

**I am truly sorry but something has come up and I cannot attend the public meeting tonight. If it makes sense, would you please read this into the public record?**

I am very sorry that I could not attend tonight's meeting and wanted to clear up a few things for all of you. Let me address these in order:

1. Some have asked why Wells College is selling property in the Village of Aurora. We are selling houses and property because the college desires to no longer be in the landlord business. We have sold houses before this and may well sell others in the future. It is our intention to redirect the funds from these sales into the very important academic mission of the college.
2. Some have been wondering about zoning along the lake front. I want you all to know that the property that extends **south** from T. Hickey house in front of the boat house and up to the president's house will be zoned as greenspace—not intending to be developed. Wells College has no plans or has had any conversations about any development on this lakefront parcel and, I intend for it to stay that way.
3. I have heard rumors that have evolved that some are wondering about the future of Wells College. Let me assure you that we are accepting enrollment deposits for the fall semester—our fall to spring retention rate for our students is higher than it has been in several years—we are hiring staff and, we are developing an operating budget for the next fiscal year. We are full steam ahead.
4. I also wanted to make you aware that our next accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education takes place in 2026 with a campus visit in the spring of 2027. We are currently putting together a team of faculty and staff to begin to work on our self-study report.
5. For those who may be wondering about the Wells College water plant that provides water to your homes, we are currently working on a grant that I secured from the federal government to replace our filter system. We have a company that is fabricating the new filter vessels out of stainless steel and these then have to be sent to be NSF-61 certified. Once certified, we will submit the required documents to the NYS Department of Health and the Cayuga County Department of Health and, we hope to have these installed and operational within the next year at no cost to the residents of the Village of Aurora. To date, we have received over 2 million dollars in state and federal grants to address our aging water plant and, we have recently installed a new pump and are ordering another new pump as a back-up pump just in case. The mayor and I discuss water and our water plant often and we are partners in assuring you all a continued source of clean potable water.
6. Finally, I want you to know that I meet with and talk with your mayor every week. He updates me about the village and I update him about the college. Even the submission of the DRI grant was done as a partnership between the village and the college. We are on the same page to continue to move forward and do what is in the best interests of this beautiful village.

I would be happy to attend any meeting in the near future to speak to you about Wells College and respond to your questions and, had planned to come tonight but I have another urgent matter to attend to.

Jonathan Gibraltar, President  
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