

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees February 17, 2021 Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom, due to the pandemic, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett; Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi, Thea Miller, and Janet Murphy

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni and ZBA member Laura Holland

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

Changes to the Agenda: No changes

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: The Post Office lease is renewed.

Cayuga County Department of Health requested help from municipal clerks to help register residents with qualifying health conditions for the Covid-19 vaccine. Ms. Balloni is compiling a list of village residents to contact when the CCDOH receives the vaccine and schedules clinics.

Clerk: The village received a \$860 reward from Worker's Comp for an outstanding safety record.

Trustee Bates: The Town of Ledyard is recommending to Cayuga County a slower speed limit on Sherwood Road near the Inns of Aurora's new spa.

Trustee Bates inquired why the noon siren hasn't been blowing and Ms. Balloni informed her that it is being repaired.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the January Treasurer's Report.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

General Fund: \$207.94 FROM: A1990.4 Contingent Account

TO: A8510.4 Community Beautification-Contractual

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #9 for payment.

Voucher #285-291, 293-296, 298-308, 310, and 311

Total: \$13,046.69

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #9 for payment.

Voucher #288, 295, 296, 308, and 309

Total: \$3,565.12

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #9 for payment.

Voucher #287, 288, 295-297, 301, 305, 306, and 308

Total: \$4,708.55

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

IO Park Foundation Grant: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Grant Fund Abstract #9 for payment.

Voucher #292

Total: \$1,901.25

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab submitted her monthly report as well as the Annual Report.

Miscellaneous: Trustee Bates submitted a report (attached) from the January IO meeting and noted that the Cayuga County Water Quality Report is complete.

The Morgan Opera House submitted their annual report (attached).

Old Business

Moratorium: Mayor Bennett stated that she didn't want to ignore the Inns' informal request, made during the February 10, 2021 public hearing, to keep Application #20-19 for a tent/kitchen/bathrooms separate from the Temporary Moratorium Law. Mayor Bennett questioned the trustees if they thought the request should be pursued. The IOA originally submitted Application #20-19 on October 19, 2020, was deemed incomplete by the Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board Chairperson, and a revised version was received on February 10, 2021. The Village Board passed the Temporary Moratorium Law at their February 10, 2021 special meeting, following the public hearing.

Trustee Murphy voiced discomfort with giving the impression that the Inns of Aurora are receiving special treatment. Trustee Murphy remarked on protecting the Village reputation by treating everyone the same and noted that there is a hardship appeal process within the law if the Inns of Aurora decide to apply. All trustees agreed.

Water Update: Mayor Bennett attended a Cayuga County Water & Sewer meeting with Village Engineer, Ken Teter on the status of their goal for a county secondary water source. The CCWSA is currently proposing phasing that plan with smaller projects.

Inns of Aurora Spa: Village Engineer, Ken Teter, submitted a letter (attached) to the Cayuga County Department of Health confirming that water pressure concerns at the Spa have been addressed.

New Business

Hiring a Temporary Code Enforcement Officer:

Resolution #21-02: to Hire a Temporary Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer

WHEREAS, John Greer resigned as the Village Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer, effective January 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dan Green has expressed interest in filling the position, temporarily, until a permanent Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer is hired; and

WHEREAS, Dan Green is certified as a Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora hire Dan Green as a temporary Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer at \$28.60/ hour

FIRST: Trustee Murphy

SECOND: Trustee Miller

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Carried unanimously.

Introduction to Local Law #2 of 2021:

VB RESOLUTION 21-03 OF 2021 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2021 ENTITLED THE WAIVER OF THE MAXIMUM REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

WHEREAS, the recent enactment of Chapter 97 of the Law of 2011 placed limits on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of any local government thereby place a “tax levy limit” on municipalities that is found in General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

WHEREAS, subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c expressly authorized the Village Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Village Board of Trustees for one fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of this local law, the Village Board of Trustees hereby reserves the right to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Aurora and authorized the Village Board of Trustees to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2021 in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

WHEREAS, this is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (20 & 27) and is otherwise exempt from environmental review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora, County of Cayuga, State of New York, held via Zoom, at 6:00 p.m. on February 17, 2021, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

BONNIE APGAR BENNETT, MAYOR
GRACE BATES
MATTHEW BIANCONI
THEA MILLER
JANET MURPHY

The instant Resolution came to be heard and considered:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora as follows:

1. The Village Board of Trustees hereby introduces Proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and adoption.
2. The Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that the aforementioned Local Law is a Type II action as defined in 6 NYCRR §617.5(c)(20&27) and accordingly, the Village Board of Trustees expressly determines that this action is not an action that requires review pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Action (“SEQRA”);
3. The Village Board of Trustees has properly noticed a Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 to be held via Zoom on March 17, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m.;

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Bates and Seconded by Trustee Murphy a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:

Mayor Bennett AYE

Trustee Bates AYE
Trustee Bianconi AYE
Trustee Miller AYE
Trustee Murphy AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, this resolution is adopted this 17th day of February 2021.

Environmental Bill of Rights Resolution:

VB Resolution #21-04: In support of the Green Amendment to the New York State Constitution

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly passed an Environmental Bill of Rights “Green” amendment to the New York State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the amendment will be on the New York State ballot for November elections; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees believes "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment."; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees supports the Environmental Bill of Rights “Green” Amendment to the New York State Constitution.

FIRST: Trustee Bates
SECOND: Trustee Miller
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan: The Board discussed soliciting proposals for updating the Comprehensive Plan and how it relates to the Inns of Aurora Generic Environmental Impact Statement.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk