

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 5, 2024 Public Hearing and Special 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 (Zoom)

Others Present: Clerk Ann Balloni (Zoom)
See attached list

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

Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024, Village Zoning Law (continued from February 21, 2024)

Public Comment

Laurie Roberts: Ms. Roberts thanked the Board for listening to their constituents.

Tee-Ann Hunter: see attached

Jim Burkett: see attached

Bonnie Bennett: Ms. Bennett thanked the Board for their work and asked that the village consider purchasing the property between the Hickey House and the Wells Boathouse.

Dr. Linda Schwab: see attached

Mayor Orman thanked everyone for their comments and commended all the hard work by Kari Terwilliger and Evan Tuthill from Cayuga County Planning. Additionally, Mayor Orman congratulated Ms. Terwilliger on her recent promotion to County Planning Director.

Mayor Orman explained that the revisions to the Village Zoning Law require another review by the County 239 committee and the Village Board will vote on the law at their March 20, 2024 meeting.

On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024 at 6:23 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to open the Special Meeting at 6:24 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Right of First Refusal: The trustees discussed the two purchase offers that Wells College received for the parcels on the east side of Rt 90 and north of Poplar Ridge Road. One parcel includes the ball field and vacant land to the east, and the other is the farmhouse property. The Village has right of first refusal on both properties.

Trustee Miller suggested that the Village purchase the ballfield property and work with a developer. Trustee Bianconi questioned if the Village could transfer its right of first refusal to the prospective buyers.

Mayor Orman noted that any purchase by the Village would be a long process of public referenda, bonds, and securing lines of credit. Mayor Orman added that the Village has 30 days from the time of notification by Wells to decide and the deadline is looming.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to waive their right of first refusal for the ball field property owned by Wells College.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: Miller

ABSENT: Zimdahl

Motion carried, 3-1.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to waive their right of first refusal for the farmhouse property owned by Wells College.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Zimdahl

Motion carried.

IT Proposal: The Village Board considered a proposal submitted by Kieran McManus from Guardicloud to create a new village website. Mayor Orman suggested consulting with Cayuga County before moving forward.

On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to table discussion of creating a new village website and elicit other proposals.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Zimdahl

Motion carried.

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

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Zimdahl

Motion carried.