

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
December 20, 2016

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the former East Aurora Fire Hall, Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, NY. The Board toured the building to get a concept of what space was available and how it could be used for the future Town Hall.

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Southside Municipal Center Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session:

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| Present: | Susan A. Friess | Councilwoman |
| | Jolene M. Jeffe | Councilwoman |
| | Jeffrey T. Harris | Councilman |
| | Charles D. Snyder | Councilman |
| | James J. Bach | Supervisor |

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| Others Present: | Ronald Bennett | Town Attorney |
| | William Kramer | Code Enforcement Officer |
| | William Wheeler | GHD/Engineer |
| | Robert Lowell Goller | Town Historian |

5:30 p.m.

1) Code Review:

The Board reviewed the proposed solar code and made several more changes, including a section on decommissioning. The draft code with the changes will be forwarded to the Planning Board for their January 4, 2017 meeting. They also discussed the possibility of extending the moratorium on solar power projects for at least three (3) months. The Board also reviewed parking requirements that need to be added to the Zoning code.

7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Bach led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Bicentennial:

Robert L. Goller, Town Historian, spoke to the Board about the Town's Bicentennial. Planning will take place in 2017 and events commemorating the Bicentennial will take place in 2018. We will be working with the towns of Holland and Wales who will be celebrating their Bicentennials at the same time. Councilman Harris said he would help on the Bicentennial Committee.

2) Rails to Trails:

Deborah Fenn, co-chair of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail (ECRT) committee, and committee member Susan Russell, spoke to the Board about the abandoned railroad corridor that extends from Orchard Park to Ashford in Cattaraugus County. The 1.8-mile Springville portion of the trail opened in Fall of 2016. The Buffalo Pittsburg Railroad, who abandoned the rail in 2009, will be rail banking the entire corridor to the ECRT in the near future. It is the goal of the ECRT to have the entire 27-mile corridor available for walking and biking, with some snowmobile areas.

3) Highway – Truck Bid Results:

The Town Board previously declared a 2006 Ford F550 dump truck and accessories as surplus inventory. The vehicle was auctioned through Auctions International and the result was a \$17,000.00 bid.

Councilman Harris moved to approve and accept the \$17,000.00 bid through Auctions International for the 2006 Ford F550 dump truck with plow and sander. Councilwoman Friess seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five noes – none Motion carried. (Note: SR funds were used to purchase this truck in December 2005.)

Action #387
Bid for 2006
Ford F550
accepted.

4) Electronic Recycling Event:

Highway Superintendent Gunner spoke to the Board about holding an electronics-recycling pick-up for Town residents (outside the Village). The proposal is for Town residents to be able to put electronics, with the exception of TV's with broken glass, out to the curb for pick-up by the Town sometime in March. The thought was to put the notices in the Town/county tax bill mailing in January. In order for any flyer, pamphlet, etc., to be mailed with tax bills the Town would need to adopt a local law allowing that to be done.

5) DASNY Grant for Repairs to Community Pool:

The Town received a \$100,000 New York State grant through Senator Gallivan for replacing the lining in the Community Pool and the wading pool. The quotes that the Town received came to approximately \$107,000 and included the addition of an ingress/egress step in the wading pool. The Board discussed where the additional \$7,000 would come from.

6) Olean Road – Request to Rezone Property:

Michael Gish, owner of MPG Properties, LLC, a property management company, is requesting to have a parcel on the west side of Olean Road just south of the Route 400 overpass rezoned from Agriculture to Business. Mr. Gish is proposing to build an office/warehouse for his business. The Board stated this would be put on the 12/27/16 meeting agenda to forward to the Planning Board for review.

7) Water Tank Repairs – Letter to ECWA:

GHD prepared a letter for the Supervisor to send to the ECWA requesting that the proposed repairs to the Emery Road and Townline water tanks be included in the ECWA contract for their larger project, and that the Town agrees to enter into a cooperative agreement with the ECWA which will detail the scope of the work, cost of improvements and reimbursement requirements.

8) Master Water Improvement Area – Easement for Pump Station:

The Town and GHD have approached the owner of property abutting Ellis Drive for an easement to build a water pumping station as part of the Master Water Improvement area and as needed for the Town to go to direct service with the ECWA. There are currently back taxes owed on the property and a question was raised of whether the money for the easement needs to go directly to Erie County for the back taxes or if it would go to the property owner. The Town Attorney will do some research and get back to the Board.

9) Reserve Fund:

At a prior work session Kathleen Moffat, Assistant to the Supervisor/Bookkeeper, requested that the Board consider establishing a reserve fund for payment of principal and interest due on bonds issued for the Southside Municipal Center/300 Gleed Avenue. The source of funding will be surplus monies in the ER fund generated by the sale of the Southside Municipal Center/300 Gleed Avenue. The Board now has the final amount that is necessary to be put in the fund. This resolution will be put on the 12/27/16 meeting agenda.

10) Troy & Banks Proposal:

Supervisor Bach received a proposal from Troy & Banks to audit the Town's past utility, cable franchise fee and/or telecommunications billings. Councilwoman Jeffe stated she believes that this was done during her term as Supervisor, but did not remember the results. Supervisor Bach will look into this further.

11) School Choice Week Resolution:

Supervisor Bach received an email from the School Choice Week committee asking that the Town officially recognize January 22-28, 2017 as School Choice Week in Aurora and help raise awareness of the education options available to children. The Board was not receptive to the request.

12) Emerald Ash Borer Resolution:

The Board received a copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Lancaster that calls on the NYS Legislature to amend the tax code to allow taxpayers to claim credits for treating and removing trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer. The Town Board members liked the idea. This will be put on the 12/27/16 agenda.

13) Vacation Rollover Request:

Patrick Blizniak and William Kramer are requesting to each rollover two days of 2016 vacation time for use in the first quarter of 2017. Supervisor Bach stated he would ask them to provide a reason as to why the rollover was needed.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk