

DRAFT

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees May 21, 2025 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, Matt Bianconi, and John Miller

Absent: Trustee Janet Murphy

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, and Treasurer Christine Tanner

Aurora Historical Society: President Shirley Egan

Inns of Aurora: General Manager Sue Edinger

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

April 16, 2025: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the April 16, 2025 regular and organizational meeting minutes

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

April 29, 2025: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the April 29, 2025 special meeting minutes

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor:

- The Village and Grace Bates closed on the lakefront property that Ms. Bates donated to the Village
- DRI awards were announced, and the Village Lakefront Park donated by Grace Bates, Patrick Tavern renovation project, and United Ministry all received funding
- Pat Bianconi resigned from the Planning Board (letter attached). Mayor Orman and the Trustees thanked her for her 14 years of service to the village.
- The Village Memorial Day Observance will be held on Friday, May 30th, at 5:30 p.m.

Visitor Welcome

Shirley Egan: Ms. Egan thanked the fire department for coming to her aid when her basement flooded.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to accept the April Treasurer's Report.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #465-474

Total: \$20,958.56

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #388-401

Total: \$26,059.15

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #12 for payment.

Voucher #362-370

Total: \$19,514.43

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer: No report

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab submitted a detailed summary of the preservation issues on the Patrick Tavern Project.

Dr. Schwab gave a presentation on the history of the Wells Water Plant and how the Village came to partner with Wells to provide water for village residents as well as the campus. There is evidence that Wells and the Village were joint owners of the plant and research continues to confirm ownership.

The presentation is in the meeting room for visitors to review and will be posted on the village website.

Old Business

DRI Announcements: Mayor Orman noted that it is unclear when the Village will receive the funds for the awarded DRI projects.

Website: New York State has mandated that all municipalities move to a “.gov” address system for their websites and emails by December 21, 2025. An exception is included for municipalities with populations under 10,000 but they are still mandated “to the extent practicable” to make the switch, and it does not apply to small municipalities that operate and maintain a village website.

The trustees discussed funding the mandate when the 2025/2026 budget was just passed and excluded any funding for website/cyber-security upgrades. A company in Auburn was contacted on the recommendation of the Union Springs mayor and their initial quote was approximately \$10,000.00.

On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to authorize Mayor Orman to upgrade the village website, per New York State mandates, if it is confirmed that we are not included in the exemption for smaller municipalities.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Lakefront Park:

VB Resolution #25-26: to Create a Lakeside Park Committee

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora received a gift from Grace Bates of approximately four (4) acres of lakefront property at the south end of the village; and

WHEREAS, the Village endeavors to create a park committee to work with the Village on future development of the property as a public park and recreational area; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor will consult with Ms. Bates on recommendations for the park committee, with the understanding that the Mayor and Trustees have full authorization;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees agree to the formation of a park committee to advise on park development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee is a separate Not-for Profit entity and will apply for 501c3 status to accept donations

FIRST: Trustee Balloni

SECOND: Trustee Miller

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Carried.

New Business

Attorney Retainer: The Trustees discussed researching other law firms for their legal needs and decided to continue with Blair Law Firm.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to renew the annual contract with Blair Law Firm.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Board Appointments

Community Preservation Panel (CPP): On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve Mayor Orman's recommendation of Jim Burkett for CPP Chairperson (annual appointment) and John Wendler to serve on the panel from June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2030.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Planning Board (PB): On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve Mayor Orman's recommendation of John Wade for PB Chairperson (annual appointment), Frank Zimdahl to complete the term vacated by Pat Bianconi from June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026, and Laura Heslop to serve on the board from June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2030.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve Mayor Orman's recommendation of Karen Hindenlang as ZBA Chairperson (annual appointment) and to serve from June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2030.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murphy

Motion carried unanimously.