

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 17, 2021 Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom 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, Village Treasurer Deborah Brooks, and ZBA member Laura Holland

Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2021: The Waiver of the Maximum Real Property Tax Levy Limit

On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2021 at 6:01 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2021 at 6:02 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda: No changes.

Approval of Minutes

February 10, 2021: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the February 10, 2021 public hearing and special meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

February 17, 2021: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the February 17, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: The Finger Lakes is being considered for designation as a National Heritage Area. Public comment is open through June 1 and the trustees should consider passing a resolution in support.

The Village Board should consider resuming in-person meetings or continuing with Zoom.

Trustee Bates questioned if the village park and playground can re-open and the answer is yes, they can. The “closed to the public” signs will be replaced with mask/social distancing guidelines.

Clerk: Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab submitted a letter (attached) commending village employee, Mike White, for keeping the Patrick Tavern parking area and ramp cleared of snow for the Farmer’s Market on February 16. Per Dr. Schwab, “I think this deserves a special mention because of the contribution it made to community morale to be able to gather safely, support local businesses, and connect with the Wells Seed Exchange.”

The trustees were reminded that their Annual Organizational Meeting is next month, and they must decide on a consistent meeting time. As Trustee Bianconi and Trustee Miller cannot meet at 7:00 p.m., the members agreed to continue the 6:00 time instituted last summer and amend the resolution next month. Mayor Bennett instructed the clerk to ask the other boards if they prefer 6:00 or 7:00.

Ms. Balloni attended a cyber security webinar and asked for a trustee volunteer to research finding a suitable IT person/company to assist the Village with recommendations and updates. Trustee Murphy agreed to contact her IT co-worker.

Ms. Balloni was approached by a village resident inquiring about creating a village dog park. Trustee Bates agreed to contact the resident and research land options/regulations.

Treasurer’s Report: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the February Treasurer’s Report.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

GENERAL FUND

\$ 107.89	FROM	A1990.4 Contingent Account
101.12	TO	A8510.4 Community Beautification-Contractual
6.77	TO	A1620.42 Buildings – Water/Sewer

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

WATER FUND

\$ 353.26	FROM	F1990.4 Contingent Account
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On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the Water Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #312, 314, 316-319, 321-324, 326, 328, 329, 331-340, 342, and 343

Total: \$10,302.55

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #313, 315, 316, 318, 326, 327, 336, 338, and 343

Total: \$6,392.31

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 #10 for payment.

Voucher #318, 320, 322-326, 329, 330, 333, 335, 339, and 341

Total: \$4,272.01

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water Improvement System: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement System Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #338

Total: \$550.00

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

IO Park Foundation Grant: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the IO Park Foundation Grant Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #325

Total: \$3,508.75

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Green reported on recent permit activity.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent activity at the Aurora History Center, queries, and gave an update on continuing the winter farmer's market at Patrick Tavern.

Miscellaneous:

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intra-Municipal Organization (IO) (see attached): Trustee Bates noted a Community Science Institute (CSI) shortfall of \$14,000.00 this year, for monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS). A Go Fund Me page is under consideration.

Mayor Bennett reported that the Army Corps of Engineers is continuing the Hydrilla eradication project this year and is requesting "Hydrilla Hunter" volunteers to monitor the lake this summer. Trustee Bianconi offered to help while on the lake with his cruise business.

Old Business

Water Project: Mayor Bennett explained that Cayuga County Legislator, Keith Batman, is organizing a meeting with members of the legislature, the Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority (CCWSA), and the Village Board to discuss Aurora's water options. Mayor Bennett noted that the options were introduced by Village Engineer Ken Teter and Barton & Loguidice in 2019. The consensus was to partner with CCWSA on a Cayuga Lake water plant as a secondary water source for the county (primary source is Owasco Lake), but the CCWSA is considering smaller projects now, with less focus on funding a secondary water source for the county. Aurora must decide what is best for Aurora.

Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Bennett noted identifying concepts and hiring a facilitator to guide the public meetings. There has been no further correspondence from the LaBella representative contacted. Mayor Bennett recommended that the trustees watch the Comprehensive Plan webinar posted by the New York State Planning Federation.

New Business

2021/2022 Budgets:

- On par with 2020/2021 budgets
- Tax levy increased to \$3.20/\$1,000 of assessment. Lowest levy in the county and keeps Aurora under the tax cap
- 2% employee raises instead of 3%
- Increase clerk to full time with a minimum of 30 hours/week including benefits
- Last year of 15-year payment for streets bond

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the 2021/2022 tentative budgets for proposal and set the public hearing for April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Local Law #2 of 2021:

**VB RESOLUTION #21-05 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2021
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 2021/2022 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 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, at 6:00 p.m. on March 17, 2021, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

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

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 adopts Local Law #2 of 2021.
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 held via Zoom on March 17, 2021 beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m.;

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

Trustee Bates - AYE
Trustee Bianconi - AYE
Trustee Miller - AYE
Trustee Murphy - AYE
Mayor Bennett - AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #2 of 2021 is adopted this 17th day of March 2021.

Health Emergency Policy (attached): On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adopt a Health Emergency Policy, as mandated by New York State.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk