

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees November 19, 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, John Miller, and Janet Murphy

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, Community Preservation Panel Chairperson Jim Burkett, Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer John Greer, Zoning Board of Appeals member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Treasurer Christine Tanner, Engineer Ken Teter, and Planning Board member Frank Zimdahl

Aurora Ledyard Historical Society: Shirley Egan

Members of the Public: Robin Driskel, Kevin Fitzgerald, Ryan Fitzgerald, John Haggerty, John Marshall, Vic Myers, Chance Wheeler, and Suzanne Wheeler

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 village resident Jim Haenlin who passed away on October 23.

Changes to the Agenda: Added to New Business: Walter Wood Office storage agreement, Cayuga County Planning Department Memorandum of Agreement, and Park Committee appointments. Executive Session following the regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: Kevin Fitzgerald was presented with a plaque by the fire department for his fundraiser to benefit the new ambulance fund.

Clerk: The Board packets include the county quarterly sales tax figures, and letters sent from the mayor to Wells College and the Charities Bureau.

Visitor Welcome

Frank Zimdahl: Mr. Zimdahl questioned why the Aurora Golf Club and Simply Cookie businesses were “singled out” for unpermitted signs when there are many signs in the village that violate the zoning law sign regulations. Mr. Zimdahl added that he counted “41 signs” just on Court Street and Cherry Ave.

Kevin Fitzgerald: Mr. Fitzgerald acknowledged the village’s concern regarding the appropriateness of the golf course and restaurant signs. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the flag signs were not his first choice and currently there is “no path forward with Wells” as they attempt to sell the campus. Following a meeting with the village code enforcement officer, Mr. Fitzgerald removed the signs which hurt his business and is causing him to close early for the season. Mr. Fitzgerald added that the village should be accommodating to businesses.

Chance Winters: Mr. Winters, an employee of Simply Cookie, noted that the restaurant at the golf club saw a “70% drop in business” when the signs were removed and noted that patrons specifically mentioned the BBQ sign as a reason for coming to their restaurant.

Suzanne Wheeler: Ms. Wheeler, owner of Simply Cookie, explained the confusion with the Wells College “No Trespassing” signs and the challenge of advertising her business on a closed campus. Ms. Wheeler received conflicting information from the former code officer, who discouraged her signs, and the current code officer who advised using her signs until an application for a permit was submitted and reviewed. Ms. Wheeler noted that she had already lost a substantial part of her business, which resulted in layoffs, by the time she was contacted by the current code officer.

Vic Myers: Mr. Myers is a frequent customer of Simply Cookie and reiterated the confusion over the Wells “No Trespassing” signs. Mr. Myers assumed that the restaurant was closed when the signs came down and noted that “a sign is the lifeblood of any business”.

Mayor Orman thanked everyone for their comments and remarked that all will be considered.

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

2024-2025 EOY

June 31, 2025 prepared 10/23/2025

GENERAL FUND

\$ 768.61	FROM	A1410.12	Clerk/Treasurer – Personal Services
	TO	A1410.1	“ ” – Personal Services
\$ 4,474.32	FROM	A1410.12	Clerk/Treasurer – Personal Services
	TO	A1410.13	Account Clerk – Personal Services
\$ 4,638.15	FROM	A1410.12	Clerk/Treasurer – Personal Services
		A1410.4	“ ” - Contractual
\$ 8,092.90	FROM	A1990.4	Contingent
	TO	A1420.1	Law
\$ 564.46	FROM	A1990.4	Contingent
	TO	A1440.4	Engineering

\$ 4,702.69	FROM A1990.4 \$ 3,342.64 Contingent
	FROM A1010.4 \$1,360.05 Trustees - Contractual
	TO A 1490.1 Public Works – Personnel Services
\$ 1,962.85	FROM A1620.22 Buildings – Patrick Tavern
	TO A 1620.1 - Personal Services
\$ 373.82	FROM A1620.4 Buildings – Contractual
	TO A1620.41 “ - Phone
\$ 288.32	FROM A1620.4 Buildings – Contractual
	TO A1620.42 “ - Water/Sewer
\$ 991.26	FROM A1620.4 Buildings – Contractual
	TO A1620.44 “ - Electricity
\$ 1,610.21	FROM A1620.12 Bldgs – Per. Serv. Custodian
	TO A1620.45 “ - Fuel Oil
\$ 629.70	FROM A1940.4 Dues
	TO A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance
\$ 1,344.01	FROM A6410.4 Public Relations – Web
	TO A5110.41 Streets – Phone
\$ 200.00	FROM A6410.4 Public Relations – Web
	TO A6772.4 Meals on Wheels
\$ 1,229.67	FROM A7310.4 Youth – Contractual
	TO A7140.4 Playgrounds – Contractual

2024-2025 EOY

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS -2

\$ 1,650.74	FROM A5110.2 Streets – Equipment
	TO A5110.4 Streets – Contractual
\$35,110.00	FROM A599 Fund Balance
	TO A1620.21 Bldgs. – Post Office

Encumbrances

General Fund

A7410.4 Library \$ 2,500.00

A1620.21 Buildings – Post Office -To be used to repair roof line and paint building \$ 9,800.00

A7450.4	Aurora Masonic Center	\$2,500.00
A7989.4	Morgan Opera House	\$2,500.00
A7989.41	Aurora Historical Society	\$2,500.00

On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General Fund and the end-of-year encumbrances.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

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

Voucher #127-176

Total: \$61,008.56

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Voucher #63-84

Total: \$26,362.30

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #46-63

Total: \$23,721.18

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Trust & Agency: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #12

Total: \$1,091.88

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Greer reported on recent permits, ongoing violations, and inspections.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the Wells College archives, Walter Wood building update, displays, and Christmas in Aurora.

Old Business

Grant Updates – Ken Teter

WWTP Generator: The one bid received requires more money than included with the FEMA grant. Ken will contact our liaison with Homeland Security and request a revision to the budget.

NBRC: NBRC has agreed to Amendment 4; funding for heating repair, heating the operator house, utility separation, pump repair, survey, and intake cleaning. The total is approximately \$90,000.00.

WIIA: As Ken is retiring soon, though he has agreed to complete the current projects, he recommends Barton & Loguidice for the WIAA grant administration due to their familiarity with the water plant and experience working with the Village for the past 10 years. All expressed their sincere appreciation for Ken's work with the village, especially since Wells announced their closing.

Water Plant PSA Update: Ken explained many moving parts to get to the Purchase & Sale Agreement closing for the water plant. Separation of the utilities is going slowly, though Wells has agreed to establishing an escrow account. We are waiting on the final subdivision maps from C.T. Male and the clerk will file with the county as soon as they are received, stamped, and signed.

New Business

Building/Zoning Permit Fees: Officer Greer recommended updating the current fee schedule to one based on square footage. Officer Greer also suggested removing inspection fees for pools, rentals, and real estate from the fee schedule. Trustee Miller requested a spreadsheet with the area municipalities permit fees for comparison.

Referring to the sign discussion during Visitor Recognition, Officer Greer added that all municipalities have sign regulations and noted that all entities noted in the signs complaint received letters from the Village, not just the golf course. Officer Greer strongly advised that the trustees attend the upcoming NYCOM signs webinar.

Cayuga County Planning Support Letter: Mayor Orman noted that the County Department of Planning and Economic Development is losing two positions in the county budget cuts. Mayor Orman suggested drafting a letter of support to bring to the December 9, 2025, county legislature meeting. Mayor Orman noted that the State DRI award to the villages of Aurora, Cayuga, and Union Springs would not have happened without the work of the county planning agency. Mayor Orman added that with the expected business/resident increase in the county from the Micron plant, the planning department will be instrumental in how Cayuga County benefits from the influx.

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board authorized Mayor Orman to speak on behalf of the Board of Trustees in support of the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development at the December 9, 2025, Cayuga County Legislature meeting.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Delinquent Village Taxes (attached): On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to turn over all delinquent village taxes to Cayuga County.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Park Committee: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve Mayor Orman's appointment of Gace Bates, David Eckert, Kevin Fitzgerald, Alyssa Gunderson, and Janet Murphy as an ad hoc park committee for the DRI grant.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Cayuga County Memorandum of Agreement (attached): On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve and sign the MOA with Cayuga County for assistance with revising planning and zoning for the Village.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

License Agreement for Walter Wood Building (attached): On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the license with Sean Lacey and the Aurora-Ledyard Historical Society to store the Walter Wood Building.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. for an attorney/client conversation.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to endorse the village archive plan and continue with the process of options and conceptions, submitted by Shirley Egan, Esq.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, and Orman
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk