

**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 16, 2022 Public Hearing and 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, Janet Murphy, and Jim Orman (6:02)

**Others Present**

**Village Officials:** Clerk Ann Balloni, Planning Board member Pat Foser, ZBA member Laura Holland, and Historian Dr. Linda Schwab

**Inns of Aurora:** Jodi Bennett

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Hearing**

**Local Law #1 of 2022 The Waiver of the Maximum Tax Levy Limit**

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to open the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2022 at 6:01 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** No comments

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to close the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2022 at 6:02 p.m.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Orman

Motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Meeting**

**Changes to the Agenda:** No changes

**Approval of Minutes**

**February 16, 2022:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the February 16, 2022 meeting minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**March 9, 2022:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to approve the March 9, 2022 special meeting minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.



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

Voucher #305, 306, 308-310, 312-319, 322, 325-338, 340-342, and 344

Total: \$19,182.38

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #305-307, 318-321, 333, 338, and 339

Total: \$11,652.12

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #309, 311, 314, 318, 319, 322-324, 327, 330, 338, and 343

Total: \$4,508.65

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

**Code Officer** (See attached, submitted March 17, 2022): Officer Green reported on recent permit activity.

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on her work with Wells students & interns, committees, and upcoming displays and lectures.

Dr. Schwab included a recognition of Mayor Bennett's contributions to the Village over the past twelve years.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (CWIO):** Ms. Balloni reported on the membership committee's outreach to non-member municipalities.

**Miscellaneous:** Trustee Murphy recommended placing an ad in the Citizen newspaper for a Summer Youth Program Director. Dates this year are June 27-August 14. Trustee Murphy will oversee the planning/hiring, Ms. Balloni will monitor daily operations with the director and with the swim instructor, Carolyn Connors, and newly elected Mayor Orman will contact the Town of Ledyard for their annual contribution of \$2,500.00.

## **Old Business:**

- Mayor Bennett and Inns of Aurora General Manager Sue Edinger signed the MOU to upgrade the water pressure at the Spa.
- There is no update on the WIIA grant.

- Congressman Katko sent out a press release announcing a \$160,000.00 grant received by the Village on behalf of Wells College to upgrade the water plant pumps.
- The Zoning Committee is progressing with the zoning law revisions

**New Business**

**2022/2023 Village Budgets:** Mayor Bennett noted the following:

- No tax increases this year
- Assessments increased in the village due to updating from 82% assessment to 100%, though that does not necessarily equate to a tax increase
- Zabriskie House (owned by the Inns of Aurora) begins its PILOT this year
- Increase in sewer rates and instituting a new commercial sewer rate due to Covid, empty houses, and less students on Wells Campus
- Change in status for the DPW Superintendent, now Part time Plant Operator, and the Treasurer is now full time with vacation/holiday/sick time
- Increase in DPW training school
- Increase for the Aurora Free Library, the Morgan Opera House and the Aurora Historical Society
- Street bond is paid off so that money can now go into reserves

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to present the Tentative 2022/2023 Budgets as proposed. The public hearing for the 2022/2023 Proposed Village Budgets is set for March 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Local Law #1 of 2022**

**VB RESOLUTION #22-06 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2022: THE WAIVER OF THE MAXIMUM REAL**

**PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT**

**WHEREAS**, the 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 2022/2023 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 at 456 Main St, Aurora, NY, at 6:00 p.m. on March 16, 2022, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

GRACE BATES  
MATTHEW BIANCONI  
JANET MURPHY  
JAMES ORMAN  
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 #1 of 2022.
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 #1 of 2022 on March 16, 2022 beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m.;

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

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

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #1 of 2022 is adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

**April 2022 Meeting:**

**VB Resolution #22-07: to Change the Date of the 2022 Annual Organizational Meeting**

**WHEREAS**, there is a scheduling conflict on April 20, 2022 for the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees regular and annual organizational meetings;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees change the date of the April regular board meeting and annual organizational meeting to April 27, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Aurora Firehouse meeting room, 456 Main St.

**First:** Trustee Murphy  
**Second:** Trustee Bianconi  
**AYES:** Bates, Bianconi, Murphy, Orman, and Bennett  
**NAYS:** None  
Carried unanimously.

**Sewer Rate Increase:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to schedule the public hearing for the sewer rate increase for March 30, 2022 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

**AYES:** Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman  
**NAYS:** None  
Motion carried unanimously

**Hazard Mitigation Grant:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Orman, the Village Board authorized the Village Clerk, Village Engineer, and Village DPW Superintendent to move forward with applying for a Hazard Mitigation Grant, in consultation with the incoming Village Board.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni  
Village Clerk

Following the meeting an appreciation celebration was held for Mayor Bennett for her twelve years leading the Village, as well as previously serving as Chair of the ZBA, and as a Village Trustee. Incoming mayor and trustee Jim Orman read proclamations from Governor Hochul, Senator Helming, Assemblyman LeMondes, former County Legislator Keith Batman, and Inns of Aurora General Manager Sue Edinger. Wells College President, Jonathan Gibraltar read his comments in-person. Additional speakers included Bruce Bennett (First Dude, AKA First Stallion) and Planning Board chairperson, Pat Bianconi.

Trustee Bianconi also recognized Trustee Bates for her 8 years as a trustee and previously a member of the Village Planning Board.