

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 17, 2026 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.
(The meeting was held on Tuesday to accommodate the village elections on March 18)

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

Absent: John Miller

Others Present

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

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

Cayuga County Planning: Kari Terwilliger and Evan Tuthill

Inns of Aurora: Facilities Manager Corey Guerrette

Members of the Public: Linda Dugan

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

Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2026: The Waiver of the Tax Levy Limit

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to open the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2026 at 6:01 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Public Comment: No comments.

Mayor Orman left the hearing open for a few minutes to allow for any latecomers.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to close the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2026 at 6:07 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Changes to the Agenda: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to add Pre-Pay Village Election Inspectors under New Business.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

February 18, 2026: On motion by Trustee

Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the February 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABENT: Miller

Motion carried.

March 5, 2026: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the March 5, 2026, special meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABENT: Miller

Motion carried.

March 9, 2026: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the March 9, 2026, special meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Orman reported that the closing documents for the water plant were signed on March 10, but there is a delay due to the subdivision, tax parcels and taxes owed by Wells.

Visitor Welcome

Dr. Linda Schwab (attached): Dr. Schwab recommended that the Village consider appealing a judge's decision that the Village has no standing on the fate of the Wells College archives.

Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development: Kari Terwilliger and Evan Tuthill presented the Future Wells Campus Survey results to the village board. Recommendations included educational, residential, and commercial options. The survey results are posted on the village website home page and available for review in the village office.

Additionally, a committee of Mayor Orman, Inns of Aurora Facilities Manager Corey Guerrette, and local resident Linda Dugan met with Ms. Terwilliger and Mr. Tuthill to update the Village Zoning Law and Comprehensive Plan. The committee advises creating a Planned Development District (PDD) for the campus, so it is not limited to one zoning district's regulations. Each project submitted must be reviewed on its own merits by the reviewing board(s) as well as the Board of Trustees. Ms. Terwilliger asked the Trustees to schedule a public hearing on the updates to receive public comment on the PDD.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to schedule a public hearing on the updates to the Village Zoning Law and Comprehensive Plan for April 15, 2026, at approximately 6:00 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABENT: Miller
Motion carried.

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

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #286-319

Total: \$10,429.38

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Water: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #136-148

Total: \$27,002.23

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #93-107

Total: \$11,163.58

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Greer reported on the Village Market renovation and building permit inquiries.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on recent queries, a visiting scholar, continuing education and documentation.

Old Business

Grant and Water Plant Updates (see attached): Village Engineer, Ken Teter, submitted a brief report on the grant funding and purchase of the Wells water plant.

New Business

Community Preservation Panel Landmark Request: Jim Burkett, the chair of the CPP, submitted a letter of recommendation (attached) for the Village Board to consider designating 536 Main Street a local landmark. The owner, Claire Morehouse, approached the CPP with information on the historical significance of the property, along with a letter of support from the Village Historian. The CPP reviewed the request at their March 4, 2026, regular meeting and agreed that the property is deserving of landmark status.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to move forward with designating 536 Main Street a local landmark.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Aurora Ledyard Historical Society MOU (attached): on motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to review the Aurora Ledyard Historical Society budget request for the Village to pay Patrick Tavern utilities and increase the annual funding from \$2,500 to \$5,000 during budget discussions, and table approval of the MOU until the review is complete.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

Local Law #1 of 2026:

VB RESOLUTION #26-06 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2026 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 456 Main St, Aurora, NY, at 6:00 p.m. on March 17, 2026, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

Trustee James Balloni
Trustee Matthew Bianconi
Trustee Janet Murphy
Mayor James Orman

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 adopts Local Law #1 of 2026.
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 Act (“SEQRA”);
3. The Village Board of Trustees has properly noticed a Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #1 of 2026 on March 17, 2026, beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m.;

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

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

At least 4 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #1 of 2026 is adopted this 17th day of March 2026.

Aurora-Fest Request (attached): On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to allow Aurora-Fest to take place behind the firehouse on Saturday, July 11, 2026.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Miller

Motion carried.

2026/2027 Budgets Meeting: On motion by Trustee Murphy, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to schedule a special meeting to discuss the 2026/2027 budgets on March 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Miller
Motion carried.

Village Election Inspectors: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to pre-pay the inspectors for the March 18, 2026, village election, ahead of next month's abstract.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Miller
Motion carried.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bianconi, Murphy, and Orman
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Miller
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk