Village of Aurora Board of Trustees June 17, 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, Matt Bianconi, and John Miller

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA member Laura Holland, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Treasurer Christine Tanner, Engineer Ken Teter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Mike White, and Water Plant Operator Bob Yager

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. A moment of silence was held for Pat Bianconi, a long time Planning Board member/chair, who passed away on May 21.

Changes to the Agenda: Add "authorization to hire a village engineer" to New Business

Approval of Minutes

May 19, 2026: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to approve the May 19, 2026 public hearing and regular meeting minutes.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

May 28, 2026: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to approve the May 28, 2026 special meeting minutes.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor:

- the Memorial Day observance at St Patrick's cemetery went well.
- Aurorafest parade on July 11 is moved to 5:00, at the request of the Inns of Aurora, due to a 4:30 wedding.
- Interview with Ani Fish on Friday for the village engineer position. Trustee Bennett will also attend

Trustee Bennett: Still researching the insurance consortium but has questions on Medicare.

Expressed concern on the notifications from the NYSDEC on this year's Hydrilla treatment. There is conflicting information on potable water safety. (Following the meeting, it was clarified that drinking water taken directly from Cayuga Lake following treatment is not recommended. Treated, municipal water is safe to drink)

Trustee Miller: Blessing of the Boats is July 3 behind United Ministry with a cookout to follow at St Patrick's.

Visitor Welcome: No comments

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the June Treasurer's Report.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications (see attached)

On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General & Sewer Funds.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #1 for payment.
Voucher #1-42
Total: $37,514.72
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #1 for payment.
Voucher #1-17
Total: $14,948.71
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #1 for payment.
Voucher #1-15
Total: $15,349.29
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (see attached): Officer Greer noted in his report that the Village should consider banning fireworks outright due to concerns with the last couple displays.

Trustee Balloni noted, that as the fire chief, he cannot sign off on any displays along the lake except for the former Wells College boathouse dock, because there is no access for fire apparatus.

Trustee Bianconi added that as a boat captain, it is mandatory for the coast guard to be notified for fireworks on the water, which did not happen with the last two "permitted' displays.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on public celebrations, displays, queries, and a soon to be published article on Edward Paine of Paine's Creek.

Old Business

Water Updates

Wells Campus Water Meters: Mr. Teter contacted Wells multiple times to set up a meeting on how best to proceed with updating the campus water meters. As of this meeting, a date has not been scheduled.

WWTP Generator: the request to FEMA for additional funds and an extended timeline to install a new generator at the wastewater treatment plant was approved. Also, the contractor agreed to hold his pricing for the project but cannot begin until the fall.

NBRC Grant: the next reimbursement from the Northern Border Regional Commission grant for the water plant filters will determine how much funding remains.

Water Rates (see attached): Mr. Teter presented an updated rate schedule based on the water readings received over the past year. Mr. Teter noted that any residence currently used as a commercial property will be charged the commercial rate. This includes support properties, short-term and long-term rentals, and buildings with at least two apartments. Additionally, any buildings designated as condemned/abandoned/uninhabitable will be charged 0.25 of the residential rate.

Mr. Teter further noted that Wells College will be charged for their water usage as their exemption under the lease agreement for the water plant became null and void once the plant was sold to the Village. Despite the closing of the campus, water usage is high per the readings of the current meters. Mr. Teter reiterated his eagerness to meet with Wells and move forward with updating the meters as it will only be to their benefit.

RESOLUTION #26-25: TO CHANGE WATER AND SEWER RATES IN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA

Moved: Trustee Miller
Second: Trustee Balloni
Date: June 17, 2026

WHEREAS: the Village of Aurora was forced to operate and maintain the Wells water plant beginning October 1, 2024, due to the sudden closure of Wells College, announced April 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS: the annual cost of operating and maintaining the water plant and overall water system has been determined to be $300,000.00; and

WHEREAS: revenue to operate the water plant and system must be received through water fees from all the users of the water; and

WHEREAS: the Village of Aurora also lost significant revenue in the sewer budget due to the closure of Wells College; and

WHEREAS: the annual cost of operating and maintaining the sewer treatment plant and system has been determined to be $236,000; and

WHEREAS: revenue to operate the wastewater treatment plant and system must be received through sewer fees from all users of the sewer system; and

WHEREAS: the Village Board desires to continue a flat-fee approach for each category of user as this system allocates the fees in an equitable manner reflecting the actual volume of use by each category of user; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village of Aurora
will adopt a new rate structure for both water and sewer use as is described and noted on the attached "Rate Schedule
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, the upon roll call, the vote was as follows

Trustee Balloni: AYE
Trustee Bennett: AYE
Trustee Bianconi: AYE
Trustee Miller: AYE
Mayor Murphy: AYE

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Website: A training for the clerk is scheduled on June 24.

New Business

Attorney Contract: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to renew the contract with Blair Law Firm.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Trailer Purchase: Mr. White presented three quotes to purchase a new trailer for the DPW, recommending Syracuse Trailer Depot for $7,988.08. Mr. White added that the cost is covered by the Consolidated Highway Infrastructure Project (CHIPS) funding.

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the bid from Syracuse Trailer Depot, for $7,988.08, recommended by DPW Supervisor, Mike White.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Authorize the Mayor to Hire an Engineer: Mayor Murphy requested authorization to hire Ani Fish, if inclined, following her interview.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee, Miller, the Village Board voted to give authorization to Mayor Murphy to hire Ani Fish, if inclined, for the Village Engineer position.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk