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Village of Aurora Board of Trustees September 23, 2026 Public Hearing and 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, Engineer Ani Fish, ZBA Member Laura Holland, Planning Board Member Michele Murphy, Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, Water Plant Operator Dave Wenzel, DPW Superintendent Mike White, and Water Plant Operator Bob Yager
Aurora Masonic Center: Steve Zabriskie
Barton & Loguidice: Chris Lawton
The Citizen: Robert Harding
Inns of Aurora: Corey Guerrette

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: the Temporary Moratorium of Fireworks Applications, Permits, and Approvals in the Village of Aurora

On motion by Trustee Balloni, second by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2026 at 6:01 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Murphy read two emails (attached), one from Jon Gans who is for the moratorium and one from Kit Van Orman who is against the moratorium.

Corey Guerrette: Mr. Guerrette noted that the Inns of Aurora will support the Village in whatever they decide regarding regulating fireworks. Mr. Guerrette added that wedding parties' contract with the fireworks companies directly, not through the Inns of Aurora and they are instructed to follow all local regulations. Mr. Guerrette recommended that if fireworks are allowed on the lake, they should be extended further from the shore than is currently permitted.

Public Hearing Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Bennett, second by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2026 at 6:05 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Changes to the Agenda: Barton & Loguidice contract added to New Business

Approval of Minutes

August 26, 2026: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the August 26, 2026, regular meeting minutes
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

September 4, 2026: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the September 4, 2026, special meeting minutes
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor

- Attended the Aurora Ridge Dairy Open House
- Attended the Ledyard Farms Open House
- Contacted TOMA for grant writing assistance
- Working with Shirley Egan on reviewing the stagecoach MOU
- Toured the water plant with Bob Yager and strongly encouraged the trustees to do the same (Trustees Bennett and Miller suggested having a professional architect advise on renovating the building)
- Met with a fourth grader from Trumansburg named Aurora who is doing a report on our village

Clerk: Ms. Balloni reminded the Board of the Cayuga County Strategic Plan workshops (attached) and informed them that the Village did not receive the Environmental Facilities Corporation grant.

Visitor Welcome

Chris Lawton: Mr. Lawton from Barton & Loguidice gave a summary of the contract proposal for the water plant upgrades, funded by the $5 million WIIA grant. The proposal includes extending the intake pipe and distribution improvements. Mr. Lawton noted that the design phase will take 2-3 years.

Trustee Bennett questioned how deep the intake pipe will go and Mr. Lawton thought approximately 75'. Initially, several years ago, the thought was 100-150' deep, but current information suggests that 75' will suffice. Mr. Lawton added that they are researching a similar project on Skaneateles Lake before making a final determination.

Trustee Miller questioned the integrity of the building and if the plan is to install a bigger pipe for a potential increase in users. Mr. Lawton replied that renovating the current building and constructing a new facility have both been discussed, as well as increasing the pipe size. Ms. Fish added that it is a good idea to increase the pipe size and sell water.

Trustee Bianconi questioned the status of the water tower located on Wells campus. Mr. Lawton replied that replacing the tower is under discussion.

DRAFT

Mr. Lawton reminded the Board that the WIIA grant covers about half the cost of the project and recommended that the Trustees attend DEC permitting workshops and additional grant funding workshops.

Bob Yager: Mr. Yager reported on the following at the water plant:

- Thank you to the Aurora Fire Department for assisting with the clean-up of the intake pipe cover.
- Following an inspection of the small boiler, Mr. Yager recommends a lock out/tag out of the system for about $300.
- Replacing the water meters on Wells campus should be covered by the NBRC grant.
- The quote from Blake Thermal for system repairs is between $3,000-$4,000
- Requested that the Board look into replacing the alarm company that services the plant (and also the WWTP and the fire department). Trustee Balloni, who is also the fire chief, echoed Mr. Yager's recommendation.

Trustee Bianconi questioned if the building has a sprinkler system and Mr. Yager responded that it does not. Trustee Bianconi then inquired about the propane tank and Mr. Yager responded that they are not using it.

Mike White: Mr. White reported on the following for the Department of Public Works:

- Contacted the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) regarding the Rt 90 project in Levanna. NYSDOT could not give a start date for the project but informed Mr. White that the project will be completed "by winter". They are installing pylons with a reinforced wall to support the west side of Rt 90. Trustee Balloni added that NYSDOT informed him that the road will be closed completely for two days.
- Upstate Paving is patching the various holes in the village on September 24. Trustee Bianconi inquired if the hole in front of his house is on the list and Mr. White replied that the Village will fill it with any extra materials.
- The valve on Dodge Dorm is replaced and now comes off the Village line.
- Working with Ms. Fish on updating the WWTP controls, per the March 31 NYSDEC inspection.
- Removing the dead branches off the oak tree at the north end of town, not cutting down the entire tree if anyone inquires.
- Dublin Hill Road water problem is fixed.
- The leaf machine will be available October 13 – December 11, weather permitting.
- Attending the NYCOM Public Works conference in Lake Placid, October 19-21.

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

Budget Modifications

General Fund

$2998.08
From A599 Appropriated Fund Balance
To A5110.2 Street Maintenance – Equipment

$444.06
From A1320.4 Auditor
To A1410.42 Clerk/Treasurer Telephone

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

Water Fund

$4,000.00
From F1990.4 Contingent
To F1420.4 Law

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, 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 #4 for payment.
Voucher #124-153
Total: $11,486.25
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 #4 for payment.
Voucher #49-59
Total: $6,075.85
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 #4 for payment.
Voucher #46-55

DRAFT

Total: $7,436.05
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Code Officer (attached): Officer Greer reported on recent permits, touring the Village Water Plant, and consulting with Community Preservation Chairperson, Jim Burkett, on projects within the Village Historic District. Additionally, Officer Greer issued a Cease & Desist order to an unlicensed short-term rental property owner.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab reported on upcoming events, a continuing story on Edward Paine and research on his connections to the Native American trading network, Chimney Corner preservation, and recent queries.

Dr. Schwab submitted a pictorial of the decline of Chimney Corner from 2018 to the present (attached). Dr. Schwab would like the Village Board to consider "acquiring" the building and turning it over to a steering committee.

Trustee Miller questioned why removing the building is an "irreversible impact". Dr. Schwab replied that the setting of the structure is as important as the building, as well as its relationship to the other buildings nearby.
Dr. Schwab noted that she has spoken to an "interested party" and referenced section 7.01 of the Village Zoning Law, regarding the Village's preservation responsibilities. Dr. Schwab conveyed a sense of urgency due to weather concerns.

Miscellaneous

NYCOM Conference: Ms. Balloni reported a successful conference with worthwhile training sessions. Ms. Balloni strongly encouraged the Board to attend at lease some of next year's sessions when it will be held at Turning Stone Casino.

Old Business

Health Insurance: Trustee Bennett reported that she continues to research other village's plans and noted that a decision should be made before enrollment begins in January.

New Business

Barton & Loguidice Contract: On motion by Trustee Miller, second by Trustee Balloni, the Village Board voted to accept the contract from Barton & Loguidice for the WIIA grant funded upgrades to the Village Water Plant, for $1,455,000.00.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Local Law #2 of 2026

VILLAGE OF AURORA RESOLUTION #26-28 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2026: THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON FIREWORKS PERMITS, APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA

Introduced by: Trustee Balloni
Seconded by: Trustee Bianconi
Dated: September 23, 2023

1. **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the Village to adopt a local law imposing **up to a 12-month** moratorium on the filing, acceptance and/or, approval of Fireworks Permits within the Village of Aurora; and

2. **WHEREAS**, the action is a Type II action, and is not subject to SEQRA; and

3. **WHEREAS,** that the Village Board of the Village of Aurora held a properly noticed Public Hearing at the Village Municipal Building on September 23, 2026 at approximately 6:00 p.m. and gave due consideration to public comment on, Proposed Local Law #2 of 2026; and

4. **WHEREAS,** the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development for General Municipal Law §239(l) and (m) reviewed Local Law #2 of 2026 at meeting on September 17, 2026 and found that there are no intra-municipal impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Aurora hereby enacts Local Law #2 of 2026

Upon Roll Call Vote:
Trustee JD Balloni - AYE
Trustee Bonnie Apgar Bennett - NAY
Trustee Matthew Bianconi - AYE
Trustee John Miller – AYE
Mayor Janet Murphy – AYE
Carried 4-1

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Balloni, seconded by Trustee Bennett, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
AYES: Balloni, Bennett, Bianconi, Miller, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk

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