

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees December 17, 2025 Minutes

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

Present: Mayor James Orman, Trustees Matt Bianconi and Janet Murphy

Absent: Trustees JD Balloni and John Miller

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, IT Specialist Jon Gans, ZBA member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Treasurer Christine Tanner, and Engineer Ken Teter

Aurora Ledyard Historical Society: President Shirley Egan

Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-Municipal Organization (CWIO): Roxanna Johnston and Isaac Walker

Inns of Aurora: Jodi 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.

Changes to the Agenda: The Board will enter into Executive Session following the regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the November 19, 2025 minutes.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Orman attended a meeting with Cayuga County Planning and the villages of Cayuga and Union Springs for the art installation project along the lake which is focusing on the Cayuga Lake monster.

The Village DPW and the fire department are combining water line and hydrant distribution system maps for a coordinated plan.

Clerk: Ms. Balloni read a complaint from an outside water user on the flat fee rate increase. Mr. Teter and Mayor Orman noted that once the data is received and reviewed for the new rate billings, revised billing options will be considered.

Ms. Balloni informed the Board that village records were destroyed per the NY State LGS-1 Schedule for Record Management (attached).

Visitor Welcome

CWIO: Ms. Johnston and Mr. Walker explained that CWIO represents 57 municipalities across the Cayuga Lake Watershed. CWIO helps municipalities with grant writing, letters of support, researching funding opportunities, coordinating inter-municipal and inter-watershed agency projects, and stormwater planning.

Ms. Johnston reviewed a new fund schedule and noted that CWIO's goal is to increase their revenue to \$130,000/year and municipal dues will increase incrementally for the next three years. Ms. Johnston thanked the Village Board for being staunch supporters of CWIO since its inception over twenty years ago.

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

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Bills

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

Voucher #177-208

Total: \$12,837.28

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Water: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #85-97

Total: \$21,159.13

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #7 for payment.

Voucher #64-72

Total: \$8,617.93

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Greer reported on recent permits, issuing an Order to Remedy, and conducting a site visit of 348 Main Street, Chimney Corner.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on a recent query from the Village Park Committee on the history and namesake of Paine's Creek, recent displays, Christmas in Aurora, and an in-progress

documentary on Aurora. Dr. Schwab also acknowledged Ken Larson for his exceptional help preparing the parking lot for Christmas in Aurora and assisting with climate control at Patrick Tavern.

Village Park Committee: Trustee Murphy reported that the committee had its second meeting and is working on the committee mission statement. The committee will schedule a charette for public input in early 2026.

Old Business

PSA Update: Mr. Teter reported that finalizing conditions of the Purchase & Sale Agreement for the sale of the water plant from Wells College continue. The subdivision maps are being revised per Wells attorney, an escrow account is in progress, and negotiations persist regarding responsibility over utility bills.

Grant Updates

WIIA: No news yet.

NBRC: The new heaters are installed and functioning.

FEMA (Generator): The electrical bid came in higher than the grant money so an adjusted budget is needed from FEMA to complete the project.

VB Resolution #25-43: Award the WWTP Generator Electrical Installation & Service Project Bid.

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora was awarded a FEMA grant for the replacement of the Village's WWTP back-up power generator and related items (the "Project") for \$160,180; and

WHEREAS, the Village purchased the new generator and transfer switch equipment via a public bid for a total cost of \$62,773.00 in the Spring of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Village recently issued and circulated a public bid document for the electrical work and installation of a new electrical service to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, the Village received one bid (Upstate Companies I, LLC) for this work on November 14, 2025 at 2:00 PM for a grand total (Base Bid + Alternate) of \$72,200.00; and

WHEREAS, the existing funding budget mentioned above is not sufficient to complete the project at this total cost; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer has interfaced with both the funding agency (FEMA/DHSES) and the Low Bidder, and the Low Bidder has agreed to hold their prices until the Spring of 2026 while the Village is applying for additional funding to make up the shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the bids were fully reviewed by the engineer K. Teter Consulting for accuracy, compliance and completeness; and

WHEREAS, upon review and the recommendation of K. Teter Consulting and their subconsultant North East Specialty, to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder the aforementioned Upstate Companies I, LLC of Mount Upton, New York in the amount of \$72,200.00 on the condition of the Village being able to secure the additional funds as described;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Aurora board accepts and approves the award of this project to Upstate Companies I, in the amount of \$72,200.00 and agrees to enter into an Agreement with Upstate for same once the Village has secured the funding needed.

FIRST: Trustee Murphy

SECOND: Trustee Bianconi

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Carried.

Website Proposal: Mr. Gans reiterated his suggestions for upgrading the village website, adhering to State mandates, and networking the water plant/WWTP. Trustee Bianconi questioned the amount in the budget and Ms. Tanner replied "\$5,000", due to the budget cuts. Mr. Gans offered to work out a payment plan for the \$17,500 proposal and Trustee Murphy noted that budget negotiations for 2026/2027 will begin in February/March.

Mr. Gans was instructed to bring a revised proposal with the payment plan to the January 21, 2026 Village Board meeting.

Building Permit Fee Schedule: Tabled to the January meeting

New Business

Audit Committee: Tabled to January meeting

Cayuga County Planning Board Appointment: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to re-appoint Michele Murphy as the Village representative to the Cayuga County Planning Board.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Executive Session: On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 7:05 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board adjourned the Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Balloni and Miller

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk