

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees August 19, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was held via ZOOM at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett; Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi (6:10), Janet Murphy and Kit Van Orman

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization representative Tee-Ann Hunter (6:10), and Village Trustee candidates Marie Dentes and Thea Miller

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda: Resolution #20-16 is added under New Business.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the July 15, 2020 minutes

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor:

- A Hydrilla patch was discovered west of the Wells College dock
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have been prevalent at the north end of the lake in Cayuga in August
- Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority approached the County Economic Development Agency for possible funding for an education campaign
- The DPW is working with village engineer, Ken Teter on re-paving Wells Road. Mr. Teter recommends using a company who is offering to pave both Wells Road and Cherry Ave for \$51,000.00
- The village is researching health insurance options through the Tompkins County consortium
- Wells College needs an additional two million dollars in funding to meet their budget for this school year

Clerk: No announcements

Treasurer's Report: No report

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #3 for payment.

Voucher #62-64, 66-71, 73-80, 83, 84, 86-91, 93 and 94

Total: \$38,463.82

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Water: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #3 for payment.

Voucher #65, 73, 79, 81, 85, 86, 92, and 93

Total: \$1,708.77

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

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #3 for payment.

Voucher #63, 67-70, 72, 73, 79, 82, 85, 87, and 93
Total: \$5,27.82

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

Water Improvement Project: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement Project Fund Abstract #3 for payment.

Voucher: #76
Total: \$202.50

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

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab submitted a report emphasizing the Aurora Historical Society's series available on their Facebook page. Research and query work continue along with assisting the Community Preservation Panel.

Old Business

Covid/Wells College Update: The Board discussed village uneasiness over returning students during the pandemic. Comparisons were made with the initial concern over tourists this summer. Mayor Bennett has reached out to Wells College and the Inns of Aurora asking that both entities consider the village residents when formulating their policies for guests/students. Sending students a letter welcoming them to Aurora with a reminder that pandemic guidelines should be followed and/or placing "public service" signs around the village so as not to single out the students were considered. There was no consensus on the letter, but the Board agreed to post signs.

GEIS Mission Statement: Mayor Bennett read the mission statement that the Village Board is submitting to the Planning Board:

GEIS Mission Statement
August 19, 2020

In anticipation of resuming the GEIS of projects undertaken by the Inns of Aurora, with the Aurora Planning Board as Lead Agency, the Aurora Village Board restates its goal in requesting this review.

The Village anticipates that the Review will clarify the impact that development by the Inns of Aurora has had on the Village of Aurora and the possible impacts of the Inns' future projects. Data and insights from the Review will give

guidance to our proposed revision of the Comprehensive Plan and the subsequent changes to the Village Law to Regulate Land Use and Provide for Historic Preservation.

Mr. Bianconi left the meeting at 6:40 pm.

New Business

Nelson Letter: Ms. Nancy Nelson submitted a letter (attached) arguing that she should not be considered an outside user for the water/sewer billing because part of her property is in the village and she pays village taxes.

Most of Ms. Nelson's property, including her house, is located outside the village in the Town of Ledyard, hence the outside user designation which is billed at a higher rate. The Village Board remarked that the location of the pipes to the dwelling determines the outside user status, as well as noting that the Town/Village properties are separate parcels.

The Board of Trustees agreed that Mayor Bennett should send Ms. Nelson a letter explaining that all Town of Ledyard residents receiving water/sewer from the village will be billed at the higher rate.

Resolution #20-13: Ms. Hunter gave a brief synopsis of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (IO) goal to hire a consultant to help with an organizational assessment of the IO. The Village of Aurora received a grant from the Park Foundation on behalf of the IO to help fund this project.

Mayor Bennett and Ms. Balloni joined the IO Executive Committee in interviewing interested consulting firms who submitted quotes for the project. The IO Executive Committee recommended awarding the grant, in the amount of \$19,645.00, to the Consensus Building Institute.

VB RESOLUTION #20-13 To Award the Grant for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization Organizational Assessment to the Consensus Building Institute

WHEREAS, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO) determined an assessment of their organizational structure would be beneficial, and

WHEREAS, the IO received \$24,000 in funding from the Park Foundation to conduct an organizational assessment of the IO, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora, as a member of the IO, has agreed to hold the contract for the grant, and

WHEREAS, the IO Executive committee in conjunction with the Village of Aurora developed and distributed an RFQ, received 5 quotes, and conducted interviews, and

WHEREAS, THE IO Executive Committee recommends awarding the grant in the amount of \$19,645.00 to the Consensus Building Institute,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Aurora agrees with the IO executive committee recommendation to award the grant in the amount of \$19,645 to the Consensus Building Institute to perform an assessment of the IO organizational structure.

FIRST: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Murphy

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Carried.

Resolution #20-14:

VB Resolution #20-14 To Adopt the New York State LGS-1 Records Retention and Disposal Policy

RESOLVED, By the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora that *Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1)* issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing minimum legal retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

- a. Only those records will be disposed of that are described in *Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1)*, after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
- b. Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

FIRST: Trustee Murphy

SECOND: Trustee Bates

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Carried.

Resolution #20-15: Ms. Balloni explained that the Cayuga County Civil Service Agency mistakenly listed the Village of Aurora, Village Clerk position as vacant. Agency employee Rachel Reis recommended that the Village Board pass a resolution to re-instate the position as the simplest way to handle the situation.

VB Resolution # 20-15: To Reinstate the Village Clerk Title/Position

WHEREAS: The Village Clerk title/position in the Village of Aurora is “vacant” per Cayuga County Civil Service records; and

WHEREAS: Cayuga County Civil Service has advised the Village of Aurora to pass a resolution reinstating the Village Clerk title/position; and

WHEREAS: Ann Balloni was appointed by Mayor Bennett with approval from the Village Board of Trustees at their October 19, 2011 meeting, with a hiring date of October 24, 2011; and

WHEREAS: Ann Balloni has continuously served as Village Clerk since her appointment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the title/position of Village Clerk be reinstated by the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees and submitted to Cayuga County Civil Service along with the required MSD form verifying Ann Balloni as Village Clerk.

FIRST: Trustee Van Orman

SECOND: Trustee Bates

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Carried.

Resolution #20-16:

VB Resolution #20-016: To Designate the Date change, Hours and Polling Place for the September 15, 2020 Village Election

WHEREAS: Village Elections were postponed to September 15, 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic; 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 Tuesday, September 15, 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: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Carried.

Miscellaneous: Trustee Van Orman questioned the status of the sea wall project at 331 Main St. Mayor Bennett answered that the Code Enforcement Officer and the Community Preservation Panel Chairperson are working with the property owner to ensure compliance with the permit issued.

Trustee Bates questioned the status of emails received from Laura Holland regarding the new drainage proposal at 327 Main St and the lack of a response from the Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Bennett explained that she is keeping Ms. Holland informed when information is requested and, currently, there is not a complete application in the office for the project to move forward.

Mayor Bennett noted that the next village board meeting is the day after the village election and, therefore, tonight's meeting is Trustee Van Orman's last. Trustee Van Orman has served the village for six years and we are all grateful for her service.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk