

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 15, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Orman, Trustees Matt Bianconi, L. John Miller, Janet Murphy, and Frank Zimdahl (via Zoom)

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, Treasurer Deborah Brooks (via Zoom, left at 6:10 p.m.), Planning Board member Tee-Ann Hunter, and Historian Dr. Linda Schwab

Members of the Public: Grace Bates, Jodi Bennett, and Earl Thurston, Esq

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

Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2023: Waiver of the Tax Levy Limit

On motion by Mayor Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to open the public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2023 at 6:14 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comment

Mayor Orman requested that the Public Hearing be kept open until the vote under New Business.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2023 at 7:05 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Changes to the Agenda: Budget discussion will be first on the agenda.

As the trustees received the tentative budget today, Mayor Orman will schedule a work session for discussion next week. Treasurer Brooks noted that the equalization rate for 2022/2023 was 82% with a village tax rate of \$3.20/\$1,000.00 of assessment. The tentative 2023/2024 budgets have a 100% equalization rate and a village tax rate of \$2.54/\$1,000.00 of assessment.

On motion by Trustee Zimdahl, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the tentative 2023/2024 budgets, schedule a work session for March 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss possible amendments, and schedule the Budgets public hearing for March 29, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes

NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer: No report.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent correspondence, discussions, and researching McGordon House

Morgan Opera House: Annual report attached.

Ad Hoc Committee: Members of the committee, Grace Bates & Tee-Ann Hunter, and Ms. Bates attorney, Earl Thurston, discussed the potential sale of Wells College owned property at the south end of town. Ms. Bates has offered to contribute \$500,00.00 to assist the village in purchasing the land for a lake-side public park. Per Mr. Thurston, Wells College has received a purchase offer from a developer for a parcel of the land and, as the Village has a Right of First Refusal, the Village should receive notification for the opportunity to match the offer.

The committee discussed with the trustees protecting public space and encouraging new development as it relates to the Village Comprehensive Plan, having the land appraised, meeting with the developer and Wells College, and Wells College Trustees having final say on all decisions.

The Village Board agreed that future discussion should include counsel from all parties.

Old Business: Trustee Zimdahl questioned the status of the petition for a basketball court. Mayor Orman replied that it will be discussed during the budget talks.

Trustee Zimdahl reiterated his recommendation that the village make better use of its properties, specifically Patrick Tavern. Dr. Schwab interjected that a proposal for a space for the village archives is forthcoming.

New Business

Local Law #3 of 2023: Waiver of the Tax Levy Limit

VB RESOLUTION #22-06 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2023 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 2023/2024 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 15, 2023, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

Matthew Bianconi
L. John Miller
Janet Murphy
Frank Zimdahl
James Orman, 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 #3 of 2023.
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 #3 of 2023 on March 15, 2023 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 Bianconi - AYE
Trustee Miller - AYE
Trustee Murphy - AYE
Trustee Zimdahl - AYE
Mayor Orman - AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #3 of 2023 is adopted this 15th day of March 2023.

Website Proposal: The proposal submitted by Granicus was more money than anticipated. IT consultant, Jon Gans, will work with Granicus on a possible scaled down version and research other options.

Post Office Heating Unit: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the bid from All Air Comfort Service for a heat pump priced at \$12,345.00.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Summer Program: Ms. Balloni questioned the Board on the interest in hiring lifeguards/program director for the summer swim program. Trustee Miller offered to contact the Wells College Athletic Director and gauge interest in Wells students, certified in lifeguarding, working for the village while staying on campus.

Court Street Improvements: An email from Village Engineer, Ken Teter, referenced the upcoming re-paving of Court St. Mr. Teter questioned if a decision was made on how to address slowing down traffic on the residential street. Permanent speed bumps were previously discussed, along with a STOP sign at Court and Lafayette streets. Trustee Zimdahl suggested blocking off Court at the north side of Lafayette, directing traffic from the south down Lafayette Street. The north end of Court would be local traffic only. Discussion was tabled.

Executive Session: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk