

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

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

**Present:** Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi, Janet Murphy, and Jim Orman (6:11 p.m.)

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

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

**Comprehensive Plan SEQR Public Hearing**

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for the State Environmental Quality Review of the update to the Village Comprehensive Plan at 6:03 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** No comments were received.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for the State Environmental Quality Review of the update to the Village Comprehensive Plan at 6:04 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Three resolutions added under New Business; acceptance of the final IO Grant report, supporting the Cayuga County Water & Sewer hiring of MRB for an engineering study for Honoco Road, and designating Village Election polling places and hours.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**November 30, 2021:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the November 30, 2021, special meeting minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**December 4, 2021:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the December 4, 2021, special meeting minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**December 9, 2021:** Trustee Bates noted that the vote to add headings to the Comprehensive Plan Matrix was not carried “unanimously”. The clerk corrected the error.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the December 9, 2021, special meeting minutes as corrected.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Announcements**

**Mayor:** Pat Bianconi will continue to be Aurora’s representative on the Cayuga County Planning Board. LaBella Associates sent a beautiful wreath in appreciation of the village working with them on the Comprehensive Plan. It is displayed on the outside door of the meeting room.

**Clerk:** Williamson Law Book is raising their prices 15% in 2022. Cayuga County Office of the Aging sent a thank you letter for the annual donation from the Village to the Meals on Wheels program.

**Treasurer’s Report:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to accept the November Treasurer’s Report.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Budget Modifications**

#### **GENERAL FUND**

\$ .03	FROM	A9720.7 Debt Service - Bond Interest
	TO	A9720.6 Debt Service – Bond Principal

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

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**WATER FUND**

\$12.80	FROM	F1990.4 Contingent Account
	TO	F9010.8 NYS & Local Retirement
\$907.50	FROM	F1990.4 Contingent Account
	TO	F8320.41 Source of Supply - Engineering

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications in the Water Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**SEWER FUND**

\$786.50	FROM	G1990.4 Contingent Account
	TO	G9010.8 NYS & Local Retirement

On motion by Trustee Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications in the Sewer Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**WATER IMPROVEMENT RESERVE**

\$2,000.00	FROM	F231I MM SAVINGS Water Improvement Reserve
	TO	HA5031 Interfund Transfer -Water Improvement Checking

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications in the Water Improvement Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #197-199, 201, 203-214, 216, 218, 220-224, 226-231, and 233-236

Total: \$16,546.92

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #196, 200, 212, 219, 225, 228, 230, and 232

Total: \$6,751.47

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #200-202, 208, 209, 212, 213, 215, 217, 22, and 230

Total: \$4,483.28

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Improvement Project:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement Project Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #225

Total: \$192.50

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports

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

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on researching space for village archives, research queries including continuing revisions to the "Following the Freedom Trail in Cayuga County" driving brochure, a presentation to Leadership Cayuga on Aurora's early years, corrections to the Village Draft Comprehensive Plan revisions, Christmas in Aurora, and Patrick Tavern.

## **Miscellaneous**

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (CWIO):** Ms. Balloni reported that CWIO is submitting the final grant report to the Park Foundation and thanked the trustees on behalf of Tee-Ann Hunter and the Executive Committee for holding the grant. The remainder of the funds will be used towards updating the organization website, with the Park Foundation's blessing.

The Park Foundation awarded a new grant to CWIO to hire a Watershed Manager and the Cornell graduate students completed their municipal survey of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

## Old Business

**Comprehensive Plan**

**SEQR:**

**VILLAGE OF AURORA SEQRA RESOLUTION 21-34  
FOR THE UPDATED COMPREHEHNSIVE PLAN  
DECEMBER 15, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees recognized the need for an updated Village Comprehensive Plan: and

**WHEREAS**, Labella Associates was hired as a consultant at the April 21, 2021 Village Board meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the project is a Type 1 Action under SEQRA and a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) was completed by Labella Associates and reviewed by the Village Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about October 28, 2021, the Board of Trustees authorized the Village Clerk to notify all potentially Involved and Interested Agencies of its intention to act as Lead Agency for the Action and circulated the Plan Full Environmental Assessment Form. No other Agency asserted legal authority or jurisdiction to serve as lead agency; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about October 21, 2021, the Comprehensive Plan was referred to the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development for General Municipal Law 239 (l)(m) and (n) review and comment,

**WHEREAS**, the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development, via November 3, 2021, letter, approved the proposed Plan, with no recommended changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board conducted a coordinated SEQRA review for the Comprehensive Plan at their regular meeting on December 15, 2021, via Zoom and received no comments; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Aurora hereby determines that the action proposed will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment and, thus, a negative declaration is hereby issued and is duly noted upon the attached Determination of Significance. For the reasons set forth above, and in consideration of the issuance of a negative declaration, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Mayor is authorized to sign all Environmental Assessment Forms, and is directed to file all necessary documents with the appropriate departments and agencies, and publish or file any notices or documents that may be necessary in conjunction with this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

FIRST: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Murphy

Bates: AYE

Bianconi: AYE

Murphy: AYE

Orman: AYE

Bennett: AYE

Vote: 5-0

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

**Adoption:**

**RESOLUTION 21-35 TO ADOPT  
VILLAGE OF AURORA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

On motion of Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora, New York:

**WHEREAS**, the Board has before it the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan dated December 15, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan was developed by the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan Committee with the assistance of planning consultant, LaBella Associates of Rochester, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the LaBella Associates prepared a survey for Village residents to obtain public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan Committee held a public workshop on July 17, 2021 and a Public Hearing on November 2, 2021 to solicit public input on the formation of the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan Committee referred the Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees on November 8, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan was referred by the Village to the Cayuga County Planning Department under Section 239m of the General Municipal Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cayuga County Planning Department approved the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan per its letter of November 3, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was held on the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan at Aurora Village Hall on November 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board, as the designated lead agency, conducted a SEQR Public Hearing and an environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act on December 15, 2021, and issued a negative declaration on the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan

**Now Therefore, Be It RESOLVED**, the Village Board does hereby receive, place on file, and adopt the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan referred to above.

**ROLL CALL**

Bates: AYES

Bianconi: AYE

Murphy: AYE

Orman: AYE  
Bennett: AYE  
Vote: 5-0

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

### **New Business**

**CWIO Appointment:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the appointment of Tee-Ann Hunter as the Village of Aurora representative to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization, and Ann Balloni as the alternate.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bennett thanked Trustee Bates for her years of service as the CWIO representative.

**Community Preservation Panel Alternate Appointment:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the appointment of Erin Weber as Alternate to the Community Preservation Panel.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Park Foundation Grant Final Report:**

#### **VB RESOLUTION 21- 36: APPROVAL OF FINAL REPORT TO THE PARK FOUNDATION FOR AN ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS** the Village of Aurora, acting as fiscal sponsor for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO), received a \$24,000 grant from the Park Foundation for an organizational assessment of the IO, and

**WHEREAS** the project has been completed and a final report, along with project deliverables and fiscal information, has been prepared for submission and reviewed by the Trustees at their December 15, 2021 meeting,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Trustees authorize the Village Clerk to submit the final report as presented to the Park Foundation.

MOVED: Trustee Murphy

SECONDED: Trustee Orman

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

NAYS: None

Carried unanimously.

### **Support for Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority Hiring MRB Engineering Firm:**

#### **RESOLUTION #21-37 APPROVING THE SELECTION OF THE MRB GROUP TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES TO THE CCWSA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROPOSED HONOCO ROAD SEWER PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora (Village) is located in the Town of Ledyard, Cayuga County, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which serves the entire community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority (CCWSA) is proposing a sewer improvement project to serve the Honoco Road, Lake Road and Sunset Beach areas (Honoco Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the CCWSA has approached the Village to consider accepting the wastewater from the Honoco Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the CCWSA is considering hiring The MRB Group to conduct a more in-depth assessment of the design requirements and necessary improvements to implement the project, including a detailed conditions assessment of the Village's WWTP and sewer collection system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Board approves and endorses the hiring of The MRB Group by the CCWSA to conduct the work set forth above; and

**BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED** that this joint effort between the Village and CCWSA to complete the Honoco Project will be a significant step forward in enhancing the communities to be served and in improving the water quality of Cayuga Lake.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution will be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk in files that are readily accessible to the public and made available upon request, subject only to the limitations established by New York's Freedom of Information Law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately, and shall be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk within five (5) days hereof.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

FIRST: Trustee Bates

SECOND: Trustee Bianconi

Bates: AYE

Bianconi: AYE

Murphy: AYE

Orman: AYE

Bennett: AYE

Vote: 5-0

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**Designating Village Election Polling Place and Hours:**

**VB Resolution #21-38: To Designate the Hours and Polling Place for the March 15, 2022, Village Election**



**WHEREAS:** Village Elections are held on the third Tuesday of March; 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, March 15, 2022, 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 Bianconi

SECOND: Trustee Orman

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

NAYS: None

Carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.