

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

March 22, 2011

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session.

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Supervisor
	Jeffrey T. Harris	Councilman
	Susan Friess	Councilwoman
	James F. Collins	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Councilman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Bryan Smith	Town Engineer
	Patrick Blizniak	Superintendent of Building
	William Kramer	Building Inspector
	Tony Rosati	CATV member
	Alan Kazprzak	E. Aurora Village Mayor
	Randy West	E. Aurora Village Trustee
	Library Board Members: Al Fontanese, George Oliver, Deborah Carr-Hoagland, Carol Griffis, Laura Lee Naughton	

Supervisor Jeffe opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Board met to discuss the following:

1) Main Street Library/Municipal Offices proposal:

Library Board member Al Fontanese gave a presentation on a proposal that uses the existing Main Street library site for a joint municipal/library building. The plan calls for purchasing the house/property on Whaley, north of the library, and demolishing it. An 8,850sf two-story addition would be added to the north side of the existing library and a 1,250sf one-story addition would be added to the west side of the building. The proposal calls for the Town and Village offices to be on the second floor, accessed by either stairs or an elevator. The first floor addition would be for library use and would incorporate a 60 feet by 40 feet meeting room with a 120 person seating capability for use by all three entities. Mr. Fontanese stated that he is using \$250 per square foot for new construction costs and \$110 per square foot for remodeling costs. When asked to convert those figures to project cost or at least a preliminary cost, Mr. Fontanese responded the cost would be approximately \$6.2 million. Mr. Fontanese went on to discuss the parking situation, noting that there was room for thirteen spaces on site, but parking across the street is contingent on the Village obtaining the property.

Supervisor Jeffe thanked Mr. Fontanese, noting it was important to see this presentation, and we need to look at the “whole pie”, the slices being the proposed \$5.5 million fire hall; the EAUFSB budget gap of \$1.9 million; gas price increase and police costs.

John Hughes, Blakeley Road, asked how long a new construction borrowing period would be. Supervisor Jeffe responded, 25 years.

Mike Croft, Fillmore Ave., stated that this proposal addresses the Main Street need and the library needs.

Randy West, Buffalo Road, wants the Town to take an in-depth look at the proposal.

Deborah Carr-Hoagland, Library Board President, stated that the library board will pay a \$2500 fee to get concept (cost) numbers for the project.

Marcia Hoffman, E. Main Street, stated she was thrilled by the concept presented by Mr. Fontanese and that it is important to the children that the library remains on Main Street. Supervisor Jeffe noted that the Town does not plan to move the library off of Main Street.

2) Town Board Liaisons:

Supervisor Jeffe stated that she would like the department liaisons to give periodic updates to the other Town Board members on various meetings they attended, etc.

3) Olean Road Speed Study:

Residents and business owners on Olean Road submitted a petition for a speed study (TE9) for Olean Road from Lapham Road south to, if not beyond, Blakeley Corners Road. The current speed limit is 55 mph and they would like to see a 45 mph speed limit along that stretch of Olean. Supervisor Jeffe stated this will be put on the 3/28/11 meeting agenda.

4) Reiter Road/Route 20A Intersection:

Following a serious motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Reiter Road and Route 20A (aka: East Main Street), Supervisor Jeffe contacted the NYS Department of Transportation. They responded that NYS Department of Motor Vehicle records showed only two (2) accidents within a 5-year period at that intersection. Supervisor Jeffe obtained records from the East Aurora police department that show since 2004 there were eleven (11) property damage only accidents and nine (9) personal injury auto accidents at this intersection. The Board discussed possible improvements such as flashing lights before the intersection, larger stop signs, and/or other signage. This will be put on the 3/28/11 meeting agenda. If a TE-9 is submitted, the Town of Wales will need to prepare same since Reiter Road is the dividing line between Wales and Aurora.

5) Concession Stand Agreement (draft):

For the past six (6) years the Town recreation department has had a food concession at the Community Pool Park baseball diamonds. The concession is run by Pizza DelAureo's and there has never been a written agreement in place. The draft agreement addresses the terms, payment to the Town, obligations of the concessionaire and the Town, and insurance requirements.

6) Electronic Recycling:

Supervisor Jeffe stated that she would like to have the Town participate in the electronic equipment recycling program presented by Regional Computer Recycling & Recovery (*rcr&r*) whereby the Town would have a drop-off site and secure storage area for electronic equipment being disposed of by Town residents and *rcr&r* would pick up the equipment for proper disposal. Supervisor Jeffe noted that the Gleed warehouse is a possible site. Councilman Harris will look into obtaining a price on a used storage pod.

7) New Recreation Program:

Recreation Director Peggy Cooke is requesting Board approval to add a new recreation program entitled "How Does Your Garden Grow – Parkdale Garden Club". Supervisor Jeffe noted that Mrs. Cooke submitted a revenue and expense break-down that indicates a monetary loss and that she would address this with Mrs. Cooke.

8) CATV Committee:

Supervisor Jeffe stated that the Board needs to decide what it wants to do with CATV – keep it in the budget or dissolve the committee. Jeffe noted that Lisa Hoffman volunteered to research what other municipalities do and that several questions need to be answered – who uses the CATV channel; who benefits; who pays for it; how do other communities handle their CATV programming; what channel(s) do they use; etc. Councilman Collins stated that if we invest in equipment for CATV it needs to be kept current. Councilman Harris noted that we could consider directing part of the annual franchise fee towards CATV. Supervisor Jeffe stated the Town needs proof that it's worth the investment and that any updates on this topic will be discussed at the April work session.

9) Time Warner Internet/Phone Service Agreement:

Supervisor Jeffe noted that the agreement shows several promotional fees and wants to know what happens after the promotion(s) end, namely, what the fees will be then. Jeffe also questioned the enhanced 911 section of the agreement. It was noted that if the power goes out, the Time Warner phone system does not work.

10) Pollution Liability Insurance:

Councilman Collins stated that he received a quote from Badger and Gunner for UST Pollution Liability Insurance for the two (2) underground fuel tanks at the Highway Department (251 Quaker). This insurance would cover any fuel spill connected with the tanks. \$1 million liability coverage is \$977 annually and \$500,000 liability coverage is \$698 annually – each has a \$5000 deductible. This will be placed on the 3/28/11 meeting agenda.

11) Water Department Stipend:

Councilwoman Friess gave a brief history of the water department stipend, noting that recently the Board transferred the \$3000 annual stipend to Highway Superintendent Gunner. Mrs. Friess asked the Board for their input on increasing the stipend or leaving it as is. Councilmen Collins and Harris stated that it could possibly be considered for the 2012 budget as part of a compensation package. Councilman Bach stated that we should see how things are handled by Mr. Gunner for a period of time before making any adjustments.

12) Taxpayer Input:

Grover Road resident Bill Patterson addressed the Board about his concern that tax payers do not have enough input at meetings and suggested that before each Board vote, tax payers be given a chance to speak at the meetings. Councilman Harris suggested adding more of a narrative to the agenda on items that involve spending town money. Councilman Bach stated the Board could consider trying it for one month. Councilman Collins disagreed with the concept, noting that members of the audience already have the opportunity to speak twice at the meetings. Supervisor Jeffe noted that a Town Board does not have to let the public speak at any time during meetings and that, as Councilman Collins stated, there are several opportunities for the public to speak at a meeting. The Board suggested to Mr. Patterson that he try using the Business from the Audience I and/or II part of the meeting to ask questions or make comments on any agenda item.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk