

## Village of Aurora Board of Trustees July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room 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 6:00 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 Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

### Announcements

#### **Mayor:**

- New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has road repairs for the Village of Aurora scheduled for a later time. NYSDOT completed repairs south of Aurora in 2020 and began a project north of the village in July.
- The REV Theatre presentation of the Golden Goose is on for July 30 at the Wells College dock, co-sponsored by the Village and the Aurora Free Library. A food truck will be on-site selling hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream and lifeguards are on duty until 7:00 when the play begins. Everything is weather dependent.
- The summer swim program has been shut down due to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) since July 9. The DPW found temporary, alternate jobs for the lifeguards who didn't want to lose hours.
- Save I-81 project is asking for support lobbying against the community grid plan to keep truck traffic off village/rural roads.
- Cayuga Lake National Bank notified the village that they have changed depositors.
- Over 50 people attended the Comprehensive Plan open house on July 17. Letters referencing the comprehensive plan update were received from John & Marie Dentes and Monica Groth (attached) and will be included with public comments when the public hearing is scheduled. Trustee Murphy noted the differing viewpoints from a retired couple (Dentes) and a young adult who grew up in the village (Groth). Trustee Murphy further commented that the criticisms of lack of college prep courses voiced by the Dentes against the Southern Cayuga County School district are misleading as the district has a successful AP program, as well as, offering courses from Syracuse University, SUNY schools and Cayuga Community College. Trustee Murphy added that Southern Cayuga's success is notably apparent in the letter from Ms. Groth, a Southern Cayuga alum and graduate of Yale University.

#### **Clerk:**

- The June Worker's Comp Bulletin includes an update of Covid restriction recommendations
- Village Historian, Dr. Linda Schwab, submitted a letter (attached) thanking Mike White, Adam Van Horn, and the lifeguards for their assistance relocating the Aurora History Center out of what is now referred to as the Old Schoolhouse, at the request of the Inns of Aurora.

Mr. White asked the clerk to note an error in the letter. The letter reads "Although Mike has often helped the Inns workers, and although they were willing to return the favor, their boss (whom I assume to be Facilities Manager John Marshall) did not give them permission to do so." Per Mike, John Marshall was not the authority preventing the Inns of Aurora employees from helping with the move.



Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

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

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab requested that the report be read into the record. Dr. Schwab reported on upcoming displays, queries, events, and where the Aurora History Center items are temporarily stored: Aurora Masonic Center, Cayuga Lake National Bank, and Patrick Tavern

## **Miscellaneous**

**Fitness Trail:** Trustee Murphy reported that the templates for the new fitness trail signs are at the printer and a mock-up of the brochure will be ready for the August board meeting.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Intra-Municipal Organization:** Ms. Balloni participated in a tour at the invitation of local farmers to educate the IO and other watershed groups on best practices for reducing farm run-off. The event was informative and underscored the need for all entities in the Cayuga Lake Watershed to come together and protect Cayuga Lake.

**Water Plant:** Mayor Bennett reported that we are waiting to hear from the Cayuga County legislature if the Village will receive rescue funds. Village Engineer, Ken Teter, and Barton & Loguidice propose installing a new intake pipe at Long Point State Park and connecting it to the Wells College Water Plant as a temporary option until a new water plant is approved/constructed.

## **Old Business**

**Land Purchase Option:** Mayor Bennett reminded those present that in 2019 the Inns of Aurora offered to sell a 2 ½ acre parcel, east of the village office/firehouse property for \$5,000.00. The land may be used for a new village hall/water plant/pavilion/dog park, all dependent on funding. Trustee Bates voiced concern that there isn't a specific use for the land, siting policy in the NYCOM Handbook. Mayor Bennett explained that because there is limited public property within the village, the village attorney is confident that purchasing the land is allowable under NY State guidelines.

Trustee Bates then argued that the Village should wait for the completion of the Comprehensive Plan update before making any land use decisions. Mayor Bennett replied that the option to purchase was tabled two years ago, the Village needs property for the proposed projects, and the trustees just approved the budget modifications to move the funds, noted in the resolution. Ms. Balloni reminded the trustees that if the resolution is denied, the Option to Purchase Agreement is null and void.

On motion by Mayor Bennett, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to table discussion of the Land Purchase Option to the September 15, 2021 meeting.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

**IT Hire:** The village office received two applications for the position.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to hire Jon Gans, at the recommendation of Mayor Bennett and Clerk Balloni, to manage the village office IT duties, with an initial payment of \$200.00 and \$20.00/hour thereafter on an as needed basis.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Rev Children's Theatre Company Contract:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Rev Children's Theatre contract of \$250.00 for the Golden Goose play scheduled for July 30, 2021.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Annual Dues:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the annual dues of \$50.00 to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.

**Local Law #3 of 2021:**

**VILLAGE OF AURORA RESOLUTION #21-23  
INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2021  
AND SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED  
LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2021**

Introduced by: Trustee Murphy

Seconded by: Trustee Bianconi

Dated: July 21, 2021

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora has determined that the Village of Aurora should opt out of the New York State Marijuana Law; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has set a deadline of December 31, 2021 to opt out of the law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village may opt back in at any time; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Laws require Cayuga County Planning 239 l, m, and n review; and

**WHEREAS**, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Village of Aurora, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Village Board of Trustees shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Aurora hereby determines that:

1. The action is a Type II action, and is not subject to SEQRA;
2. The Village Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Clerk to submit Local Law #3 of 2021 to Cayuga County for mandated 239 l, m, and n review

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Aurora will conduct a Public Hearing on September 15, 2021 at **6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, for the purpose of taking public comment on, and giving due consideration to, the enactment of Proposed Local Law #3 of 2021; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of said Local Law is available for public inspection on the Village Website, [auroranewyork.us](http://auroranewyork.us), or by appointment at the Village Clerk's Office; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to publish notice of said Public Hearing in the official newspaper.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Bonnie Apgar Bennett	AYE
Trustee Grace Bates	AYE
Trustee Matt Bianconi	AYE
Trustee Thea Miller	AYE
Trustee Janet Murphy	AYE

Vote: 5-0

**Water/Sewer Relief Request:** Robert Jetty submitted a letter (attached) requesting relief from the water/sewer bill for account #1125C. Mr. Jetty consulted a plumber given the higher than usual amount and a toilet leak was discovered. The trustees all agreed that the village taxpayers are not responsible for the leak and noted that similar requests were denied in the past. Mayor Bennett added that the only time any relief is granted for the sewer charge is when the leak doesn't run through the sewer line, such as a garden hose or swimming pool.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to deny Mr. Jetty's request for relief on water/sewer account #1125C.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni  
Village Clerk