

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees May 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Mayor Janet Murphy, Trustees JD Balloni, Bonnie Bennett, and John Miller

Absent: Matt Bianconi

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA Member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Treasurer Christine Tanner, and Engineer Ken Teter

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2026 (continued from April 15, 2026): Mayor Murphy read a letter received from Karen Hindenlang recommending that the Village Board continue researching Planned Development Districts (PDDs) for the former Wells College campus and consider retaining the Institutional Zone that was removed from any mention in the Comprehensive Plan updates.

Dr. Linda Schwab: Dr. Schwab added that Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering, DPC offered recommendations for attorneys and developers to assist the Village with a PDD.

The Trustees discussed engaging outside consultants and working towards preparing the Village for future, unexpected, business failures in the community.

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2026 at 6:17 p.m., with the intention to reintroduce Local Law #2 of 2026 at a later date.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Changes to the Agenda: Add Williamson Law Book contracts and Usherwood Copier proposal to New Business. Remove Attorney Retainer Agreement from New Business.

Approval of Minutes

April 15, 2026: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the April 15, 2026, Public Hearing, Regular Meeting, and Organizational Meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

April 22, 2026: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the April 22, 2026, Special Meeting minutes.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi
Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor: Memorial Day Observance at St Pats cemetery on May 30

Trustee Miller: Blessing of the Boats on July 3, 2026

Clerk: Assessment notification was received for the village park property at the south end of the village.

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

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Budget Modifications

Water Fund

TO CORRECT CODES

F8320.1 Source of Supply-Per Service to 8340.1 Trans and Dist. \$130,000.00

F4097 Federal Aid to F1420.4 to F1420.4 Law Contractual \$25,000.00

F4097 Federal Aid to F8320.4 SOS Contractual \$ 15,000.00

F4097 Federal Aid to F8340.2 Tran and Dist. Contractual \$80,000.

F4097 Federal aid to F8340.41 Tran and Dist. Utilities \$40,000.

F4097 Federal Aid to F8340.42 Tran and Dist. Chemicals \$5,000.00

On motion by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the Water Fund.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Bills

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

Voucher #362-407

Total: \$24,810.52

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

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

Voucher #165-187

Total: \$37,705.97

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Bianconi

Motion carried.

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

Voucher #120-137

Total: \$10,048.78

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Greer reported on a parking complaint, inspections, and recent training.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on upcoming events, recent queries, and Paine's Creek research.

Old Business

Water Rates: Ken Teter submitted a tentative, proposed rate schedule for water/sewer billing (attached). The new rates reflect including the Wells College campus water usage, as they now must pay for water.

There is concern among the board members and Mr. Teter that the usage documented by the meter readings do not accurately reflect the current campus situation. Usage was high despite the campus being closed and only a few buildings are in use with very limited staff. The Trustees pondered that the meters could be faulty or there could be a significant leak(s) on the campus.

Mr. Teter noted that new meters are expected to be installed imminently and that may be a better indication of the usage. The Trustees are hesitant to adopt the proposed rates until a true recording of the water usage is reported.

Mr. Teter reiterated his impending retirement and emphasized that the Trustees should begin the interview process now. Trustee Bennett agreed to meet with prospective applicants. Mr. Teter added that once an engineer is hired, the Board and Engineer can finalize the negotiations with Barton & Loguidice on the WIIA grant. Additionally, Mr. Teter recommended that the Board hire a grant writer so the Village can begin applying for supplementary funds for the water plant upgrade.

Sewer Plant Generator: Mr. Teter reported that FEMA responded to our request for additional funding by asking for information on the utility upgrade. The inquiry is the first correspondence received since the request for additional funding was submitted.

Website: Ms. Balloni reported that she and Ms. Tanner met with Jon Gans and Anwar Baksh to review the new village website. Mr. Baksh emphasized that the goal is to make it more streamlined and user friendly. The revision will include an option to pay online though Ms. Balloni said it won't be ready for the June tax season or July water/sewer billing, but probably by the October water/sewer billing. Along with the website upgrades, all village officials will be issued .gov email addresses.

New Business

Donation Agreements: On motion by Trustee Bennett, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the donation agreements of \$2,500.00 each to the Aurora Free Library, the Aurora Ledyard Historical Society, the Aurora Masonic Lodge, and the Morgan Opera House.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Short-Term Rental License Renewal Fee: A motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, was made to charge \$500 for a short-term rental license renewal. An amended motion was moved by Trustee Balloni with a second by Trustee Bennett to charge \$1,000.00 for a license renewal, with the option of paying \$500/year, when it was noted that the license is good for 2-years.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Delinquent Water & Sewer

Resolution # 25-24: 2025-2026 Delinquent Water and Sewer Accounts

RESOLVED that there be levied and assessed against the real property of the Village of Aurora, the following sums for the fiscal year 2025-2026 totaling \$4,688.38.

Account 1091 – Jessica Havens \$410.03

Account 1128 – Sam Ayers \$821.86

Account 1146 - Mike Hoffman \$1,230.09

Account 4072 – Aurora Golf, LLC \$2,226.40

On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to add the Delinquent Water and Sewer Payments onto the Village Tax Bills.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Board Appointments

Community Preservation Panel – Claire Morehouse
Planning Board – Frank Zimdahl
Zoning Board of Appeals – Laura Holland
Board Chairs – Jim Burkett (CPP), John Wade (PB), and Karen Hindenlang (ZBA)

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept Mayor Murphy's Board reappointments.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Mayor Murphy noted that she is considering candidates for alternates because currently all the boards have vacant alternate positions.

Hire Part-Time, Seasonal DPW Employee: Clerk Ann Balloni and DPW Operator Mike White interviewed two applicants and recommend Conor Hastings for the position.

On motion by Trustee Bennett, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to hire Conor Hastings for a part-time, seasonal position, from Memorial Day – Labor Day at \$18/hour.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Williamson Law Book Annual Contracts: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to renew the Williamson Law Book software program contracts:

Accounting - \$1,475.00

Payroll - \$1,159.00

Tax Collection - \$632.00

Water & Sewer - \$1,475.00

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Williamson Law Book Additional User Proposal: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to accept the Williamson Law Book proposal to add an additional user to the Accounting/Budget Preparation software program for \$895.00.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Usherwood Copier Proposal: On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to move forward with the replacement of the 10-year-old copier, that will no longer be supported as of June 30 2026, at a cost of \$6,301.95

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Bianconi
Motion carried.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Miller, and Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bianconi

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk