, expressing concern over potential increased traffic in their residential neighborhood. The new conference center includes a 15-space parking lot with ingress and egress onto Court St.

The Village Board discussed ways to alleviate some of the traffic concerns of local residents including:

- Additional 15mph signs
- 3-Way Stop at Court and Lafayette
- Raised crosswalks
- No thru traffic north of Lafayette

New Business

Local Law #1 of 2020 To Amend Local Law #3 of 2019 To Regulate Fireworks in the Village Zoning Law

Mayor Bennett reminded the Board that the law may not be adopted until the Cayuga County 239 review is complete.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to schedule a special meeting to vote on Local Law #1 of 2020, as well as a work session to discuss solar regulations, on January 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Investment Policy Update (see attached): Trustee Van Orman noted several administrative mistakes that were corrected.

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adopt the Investment Update Policy, recommended by the Cayuga County Treasurer.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intra-Municipal Organization Grant Application Authorization:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

Whereas, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO), of which the Village of Aurora is an active member, would like to hire a consultant to gather input from watershed municipalities and stakeholders and to make recommendations on the possible structural changes of the IO to best fill gaps in addressing watershed issues; and

Whereas, the IO would like to pursue grant funding to cover the cost of hiring a consultant for the work; and

Whereas, the IO will include administrative costs in the project budget; and

Whereas, the IO asked if the Village of Aurora could act as the applicant and fiscal sponsor for a grant application to a local foundation; now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Village of Aurora Village Board authorizes the Mayor to submit the application on behalf of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization.

FIRST: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

Trustee Bates: AYE

Trustee Bianconi: AYE

Trustee Murphy: AYE

Trustee Van Orman: AYE

Mayor Bennett: AYE

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the November Treasurer's Report

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy, 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 #7 for payment.

Voucher #241-244, 246-253, 257-266, 268, 272 and 273

Total: \$13,006.65

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #240, 252, 254, 261, and 269-271

Total: \$7,500.12

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #240-245, 251-253, 255, 265-267, 269, and 274

Total: \$5,316.25

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water Improvement System: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #262

Total: \$110.00

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni, Village Clerk