

**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees September 15, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**Present:** Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, and Janet Murphy

**Absent:** Matt Bianconi

**Others Present:** Village Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA members Karen Hindenlang & Laura Holland, and Inns of Aurora General Manager Sue Edinger

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2021: A Local Law Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and On-Site Cannabis Consumption Establishments Within the Village of Aurora.**

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2021 at 6:02 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Dr. Linda Schwab submitted a letter (attached) in favor of Local Law #3 of 2021.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2021 at 6:04 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** No changes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tabled

**Announcements**

**Mayor:**

- Informed the Board that Thea Miller resigned her trustee position due to moving out of the village. Mayor Bennett appointed Jim Orman to fill the vacancy until the next village election, March 15, 2022.
- Referred to a letter from Michael & Sandy Groth (attached) expressing concern about the increase in noise and traffic on Court St, especially in and around the maintenance buildings and parking lot at Taylor House.

- Penned a letter on behalf of the Village Board (attached) requesting that New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) reconsider putting their land at Bell Station on Cayuga Lake up for auction and instead consult with the Finger Lakes Land Trust for public land designation.
- Discussed a proposal from Jim Kirkwood to repair the seawall on village land next to his property and the sidewalk in front of his house, at his expense. The Board would like to see detailed plans before deciding.

**Clerk:** Ms. Balloni reported that she disposed of old records (list attached) and read a letter from Carolyn Connors (attached) thanking Wells College for allowing her to teach swim lessons for the Village Recreation Program at their pool.

**Treasurer’s Report:** No report.

**Budget Modifications**

**General Fund**

\$342.76	FROM	A234T Recreational Trail Reserve
	TO	A7180.4R Trail Reserve - Contractual

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

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #4 for payment.

Voucher #99, 100, 102-108, 110, 111, 114-116, 118-121, 123, and 126

Total: \$10,680.38

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #4 for payment.

Voucher #103, 110, 114, 117, 121, 122, 124, and 125

Total: \$8,087.93

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #4 for payment.

Voucher #100, 101, 103, 110-112, 116, 118, 121, and 124

Total: \$4,433.37

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Improvement:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement Fund Abstract #4 for payment.

Voucher #117

Total: \$550.00

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Park Foundation Grant:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Park Foundation Grant Fund Abstract #4 for payment.

Voucher #109

Total: \$1,487.50

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

**Code Officer:** No report

**Historian (attached):** Dr. Schwab reported on a new display at the Howland Farm Museum, research visits, and recent queries.

## **Miscellaneous:**

**Swim Program (attached):** Program Director, Dalton Elser, reported on the challenges of working with younger, inexperienced lifeguards and the frequent dock closings due to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Mr. Elser recognized Wells College for allowing the use of their pool for swim lessons and Carolyn Connors for teaching an average of 20 kids a day.

**Water Project:** Mayor Bennett reported that the funding request is stalled in the Cayuga County Legislature due to some legislators preferring to wait until all the money is received and holding off until November elections.

## **Old Business**

**Land Purchase:** On motion by Mayor Bennett, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to table discussion of the option to purchase 2 acres of land, east of the firehouse, from the Inns of Aurora to the October 20, 2021 meeting.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **Local Law #3 of 2021:**

### **VILLAGE OF AURORA RESOLUTION #21-24 ADOPTING LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2021**

Introduced by: Trustee Murphy

Seconded by: Trustee Bates

Dated: September 15, 2021

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Village of Aurora to support commercial activity in accordance with our current zoning law while maintaining the village's residential character and sufficient parking; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has passed MRTA (The Marijuana regulation and taxation Act) with insufficient information for the Village to confidently allow the commercial activities related to this Act but with the possibility of local opt-out before the deadline of December 31, 2021; and

**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**, Cayuga County Planning 239 l, m, and n review determined Local Law #3 of 2021 is "of local concern only"; and

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was duly noticed and held on September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom for comment from all those persons for or against Local Law #3 of 2021;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees adopts Local Law #3 of 2021;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Local Law #3 of 2021 is subject to a permissive referendum.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Bonnie Apgar Bennett AYE

Trustee Grace Bates AYE

Trustee Matt Bianconi            ABSENT  
Trustee Janet Murphy            AYE

Vote: 3-0

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni  
Village Clerk