

September 26, 2011

A Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Monday, September 26, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, New York.

Members Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe Susan A. Friess James J. Bach James F. Collins	Supervisor Councilwoman Councilman Councilman
Others Present:	Sen. Patrick Gallivan Sue Johnson Donna Bodekor Patrick Blizniak Jeffrey Markello Chris O'Brien Sheryl Harris Peggy Cooke James P. Collins	NYS Senate Erie County representative for Sen.Gallivan's office Senior Center Director Superintendent of Building Aurora Town Justice Chamber of Commerce rep. and Holland Town Justice Dog Control Officer Recreation Director Town resident

Supervisor Jeffe opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., noting that Senator Gallivan had asked to meet with the Town Board to talk about any concerns they might have. The Supervisor stated that it was decided to hold an open meeting in order for the Board to meet, along with having department heads, town employees and the public attend.

Senator Gallivan stated he has 68 towns and villages in his senate district and is attempting to meet with representatives from all of them to discuss community needs and issues. Some of the topics he addressed today were:

- Tax cap and it's challenges
- Ethics reform
- Mandate relief
- Economic development
- Possible Tier 6 retirement level
- Medicaid
- Hydrofracking

Supervisor Jeffe commented on:

- The tax cap not addressing existing contracts and debt service.
- Knox Farm State Park and the poor condition it is in, noting it is a high maintenance park.
- Speed limit studies performed by the NYSDOT.

Councilwoman Friess commented on:

- Mandate relief and asked if this will result in paying from "another pocket".
- NY State not meeting their responsibility in maintaining Knox Farm State Park.
- The tax cap not addressing voter approved expenditures.

Councilman Bach commented on:

- What can be done to help small businesses grow?

Donna Bodekor commented on:

- Changes to the EPIC (prescription) program, noting there is a meeting 10/12/11 at the Senior Center to explain the changes to the program to seniors.

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Peggy Cooke commented on:

- Friends of Knox Farm State Park, stating that the group would be meeting with Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey at the Park on October 4th.
- The condition of Knox Park, noting that it would take \$200,000-\$250,000 to cover minimal maintenance at the park, and that the State should not own it if they're not going to maintain it. She said the State has a \$200 million parks budget and should be able to take care of Knox Park.

Jeffrey Markello commented on:

- The inability of the courts to pursue underage drinking and marijuana possession charges if the person doesn't show up in court or fails to pay a fine regarding these two matters. At this time the court can not sign a bench warrant.

Chris O'Brien commented on:

- The ability to suspend a driver license would probably help with the matter Justice Markello referred to.
- State insurance assessment.
- Need to reform the length of time an individual can be on unemployment.

James P. Collins, East Main Street commented on:

- Hydrofracking and communication between States on this issue.

Martha L. Librock

Town Clerk