

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees February 11, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse meeting room at 3:15 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bennett, Trustees Bates, Bianconi, Murphy and Van Orman

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Planning Board members Pat Bianconi and Pat Foser (3:50), ZBA member Laura Holland, Engineer Ken Teter, and DPW Superintendent Kurt Wilmot

Barton & Loguidice: Chris Lawton

Inns of Aurora: Sue Edinger

Wells College: Randy Bench

Local Residents: Ken Kabelac

Mayor Bennett introduced Mr. Teter and Mr. Lawton to present their review of 2 alternatives for Village water sources (attached). Mayor Bennett noted that a resolution is not prepared for this meeting but that the Board coming to a consensus and moving forward with a chosen alternative is prudent.

Mr. Teter and Mr. Lawton broke down their presentation simply as a "Produce or Purchase" choice. The Village can build its own water plant with water from Cayuga Lake or purchase Owasco Lake water from the Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority (CCWSA) via a pipeline from Springport.

Building a new plant is more expensive than extending the pipeline, \$10.4 million vs \$7.7 million, but both options have pros and cons.

Water Plant Pros

- The Village is in charge of everything financially and can set the rates
- An alternate source to Owasco Lake which provides most of the municipal water to the County
- Initiates a potential long-range plan for the County to add-on as a secondary County water source
- More attractive option for grant funding

Water Plant Cons

- Up front cost is greater
- Riskier due to Village employee and operation and maintenance costs
- Potential for necessary upgrades due to lake contaminants

Pipeline Pros

- Upfront cost is less
- Less risk
- Faster completion timeline

Pipeline Cons

- Owasco Lake water concerns
- Rates are set by CCWSA
- Less likelihood of outside funding sources

Mr. Bianconi questioned what happens to the current water plant if Wells College closes. Mr. Wilmot responded that there is an emergency plan in place whereby the Cayuga County Health Department would take over the plant or set up a temporary mobile treatment plant. Additionally, ALNYE Trucking would transport potable water to the village. Mr.

Wilmot noted, though, that the Village water tower on Sherwood Road has enough capability to supply water to Village residents.

Ms. Murphy questioned the possibility of Wells College using their own plant just for the campus and the Village losing them as a customer. Mayor Bennett replied that there is a verbal "good faith" agreement between the Village and Wells and that attorneys from both sides are negotiating a 3-year term contract.

Mr. Teter and Mr. Lawton discussed potential new customers with the Board that could help stabilize costs for a new plant. Mackenzie-Childs and the Honoco Road Association have both expressed interest in a municipal water supply.

Mr. Teter and Mr. Lawton explained that CCWSA is on track to hold a referendum in November on siting an alternate County Water Plant and Long Point is given serious consideration. They advised contacting State and Local representatives as soon as possible to expedite the application process. Additionally, Mr. Teter explained that the Village has just about enough time to apply for 2020 funding before the June deadline. Mr. Lawton added that the Village can apply for funding for a new plant but if the CCWSA plan derails, the Village can revise the application to reflect the pipeline option.

Mayor Bennett polled the Trustees for consensus on moving forward:

Trustee Bianconi: Apply for funding for the water plant with the understanding that we can change to the pipeline if necessary.

Trustee Van Orman: Agree with moving forward with the water plant but only due to the safety net of the ability to revise for the pipeline.

Trustee Murphy: Agree with the water plant option but reassured that the pipeline is still a viable possibility.

Trustee Bates: Understands the argument of losing control of the water rates but is concerned that a Village water plant is too small. Will agree to applying for the funding for a plant but is happy to receive water from Owasco Lake via the pipeline.

Mayor Bennett: Believes that the water plant is the best option due to initiating the potential for a secondary water source with Aurora leading the way and concerns over Owasco Lake water quality.

The Board discussed possible dates of February 27 or March 3 for a public information session with Mayor Bennett noting that the dates are tentative until Assemblyman Finch and Senator Helming are contacted.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adjourn the special meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk