

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 11, 2024

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, March 11, 2024, for the purpose of holding a work session. The Board met in-person at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York. The meeting was streamed via Zoom and YouTube.

Present:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Shane Krieger	EA Chief of Police
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Supervisor Snyder opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Reed Braman – Erie County Director of Energy Management & Development:

Mr. Braman stated that he manages the Energy Aggregates for Erie County, noting that the Town of Aurora is currently enrolled in the natural gas aggregate, but is no longer in the electric aggregate. These programs are strictly for municipalities. Mr. Braman noted that he would be able to review the Town’s current electric agreement (with New Wave) and compare it to the Erie County program.

2) Telecommunication Tower – 4399 Transit Road:

VB BTS II, LLC and Verizon Wireless, as agents for Murray Bros. Nurseries, Inc., have submitted Telecommunications Special Use Permit and Site Plan applications for a proposed monopole telecommunications tower at 4399 Transit Road. The Town Planning Board reviewed the applications and voted to recommend that the Town Board approve the site plan and special use permit. The Town intends to seek Lead Agency for SEQR and will conduct a coordinated review. Anthony Siriani and Brett Morgan were present this evening. Mr. Siriani stated that since they met with the Planning Board there have been some minor changes to the submittal, mostly correction of typos.

3) KFSP – Temporary Use Applications for Cross Country events:

Greg Galinas, Director of Sports Development for the Buffalo Sports Commission, spoke to the Board about the permits that are being applied for by Daemen College and Hilbert College to host Division II and III NCAA Cross Country events at Knox Farm State Park, including the Town managed portion of the park. Mr. Galinas said he is asking for permits for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Supervisor Snyder stated that we received the application fees for the permit applications, but the Town is looking at revising the per day fee and security deposit fee. Councilman McCann suggested the Board approve the permits with the statement “rate not to exceed”. Councilman Wochensky suggested “not to exceed \$1,000.00”.

Shane Krieger stated that if they intend to have the racers cross Knox Road, the organizers will need to make arrangements to have that portion of Knox Road shut down by Erie County.

4) Board of Assessment Review (BAR) appointment:

Supervisor Snyder stated that Kathy Aures has expressed interest in being appointed to the Board of Assessment Review to fill a vacancy. Ms. Aures is a local business owner and lives on Snyder Road in the Town.

5) Grant Writer:

Supervisor Snyder stated that met with Robin Drake and is waiting to hear back from Mr. Rotella regarding grant writing for the Town. Councilman Wochensky stated that if anyone else has an interest in writing grants for the Town they need to speak up. Mr. Wochensky wants to vote on this at the March 25, 2024 meeting.

6) Local Law Intro – Dog Impoundment Fee increase:

The Town Attorney prepared a local law increasing the daily boarding fee that the Town charges for impounded dogs from \$20 to \$40 per day. The Town Board will set a public hearing.

7) Amendment to Abuse Prevention Policy:

Based on the completion of the renewal application for the Town's Abuse and Molestation insurance coverage, Kathleen Moffat, Assistant to the Supervisor, is requesting the addition of "Appropriate/Inappropriate Interactions" be added to the Town's Abuse Prevention Policy.

8) DCO Seminar:

Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting approval for four of his employees to attend the Dog Control Educational Seminar in Webster, NY on May 1-2, 2024. The registration fee is \$100 per person. Hampton Inn government rate is \$119 per room. Fess will be disbursed from A3510.404.

9) Special Use Permit – Ellicott Road Campground:

Robert Neil Hopkins/RNH 298 LLC submitted a Special Use Application for a campground at 298 Ellicott Road, the site of the former Alpine Recreation Center. Mr. Hopkins stated he would like to be able to accommodate campers at this location.

10) Special use Permit – Ellicott Road location for Events:

Robert Neil Hopkins/RNH 298 LLC submitted a Special Use Application to be able to host events such as weddings, graduation parties, and family reunions at his 298 Ellicott Road property. The proposal is to use approximately 25 acres of the 200-acre parcel for event activities

11) RFP for Comprehensive Plan:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the Town received funding from Erie County to use toward the development of a Comprehensive Plan. This RFP is for a consultant to develop the Plan. The maximum budget is \$50,000. The deadline for submitting a proposal is April 30, 2024.

12) RFP for Community Solar Campaign:

Councilman Wochensky stated that this RFP invites community solar providers to submit a proposal to conduct a campaign to sign up new customers for community solar programs. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 5, 2024.

13) Safe Streets and Roads Grant/New York SS4A Program:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated he asked Gerard Sentz from FoitAlbert Associates to prepare a grant application for New York's SS4A program for sidewalks on West Falls Road, Old Glenwood Road, Buffalo Road and Center Street (to the high school). Mr. Gunner stated that there is no cost if we win the grant and can back out if the sidewalks are not wanted by the residents.

Supervisor Snyder stated he would like to have an informational meeting regarding plans like this to see what the residents think.

14) Town Code Zoning Amendment – C3:

In a memo to the Town Board, Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy submitted the proposed amendment to the C3 zoning code that will clarify which uses must be conducted within an enclosed building. Supervisor Snyder asked the Town Attorney to prepare a local law for this amendment.

15) 1686 and 1688 Davis Road Rezoning request:

At their March 6, 2024 meeting the Aurora Planning Board voted to recommend to the Town Board that the parcels at 1686 and 1688 Davis Road be rezoned from R1 to C2. The original request from John Herbst was for C3 zoning. Supervisor Snyder recused himself from the discussion due to doing business with Mr. Herbst. Councilman McCann stated he attended the Planning Board meeting and noted that Mr. Herbst does not need or want C3. Mr. Herbst feels he cannot sell the property until it is rezoned. Councilman Wochensky stated he struggles with C2 vs. C1 since it is next to residential zoned parcels. The Town Attorney will prepare a local law for the rezoning proposal.

16) April 8, 2024/Eclipse Day – proposed Town Hall closing:

Supervisor Snyder noted that on April 8th schools in Erie County, Erie County buildings, and several other towns will be closed that day due to the total eclipse. The Supervisor is proposing to close the Aurora Town offices that day.

The discussion turned toward the KFSP event – Police Chief Krieger noted that the event is sold out and that 2500 tickets were sold. Councilman McCann noted that the event organizers have been given permission to use the Parkdale School parking lot in addition to the parking that the Town Board previously approved at KFSP soccer area.

Councilman Wochensky stated he has no problem with April 8th as a day off for Town employees. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated his employees will have to work that day and maybe they could receive a roving holiday in exchange.

Martha Librock
Town Clerk