**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees August 26, 2026, 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 Chairperson Karen Hindenlang, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Treasurer Christine Tanner, Assistant Water Operator Dave Wenzel, DPW Supervisor Mike White, and Water 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.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Under Old Business, add a resolution to accept bids for items at the water treatment plant and authorize Mayor Murphy to send Wells a letter reminding them of their obligations under the Stagecoach MOU. Under New Business, add street paving bids.

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the July 15, 2026 regular meeting minutes
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

**Mayor:** Mayor Murphy is working on contacting TOMA for assistance with grant writing and is encouraged by New York State Department of State to reapply for a Consolidated Funding Grant. Mayor Murphy also noted that she is researching grants through the NYCOM grant dashboard.

Additionally, the Trustees were informed that Wells College did not set up a separate account with NYSEG following the separation of utilities in March and the Village has been receiving the bills. Treasurer Tanner will contact Wells and send copies of the NYSEG bills for reimbursement.

Mayor Murphy reminded the Trustees of their mandated Workplace Violence/Harassment & Discrimination/Cybersecurity trainings.

**Visitor Welcome**

**Bob Yager:** Mr. Yager discussed needed improvements at the water treatment plant, including the following:

- Painting
- Upper floor heating & cooling
- Clean and display maps
- Install ADA compliant bathroom
- Replacement windows and insulation
- New doors and locks

- Black top parking lot

Mr. Yager noted that if the Village can sell the boilers, currently under a lease agreement, that they are potentially worth $75-80,000.

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

**Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #71-123
Total: $23,809.07
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #40-48
Total: $25,159.58
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #3 for payment.
Voucher #27-45
Total: $9,468.53
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

**Code Officer** (attached)**:** Officer Greer reported on recent permit applications and reiterated his recommendation that the Village Board amend the fireworks regulations.

**Historian** (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on the "economic value to the Village of Historic Resources", celebrations, displays, and queries.

**Miscellaneous:** Mayor Murphy noted that the DRI Park Committee will submit a report in October.

**Old Business**

**Health Insurance:** Trustee Bennett noted that she called the other villages in the county for their health insurance information, but only one returned her call. From researching though, Trustee Bennett discovered that most villages pay 75-90% of employee health insurance costs while the Village of Aurora pays 100%.

Trustee Miller commented that offering health insurance is an attractive incentive for potential employees.

Ms. Balloni inquired if the other villages offer dental or vision insurance and Trustee Bennett said she would check. Ms. Balloni noted that having those additional options might make it worth an employee cost contribution.

**Grant Updates**

VILLAGE OF AURORA: UPDATE FOR BOARD MEETING

TO: Mayor & Village Trustees
FROM: Kenneth Teter, P.E.
RE: Project Status Updates
DATE: Board Meeting – August 26 2026

**Water Improvements and Wells Closing Related Projects**

1. NBRC Tasks: We continue to complete tasks related to our grant scope but the installation of the two new water meters has encountered some design challenges due to the physical dimensions of the existing meter vault in front of Cleveland Hall. We are working through that but with a completion deadline of 9/30/26, I am going to submit a request for a time extension. NBRC concurs and that will be submitted by tomorrow.
2. NBRC Tasks Approval: These three items need to be approved by the Board so we can get them completed and include them in the NBRC Grant reimbursement. Each have been procured in accordance with the Villages requirements. Here are the three;
    a. Replacement parts for the new filters [4 SS perforated filters and 10 filter bags] from Weslor for a total of $10,658.00. Only they can make/supply them.
    b. Portable Turbidity Meter (Lovibond): Three bids were secured and the lowest is from Tintometer, Inc. for $1,828.26.
    c. Rebuild Pump and Tuneup of Heating Boiler: Only one bid is from the original installation company of the smaller boiler (Blake Thermal) for $3,282.83.
3. Utility Separation: It was recently discovered that the electrical separation work completed in March was not fully completed in that NYSEG has continued, since that time, to invoice the Village for the power at that same meter location, which in fact now only serves Wells College. We now have our own WTP meter. Christine and I are preparing the needed explanation to Wells to resolve the issue.
4. New Water Improvements Project: We are very close to accepting the proposed new Engineering Agreement with B&L. A range of documentation has been submitted to both EFC and EPA in advance of securing the additional funding earmarked for this project. Ani has prepared and submitted an application of interest to NBRC for additional funding of water infrastructure work.

**Generator Project and General**

1. At present, we are coordinating with the Contractor to sign the Agreement and prepare for a start-up in September.

**VB Resolution #26- 27: To Accept the Various Low Bids for Additional Items at the WTP**

**WHEREAS,** the Village of Aurora has an existing NBRC 21GNY03 grant with available funds remaining; and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with the approved procurement policies of the Village; and

**WHEREAS,** these purchases have been identified by the Village Engineer Ken Teter as being needed and eligible for reimbursement by NBRC and are so noted in detail in his Update Memo dated 89/26/26;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Village of Aurora Village Board approves the following purchases: (1) Replacement parts and supplies from Weslor Enterprises for $10,658.00, (2) Portable turbidity meter from Tintometer, Inc. for $1,828.26 and (3) Boiler pump rebuild and overall tuneup from Blake Thermal for $3,282.83. The grand total of these = $15,769.09.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Trustee Balloni and seconded by Trustee Bianconi and duly put to a vote, and upon roll call on August 26, 2026 the vote was as follows:

FIRST: Trustee Miller
SECOND: Trustee Bennett
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Carried unanimously.

**Stagecoaches:** On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to authorize Mayor Murphy to send a letter to Wells College reminding them to complete the gifting of the Wells stagecoaches to the Village of Aurora, per the agreement in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 21, 2024.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Street Paving Bids:** Mike White presented two bids, Upstate Paving for $6,900.00 and Earth Road Asphalt for $8,590.00. A third company was solicited but did not submit a bid. Mr. White noted that the cost can be reimbursed with CHIPS funding.

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to accept the street paving bid from Upstate Paving for $6,900.00.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Yager noted that the parking lot at the Water Treatment Plant has potholes that require filling and Mr. White will check with Upstate Paving on the cost and completing it at the same time as the streets.

**Fireworks Law:** The Trustees discussed amending the fireworks regulations in section 4.08 of the Village Zoning Law. Trustee Miller suggested charging a significant fee for a fireworks permit, currently $250.00, and wondered if fireworks help the Inns of Aurora stay competitive.

Trustee Bennett argued that the Village is too small to absorb the noise and that they have a negative affect on nearby farm animals.

Another suggestion is to pass a moratorium on fireworks to give the Trustees adequate time to decide how to amend the current regulations. Trustee Bennett did not think that was necessary, but the Trustees did not have specific amendments to the current regulations ready.

**VB RESOLUTION 26-26 OF 2026**
**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2026**
**OF THE VILLAGE OF AURORA TO REGULATE FIREWORKS IN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA**

**WHEREAS,** it is the intention of the Village of Aurora ("Village") to maintain a viable land use and zoning law known as the "Village of Aurora Zoning Law" (hereinafter, "Zoning Law"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule and Village Law of New York State, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees ("Village Board") has the legislative authority to update, amend and enact laws to promote the safety, prosperity and welfare of the Village on behalf of Village residents, property owners, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the Village Board's intent to regulate fireworks displays and usage in the Village of Aurora in order to preserve and protect public safety, tranquility, and property values within the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board has identified that the Village's current Zoning Law (Local Law #3 of 2025, as amended) does not contain adequate provisions for the regulation of fireworks and/or fireworks displays in the Village, and the Village Board finds that it is in the best interests of the Village to provide for well-reasoned regulations pertaining to the same; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village Board is prepared to determine that the amendment(s) to the Village Zoning Law herein described are not subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, such that the Village Board will not be required to complete an environmental review pursuant to SEQRA; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village Board intends to refer the proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law § 239 (l) and (m) review and comment; 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 Village Hall, 456 Main Street, Aurora, New York, at 6:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

JANET MURPHY, MAYOR
TRUSTEES
JAMES BALLONI
BONNIE APGAR BENNETT
MATTHEW BIANCONI
JOHN MILLER

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 hereby introduces Proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and potential adoption.

2. The Village Board hereby determines that the adoption of the proposed Local Law #2 is not subject to the requirements of SEQRA, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, and thus, the Village Board will not be required to conduct an environmental review of the same.

3. The Village Board shall refer this proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law §239(l) and (m) review and comment.

4. The Village Board of Trustees shall notice a Public Hearing to be held on proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 at Village Hall on September 23, 2026 beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m., and shall ensure the requisite notice is placed in the Village's designated newspaper(s) of record and also upon the Village's bulletin board and website.

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Balloni and Seconded by Trustee Miller a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:
Trustee Balloni - NAY
Trustee Bennett - AYE
Trustee Bianconi - NAY
Trustee Miller - NAY
Mayor Murphy - NAY

Vote: 1-4 DENIED

**Fireworks Moratorium Law** (attached):

**VB RESOLUTION 26-26 OF 2026**
**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2026**
**OF THE VILLAGE OF AURORA TO ESTABLISH UP TO A 12-MONTH MORATORIUM ON FIREWORKS IN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA**

**WHEREAS,** it is the intention of the Village of Aurora ("Village") to maintain a viable land use and zoning law known as the "Village of Aurora Zoning Law" (hereinafter, "Zoning Law"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule and Village Law of New York State, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees ("Village Board") has the legislative authority to update, amend and enact laws to promote the safety, prosperity and welfare of the Village on behalf of Village residents, property owners, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the Village Board's intent to review current Village Fireworks regulations in order to preserve and protect public safety, tranquility, and property values within the Village; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village wishes to establish Up to a 12-Month Moratorium on fireworks within the Village to consider if revising the regulations or disallowing them is warranted; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village Board is prepared to determine that the Fireworks Moratorium herein described are not subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, such that the Village Board will not be required to complete an environmental review pursuant to SEQRA; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village Board intends to refer the proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law § 239 (l) and (m) review and comment; 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 Village Hall, 456 Main Street, Aurora, New York, at 6:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

JANET MURPHY, MAYOR
TRUSTEES
JAMES BALLONI
BONNIE APGAR BENNETT
MATTHEW BIANCONI
JOHN MILLER

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 hereby introduces Proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and potential adoption.

2. The Village Board hereby determines that the adoption of the proposed Local Law #2 is not subject to the requirements of SEQRA, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, and thus, the Village Board will not be required to conduct an environmental review of the same.

3. The Village Board shall refer this proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law §239(l) and (m) review and comment.

4. The Village Board of Trustees shall notice a Public Hearing to be held on proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 at Village Hall on September 23, 2026, beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m., and shall ensure the requisite notice is placed in the Village's designated newspaper(s) of record and also upon the Village's bulletin board and website.

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Miller and Seconded by Trustee Balloni a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:
Trustee Balloni - AYE
Trustee Bennett - NAY
Trustee Bianconi - AYE
Trustee Miller - AYE
Mayor Murphy - AYE

Vote: 4-1 CARRIED

**False Alarm Fees:** The Trustees discussed adopting a law to allow the Village to charge fees when the fire department is called to a building multiple time for false alarms. Automated alarms go to the Cayuga County 911 center, which dispatches the fire department who are obligated to respond. Trustee Balloni (AVFD Fire Chief) stated that it creates a "boy who cried wolf" situation because when multiple false alarms are reported, the less likely personnel are going to respond. Trustee Balloni added that the Town of Ledyard Supervisor, Mark Jordan, is also considering adopting a law. The Trustees agreed to continue researching.

**September 16 Meeting:** On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to reschedule the September Village Board meeting to September 23 due to the village clerk attending the NYCOM conference September 14-17.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss "the employment history and potential discipline of a particular person" and "the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property".
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

On motion by Trustee Bennett, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk