Village of Aurora Board of Trustees February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Deputy Mayor Janet Murphy; Trustees JD Balloni, Matt Bianconi, and John Miller
Absent: Mayor Orman

Others Present
Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA Member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, and Treasurer Christine Tanner
Inns of Aurora: Jodi Bennett
Members of the Public: Grace Bates and Andrew T. Simkin, Esq

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Deputy Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda: The trustees will hold an executive session following the regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the January 21, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Orman emailed the trustees on the Wells Planned Development District group consultation timeline with Cayuga County (attached). The group consists of Mayor Orman, Inns of Aurora Facilities Manager Corey Guerrette, and Village Resident Linda Dugan. A survey was mailed to village residents, is available at the Aurora Free Library, the Aurora Post Office, and posted on the village website.

Clerk: The Village received a thank you letter (attached) from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network for the Village annual donation of $100.

Visitor Welcome

Grace Bates submitted a letter (attached) contesting the tax bill for the properties that she purchased from Wells College and donated to the Village. Ms. Bates attorney, Mr. Simkin, accompanied Ms. Bates and validated her position.

As Mayor Orman and Village Attorney, Tom Blair, are both on vacation the matter will addressed upon their return.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the February Treasurer's Report.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #9 for payment.
Voucher #253-285
Total: $19,383.25
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Water: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #9 for payment.
Voucher #121-135
Total: $18,346.44
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #9 for payment.
Voucher #83-92
Total: $5,306.85
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Reports

Code Officer (attached): Officer Greer reported on working with the Town Assessor to file annual reports, neglected by previous code enforcement officers.

Historian (attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent queries, research, preservation, and filing the annual report with NY State.

Aurora Ledyard Historical Society: The MOU is tabled until the village attorney reviews.

Old Business

Grant Updates (attached): Mr. Teter submitted updates on the FEMA, NBRC, and WIIA grants pertaining to the purchase of the Wells water plant. The closing of the purchase is expected by the end of February.

VB Resolution # 26-04 : To Accept the $ 5 Million WIIA Grant

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora in the Fall of 2025 had submitted a grant application to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for $5 Million under the WIIA water projects funding program; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with that application a new Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) had been prepared fully describing the newly developed Water System Improvements Project; and
WHEREAS, in early 2026 the Village of Aurora was notified that the grant had been approved by EFC; and

WHEREAS, the Village intends to proceed with this water improvement project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Aurora gladly accepts this $ 5 Million WIIA grant and will proceed to move forward in compliance with all the rules and regulations required by this funding source.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Trustee Miller and seconded by Trustee Balloni and duly put to a vote, and upon roll call on February 18, 2026 the vote was as follows:
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

Website: Ms. Balloni applied for a ".gov" address and is waiting for approval from NY State

New Business

Local Law #1 of 2026

VB RESOLUTION #26-03
RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2026 ENTITLED
THE WAIVER OF THE MAXIMUM REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

WHEREAS, the enactment of Chapter 97 of the Law of 2011 placed limits on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of any local government thereby place a "tax levy limit" on municipalities that is found in General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

WHEREAS, subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c expressly authorized the Village Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Village Board of Trustees for one fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of this local law, the Village Board of Trustees hereby reserves the right to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Aurora and authorized the Village Board of Trustees to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law

§ 3-c; and

WHEREAS, this is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (20 & 27) and is otherwise exempt from environmental review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); 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 Aurora Firehouse meeting room, 456 Main Street, at 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2026, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

JAMES BALLONI
MATTHEW BIANCONI
L. JOHN MILLER
JANET MURPHY

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 Local Law #1 of 2026 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)(20&27) and accordingly, the Village Board of Trustees expressly determines that this action is not an action that requires review pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Action ("SEQRA");

3. The Village Board of Trustees will hold a properly noticed Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #1 of 2026 to be held on **Tuesday,** March 17, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m.;

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Bianconi and Seconded by Trustee Murphy 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 - ABSENT

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, this resolution is adopted this 18th day of February 2026.

Declare the Village Snowplow Surplus Equipment

VB Resolution #26-02: To Declare the DPW Snowplow as Surplus Equipment

WHEREAS: the Superintendent of Public Works requests that the Village Board of Trustees declare the DPW snowplow as surplus equipment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees declare the DPW snowplow surplus equipment.

First: Trustee Miller
Second: Trustee Balloni
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

Surplus Fuel Tank Oil: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board authorized the Village DPW to sell the reserve fuel oil in the Village Office tank.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

Highway Superintendent Association Annual Fees: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve Mike White's Highway Superintendent Association Membership at a cost of $100 per year.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

REV Theatre Summer Production: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to share the cost of the REV Theatre Summer Production with the Aurora Free Library, each entity paying $275.00.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

Executive Session: On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to send a letter (attached) to the NY State Attorney General's Office requesting the Village be considered to receive any remaining funds from Wells College that must be donated to a charity following Wells College dissolution and that the NY State Charities Bureau be copied, per Trustee Miller's request.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman

Carried.
On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Carried.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Orman
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk