# Village of Aurora Board of Trustees November 20, 2024, Minutes

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

Present: Mayor James Orman, Trustees JD Balloni, Matt Bianconi, John Miller, and Janet Murphy

**Others Present** 

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, CPP members Jim Burkett (Chair) and Claire Morehouse, Historian Dr.

Linda Schwab, and DPW Employee Mike White

**Aurora Historical Society:** President Shirley Egan and Treasurer Ken Larson

Inns of Aurora: General Manager Sue Edinger

Local Residents: Marie Dentes, Pat Foser, and Lydie Haenlin

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: Remove Appoint Village Park Committee and introducing a local law to update

the landmark list.

 $\label{thm:computers} \textbf{Under New Business, add EPA grant authorization, stagecoach MOU, and purchasing computers for the}$ 

water plant

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board

voted to approve the October 16, 2024, minutes. AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

# **Announcements**

### Mayor:

Christmas in Aurora is December 7.

- An update from Barton & Loguidice is forthcoming on the financial situation at the water plant
- The Village is working with Mary Beth Bianconi to facilitate discussions with Wells College.

**Clerk:** The treasurer filed the Annual Financial Report

Visitor Welcome: No comments.

**Treasurer's Report**: No report

## **Budget Modifications**

## **GENERAL FUND**

\$ 15,000.00 FROM A599 Fund Balance

TO A1620.2R Buildings- Repair Reserve

Post Office Roof Repair Insurance funding used to pay for new roof.

\$ 625.00 FROM A234 Firehouse Repair Reserve

TO A1620.2R Buildings – Repair Reserve

Installation of new digital alarm system in firehouse. Fire District Commissioners approved shared cost with Village on 10/14/2024.

### **WATER FUND**

\$ 26,693.45 FROM F8320.4 Source of Supply

\$ 10,000.00 TO F8340.41 Transmission & Distribution — Utilities
6,693.45 TO F8340.42 Transmission & Distribution — Chemicals
9,000.00 TO F8310.1 Water Administration — Personal Services
1,000.00 TO F9030.8 Social Security

F8320.4 Budget \$50,000 of which \$23,306.55 was paid to Wells for water used by residents. Balance for water usage redistributed to new funds for current Water Plant addition to budget.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General and Water Funds.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

# **Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Trustee Miller questioned the village attorney bill for Mr. Martin. Ms. Balloni explained that the cost was for consultation on an appeal application and the applicant must reimburse the Village for the attorney costs

Voucher #206-210, 218, 219, 221-224, 226, 227, 230-232, 234-237, 239, 242-248, 250, 252, and 253

Total: \$37,354.72

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #208, 211-213, 216, 220, 225, 226, 228, 233-235, 238, 240, 251, and 252

Total: \$18,473.04

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve

the Sewer Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #207, 217, 223, 226, 235, 239, 241, 249, and 252

Total: \$11,653.42

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Reports**

**Aurora Historical Society:** Ms. Egan reported on continuing to work with Wells College on retrieving Wells/Village historical archives.

Code Officer: No report

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the "Seven to Save" letters of support to the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY), recent queries and displays, and assisting with organizing Christmas in Aurora.

### **Old Business**

**Bates Donation Agreement:** Mayor Orman met with Grace Bates, Finger Lakes Land Trust representatives, and attorneys to finalize the details of Ms. Bates donation of lake front at the south end of the Village. Creating a park committee or 501.c.3 organization was discussed, and Mayor Orman and Ms. Bates will meet to discuss potential appointees.

# **New Business**

**CPP Amendments to Section 700 of the Village Zoning Law:** 

### RESOLUTION INTRODUCING AMENDMENTS TO THE 2024 VILLAGE ZONING LAW

**WHEREAS,** it is the intention of the Village of Aurora to maintain a viable land use law as the Village of Aurora Zoning Law, and

**WHEREAS,** the Community Preservation Panel (CPP) has requested revisions to Article VII Historic Preservation in the Village Zoning Law; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees, at their October 16, 2024, regular meeting agreed to consider the CPP's request; and

WHEREAS, this is a Type II Action action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (26 & 33) requiring no further SEQR review; 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 the Village Hall, 456 Main Street, Aurora, New York, at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, 2024, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

Trustee James Balloni Trustee Matt Bianconi Trustee L. John Miller Trustee Janet Murphy Mayor James Orman

The instant Resolution came to be heard and considered:

**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 introduces proposed amendments to Local Law #2 of 2024 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and adoption.
- 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)(26 & 33)
- 3. The Village Board of Trustees has properly noticed a Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendments to Local Law #2 of 2024 to be held at Village Hall on December 18, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.;
- 4. The Village Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Clerk to submit the Proposed Amendments to Local Law #2 of 2024 to Cayuga County Planning for mandated 239 l, m, and n review

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Murphy and Seconded by Trustee Balloni, a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:

Trustee Balloni - AYE Trustee Bianconi - AYE Trustee Miller - AYE Trustee Murphy - AYE Mayor Orman - AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, this resolution is adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024

**Feedwater Treatment Systems, Inc Contract (water plant boiler):** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Feedwater Treatment Systems, Inc annual contract for \$1,500.00, to service the water plant boiler and provide the chemicals.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution to Support State Aid to Local Governments:** 

Village of Aurora, NY

Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

Motion by Trustee Matthew Bianconi

Second by Trustee Janet Murphy

Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

**Whereas**, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

Trustee James Balloni: AYE
Trustee Matthew Bianconi: AYE
Trustee L. John Miller: AYE
Trustee Janet Murphy: AYE
Mayor James Orman: AYE
Carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer Bill Relief Request: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to grant Elsie Torres relief from sewer charges during her recent water leak and adjust her bill by \$457.66.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Complaint: DPW employee, Mike White, explained a chronic problem of "rusty" water at two residences at the north end of the village. An iron pipe supplying the water lines was identified and flushing the pipes more often resulted in a temporary solution. Mr. White opined that there may be a bad copper pipe somewhere and suggested exploratory digging with assistance from Union Springs DPW. Mr. White added that samples were sent to water experts, and they should have the test results directly.

A proposal was submitted from the property owners requesting that the Village pay for filtration systems. The Village Board agreed to table the discussion until the test results come in.

**Meals on Wheels Donation Request:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to donate \$200.00 to Cayuga County Meals on Wheels.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Wells College Fuel Invoice:** On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to table discussion of the propane fuel invoice from Wells College for \$13,190.00, until further discussion with the village attorney.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **EPA Grant Authorization:**

#### VILLAGE OF AURORA

Motion by Trustee Bianconi Second by Trustee Balloni

A Resolution authorizing that <u>JAMES ORMAN</u>, who is the <u>MAYOR</u>, is empowered to act on behalf of <u>VILLAGE OF AURORA</u> as the Authorized Official.

Resolved by the <u>THE VILLAGE **BOARD** OF TRUSTEES</u> of the VILLAGE OF **AURORA** as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora is presently in the process of doing the final applications for the \$200,000 funding award through EPA for the replacement of the two outworn pumps, piping and associated appurtenances at the water treatment facility.

NOW THEREFORE, James Orman, the mayor, is hereby authorized on behalf of the <u>Village of Aurora</u> to apply for, accept, and expend grant funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The named authorized official has permission to sign all EPA investment documents that bind the applicant.

James Orman

Signature of individual authorized to act on behalf of the Village of Aurora

Trustee Balloni: AYE

Trustee Bianconi: AYE Trustee Miller: AYE Trustee Murphy: AYE Mayor Orman: AYE

**MOU to Take Ownership of Wells College Stagecoaches:** On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to move forward with an MOU with Ledyard Farms, for the Village to own the Wells College stagecoaches and Ledyard Farms to house and maintain them.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Purchase Computers:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve payment to Wells College of \$300 for the computers at the Water Treatment Plant.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni Village Clerk