

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees November 5, 2019 Work Session Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 3:30 p.m.

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

Others Present

Village and Other Officials: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Village Attorney Tom Blair, Planning Board member Pat Foser, and ZBA member Laura Holland

Wells College: Director of Sustainability Marian Brown

Members of the Public: Arthur Bellinzoni, Barbara Blom, Marie Dentes, Dimitrius Dimopoulos, Robin Driskel, Lydie Haenlin, Milene Morfeij, and Attilio Rezzonico

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the work session to order at 3:35 p.m. and, referring to the amended draft of the Solar Law, noted that the changes are highlighted in red.

Trustee Bianconi questioned the idea of an overlay district, viewing it as less limiting than regulating solar via the current zoning districts. Mr. Blair distributed hand-outs to the Board explaining various land-use tools, including overlay districts. Mr. Blair noted however, that considering overlay districts would come after the Board amends the Zoning Law to include regulating solar and updates the Village Master Plan.

The Board discussed siting considerations and Mr. Blair noted that entities such as Cayuga County Soil & Water and the State Historic Preservation Office should be consulted to identify prime soil areas and possible archeological sites.

The Village Board discussed the following:

- Allowing large-scale in the Agricultural/Residential District
- Spot-Zoning concerns
- Multiple sites that equal 20-acres
- Tabling discussion to gather additional information

Trustee Murphy advised against tabling the discussion so as not to delay allowing small-scale solar in the Village.

Trustee Bianconi expressed moving forward with minimal limitations to prevent future problems.

Trustee Van Orman agrees with allowing large-scale solar in the Agricultural/Residential Zone.

Trustee Bates emphasized the impact of Wells College on the Village and stressed helping their cause.

Mayor Bennett expressed discomfort with allowing large solar arrays in the agricultural/residential district when so much of the Village is within that zoning district.

Mr. Blair emphasized that the Village Board is beholden to the taxpayers and that applicants bear the burden and risk when submitting applications for their projects. Mr. Blair added that the Board could adopt the law and applicants can then work out with their own attorneys how to comply with the regulations.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to schedule a work session for solar and fireworks regulations on November 13, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

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 5:10 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk