

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees January 15, 2020 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, Planning Board member Pat Foser, Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, and Inns of Aurora representative Jodi Bennett

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: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the December 18, 2019 minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor:

- New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has sub-contracted a pipe replacement on Lafayette St Ext. The 36" pipe is being replaced by a 48" pipe. NYSDOT will replace trees removed during excavation.
- The DPW Superintendent received notification from the Cayuga County Department of Health that the Village water infrastructure is in compliance.
- Public Comment accepted through February 14, 2020 for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) TRW Brownfield Site clean-up in Union Springs.

Clerk:

- Letter from the Village of Aurora Planning Board notifying their intent to serve as Lead Agency for the Inns of Aurora project.
- Quarterly sales tax figures are in the Board packets.
- Williamson Law Book letter informing the Village of a 2% increase in their software program support contracts.

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

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on upcoming displays, work on Patrick Tavern, committee consultation, and CPP training. Dr. Schwab noted a query regarding Cayuga Lake Bank robberies and told a delightful tale of a 1967 robbery thwarted by baby Mary Beth Bianconi, who lived

next door. The child's perfectly timed wail so startled the would-be bandits that they abandoned their plan and escaped via Cayuga Lake.

Miscellaneous: No reports

Old Business

Water Update: Mayor Bennett reported on a meeting with the Village, Wells College, the Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority (CCWSA), and the Cayuga County Department of Health (CCDOH). The CCDOH is concerned with the CCWSA timeline given Wells College Water Plant past struggles with turbidity and runoff, coupled with the shallow intake pipe, during significant storm events. The CCWSA is working toward a County referendum in November 2020 to create a Southern Cayuga Water District as a supplemental water source to Owasco Lake, for Cayuga County. The CCDOH requested a "Plan B" from the Village in case the CCWSA plan is delayed or not implemented.

Mayor Bennett, Village Engineer Ken Teter, and representatives of the engineering firm Barton and Loguidice met with CCWSA to determine whether the Village's proceeding to seek funding on its own would be in conflict with the Authority's plan. With assurance that it would not, the group discussed possible funding sources and a tentative timeline for a decision on a specific local plan.

The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) identified two primary viable options. One possible "Plan B" option is building a Village plant to service just Village water/sewer users and Wells College. The other option is extending the CCWSA pipe (with water from Owasco Lake) that services the Town of Springport, along Route 90 through the Town of Ledyard into Aurora. Lawyers for the Village and Wells College are working on reviewing the Water Agreement between the two entities in order to move forward with either of the aforementioned plans. Discussions between the Village Board and Village Engineers will begin in early February and public meetings on the water plant options could begin by the end of February.

Solar Law: The Village Board scheduled a work session for January 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

New Business

Village Elections

VB Resolution #20-02: To Designate the Date change, Hours and Polling Place for the March 18, 2020 Village Election

WHEREAS: Village Elections are held on the third Tuesday of March; and

WHEREAS: When Village elections fall on March 17 the Village Board of Trustees must pass a resolution designating Wednesday, March 18, as Election Day; and

WHEREAS: The Village of Aurora Board of Trustees determines the site for the polling place and the voting timeframe provided it is no less than 12:00pm – 9:00 pm;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees designates Wednesday, March 18, 2020 as Election Day, polls are open from 12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., and the location is the Aurora Firehouse meeting room, 456 Main St Aurora.

FIRST: Mayor Bennett

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #20-03 – To Appoint Election Inspectors for the March 18, 2020 Village Elections

WHEREAS: The Village of Aurora is holding Village elections on March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS: Jim Chase and Jim Weber have expressed interest in being election inspectors; and

WHEREAS: Appointing alternate election inspectors is recommended if either/both inspectors are not able to fulfill the appointment; and

WHEREAS: Elisabeth MacCormick and Anne Reynolds have expressed interest in being alternate election inspectors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees appoint Jim Chase and Jim Weber as Election Inspectors, and Elisabeth MacCormick and Anne Reynolds as alternates, for the March 18, 2020 Village elections from the opening of the polls (Noon – 9:00pm) until the conclusion of the vote count at a rate of \$11.80 /hour.

FIRST: Mayor Bennett

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

Water/Sewer Relief Request: The Village received a letter for Water/Sewer account #1164, requesting relief due to a significant increase for their October-December billing. The property owners acknowledged lack of oversight, a toilet was left running, but indicated that the problem was ongoing from May-October. It was noted that the July and October water/sewer billings were average for their usage.

While the Board sympathized with the request, all agreed that the fault of the property owner should not fall on Village taxpayers to cover the added expense. Request denied.

Aurora Historical Society Annual Report (attached): The Village Board commented on the thoroughness of the report and were impressed with the level of detail.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to accept the Annual Report from the Aurora Historical Society.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

Water Fund:

\$1,000.00 From: F9950.91 Water Improvement Reserve

\$1,000.00 To: HA1910.4 Water Improvement Engineering-Capital

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Fund:

\$1,200.00 From: G1990.4 Contingent Account

\$1,200.00 To: G8130.44 Sewage Treatment-Equipment, welding clarifier unit

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, 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.

Bills

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

Voucher #275, 277, 280-285, 287, 288, 290-293, 295-298, 300, and 302-305

Total: \$11,741.89

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #276, 278, 286, 287, 293, 294, and 299

Total: \$3,625.48

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, 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 #8 for payment.
Voucher #278, 279, 285-287, 289, 292, 296, 298, 301, and 303
Total: \$5,752.17
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 Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement System Fund Abstract #8 for payment.
Voucher #294
Total: \$330.00
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy, and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy, and Van Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk