

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees August 16, 2023 Minutes

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

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

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Grace Bates, ZBA member Laura Holland, Ken Larson, and Village DPW Employee Mike White

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Orman 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 Zimdahl, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the July 19, 2023 minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Orman asked Mr. White to give an update on the discolored water problem reported from two residences at the north end of town. Mr. White believes that the two problems are unrelated as he was able to correct one by flushing nearby hydrants and having the homeowner run the faucets. The other is an ongoing issue, and more testing is needed to confirm if it is coming from the property owner's water line or the village.

Mayor Orman received several inquiries from residents on Orchard Lane regarding the recent paving on Court St and Burnham Lane. Mayor Orman confirmed that the Burnham Lane residents, including himself and Trustee Murphy, paid for the paving on Burnham Lane as it is a private road not maintained by the village.

Mayor Orman attended the Union Springs 175th anniversary celebration, along with Mayor Don Wilson from Cayuga and Cayuga County Planning staff to publicize the joint DRI/NY Forward grant application. Mayor Orman reminded the trustees that the joint public meeting is September 7 at Union Springs High School at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Orman will be out of town for the September 20, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.

Trustees: Trustee Murphy informed the Board that she is attending the August 25th DRI/NY Forward webinar.

Trustee Murphy thanked Trustee Zimdahl and Mr. White for moving forward with the repair of the village park steps.

Clerk: Ms. Balloni invited the mayor and trustees to attend the August 23, 2023 Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (CWIO) meeting at the village offices in Cayuga at 3:00. Representatives from Cayuga County Planning and Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA) will discuss the DRI/NY Forward joint application from the villages of Aurora, Cayuga, and Union Springs.

Visitor Welcome

Grace Bates reiterated her interest in pursuing purchasing lakefront from Wells College and gifting it to the village. Ms. Bates submitted an offer to Wells College on June 29 but has not received a response from them.

Ms. Bates has partnered with the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) to protect her investment, should Wells College accept her offer, and requested that the Board of Trustees meet with Andy Zepp, director of FLLT, for a thorough understanding of their intent.

Ms. Bates distributed copies of the proposal to Wells College and the FLLT requirements to the Board and the clerk (attached).

Treasurer's Report: No report

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #64-83, 85, 87-94, 97, 98, 100, and 101
Total: \$22,536.94
AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #63, 64, 77, 94, and 99
Total: \$10,668.97
AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #64, 65, 67, 73, 77, 84, 86, and 94-96
Total: \$3,675.46
AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Water Improvement Project: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement Project Fund Abstract #3 for payment.

Voucher #94
Total: \$300.00
AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Rhea reported on his training, violations, reviewing the zoning law revisions, and pending applications.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on exhibits, queries, and upcoming events.

Miscellaneous: Carolyn Connors submitted her report on the swim lessons held at the Wells College pool for two weeks in July and one week in August (attached). The program averaged about 25 participants/day.

Old Business

Basketball Court: Trustee Miller reported that the cost to construct a basketball court is around \$50,000.00.

Patrick Tavern: Trustee Zimdahl reported that the Aurora Historical Society is waiting on input from the architect on their renovation project.

New Business

Water Tank Proposal: Upon consultation with Mr. White, Village Engineer Ken Teter, and Aquastore (builders of the water tank) it is recommended that the repair/maintenance be moved to spring of 2024. A temporary fix of creating an “insulated hatch” to last through the winter is planned and Aquastore is committed to immediately addressing any urgent problems if they occur.

Trustee Miller questioned the deadline for acceptance/declining the Aquastore proposal of approximately \$130,000.00 submitted on July 19, and Mr. White replied, “45 days”.

Trustee Murphy questioned if the proposal price is “locked in” and Mr. White replied that he did not know for sure, and the labor is based on the prevailing wage at the time of the work.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to accept and approve the Aquastore proposal to repair and maintain the village water tank in spring of 2024, partially paid for by ARPA funds, conditioned on cost fluctuation and negotiation.

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

Lead Agency Request: On motion by Trustee Zimdahl, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to agree to the Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority’s intention to serve as lead agency for

the State Environmental Quality Review of the proposed sewer line extension from the south end of the Village of Aurora, along Lake Road and Honoco Road, and extending to the Tompkins County line.

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 6:50 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk