

**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees December 18, 2024, 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 JD Balloni, John Miller, and Janet Murphy

**Absent:** Trustee Bianconi

**Others Present**

**Village Officials:** Clerk Ann Balloni, CPP Chairperson Jim Burkett, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, and Engineer Ken Teter

**Aurora Historical Society:** CJ Koepp and Ken Larson

**GuardiCloud:** Kieran McManus

**Inns of Aurora:** Jody Bennett

**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. A moment of silence was held for Judy Warren, a past village trustee and life member of the fire department who passed away on November 20, 2024.

**Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2024: Amendments to the Village Zoning Law, Section VII “Historic Preservation”**

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to open the public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2024 at 6:02 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** No comments

**Adjournment:** Mayor Orman kept the public hearing open for any latecomers.

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to close the public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2024 at 6:20 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Remove Donation Agreement and Fuel Invoice from Old Business. Remove Appoint Park Committee from New Business. Add Archive Follow-Up Letter, Firehouse Boiler, and Designate December 21 “Jeff Balloni Day”.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the November 16, 2024, special meeting and November 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Announcements**

**Mayor:** Mayor Orman noted that the clerk, treasurer, and engineer are assembling the costs incurred by the village since taking over the Wells water plant. Mayor Orman added that the license agreement with Wells to operate the water plant, the purchase offers the Village submitted to Wells for the water plant, operator house, boathouse, and boathouse lawn, along with the MOU with Ledyard Farms to house and maintain Wells stagecoaches, were all sent to the Attorney General's office. A meeting with the Village Trustees and Wells Trustees is planned for January.

**Clerk:** Ms. Balloni reported that Michele Murphy was appointed by Mayor Orman to replace Pat Bianconi, who is retiring, as the Village representative on the Cayuga County Planning Board. A letter (attached) was received from the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs requesting the Village Board's support of their desire for the Wells College campus.

**Visitor Welcome:** No comments.

**Treasurer's Report:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to accept the June Treasurer's Report.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

The trustees discussed setting a structured timeline for receiving the overdue treasurer reports. They also agreed that preparation for the 2025/2026 budgets should begin in January.

## **Budget Modifications**

### **General Fund**

\$200 From A1990.4 – Contingent Account

To A6772.4 – Meals on Wheels

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Mayor Orman, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General Fund.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #254-256, 258, 262-264, 266, 267, 269-272, 293-295, and 297-301

Total: \$25,394.17

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #7 for payment.  
Voucher #259-261, 265, 268, 274, 276, 277, 279, 282, 283, 287, 289, and 293,  
Total: \$10,115.52  
AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Bianconi  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #7 for payment.  
Voucher #257, 267, 270, 272, 274, 277, 280, 286, and 296  
Total: \$9,797.06  
AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Bianconi  
Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports**

**Code Officer** (attached): Officer Rhea submitted his annual report.

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on Christmas in Aurora, historic tavern research, and recent queries.

### **Old Business**

**iGuard Risk Assessment:** Kieran McManus discussed the need for better security for the village computers. Mr. McManus submitted funding options and the trustees will review and consider.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution to Accept the Engineering Services Proposal and Hire K. Teter Consulting for the NBRC Grant to Replace Filters at the Water Plant**

**WHEREAS,** the Village of Aurora is in the process of being awarded the remaining portion (\$534,342.84) of a NBRC grant originally given to Wells College (\$1,000,000.00) for the replacement of the Water Treatment Plant filters and other related improvements (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS,** Wells College is no longer operating and has closed; and

**WHEREAS,** the grant program has very specific requirements for the procurement of engineering services for such a project; and

**WHEREAS**, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published in the Auburn Citizen Newspaper on December 12, 2024 and December 14, 2024 for the Village of Aurora to seek an engineer to provide various engineering services associated with the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, K. Teter Consulting (KTC) of Homer, New York was the only engineering firm to submit information in response to the RFQ advertisement; and

**WHEREAS**, K. Teter Consulting also subsequently submitted a detailed engineering proposal with a total estimated fee of \$75,000.00 to complete all the required services as described; and

**WHEREAS**, the NBRC grant covers 100% of the K. Teter Consulting fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees have reviewed both the KTC qualification statement and the engineering proposal;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees accept and approve the Engineering Services Proposal and agree to enter into an Agreement with K. Teter Consulting for the Project.

FIRST: Trustee Miller

SECOND: Trustee Balloni

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Carried unanimously.

**Follow-Up Letter for Wells/Village Archives** (attached): On motion by Mayor Orman, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to send a follow-up letter, with Attorney Blair's edits, to the Wells College Board of Trustees Chair and copy Wells President Susan Henking.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Boiler for the Firehouse:** Trustee Balloni requested that the Board revisit the quotes to replace the boiler in the firehouse and noted that it "fails repeatedly". Additionally, the Board inquired when the Hills Heating contract expires.

**Hire Seasonal Help:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to hire Louis Hasenjager from December 19, 2024-January 20, 2025 at a rate of \$17/hour.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

**Jeff Balloni Day:** On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Mayor Orman, the Village Board voted to designate December 21, 2024 as Jeff Balloni Recognition Day, in honor of his birthday.

AYES: Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Bianconi  
ABSTAIN: Balloni  
Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni  
Village Clerk