

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 8, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of holding a work session. The Board met in-person and via Zoom at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York. Public attendance was permitted at this meeting. The work session was live-streamed via Zoom and YouTube.

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Councilwoman
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman (via Zoom)
	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Joseph Wetzell	GHD/Engineer
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Tony Rosati	ZBA member/Village Trustee

Supervisor Bach opened the session at 5:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and noted the regular meeting would begin immediately after the work session.

1) East Aurora Baseball and Softball:

Amy Sullivan, President of the East Aurora Baseball and Softball (EABS) organization spoke to the Board about the baseball program. Ms. Sullivan noted that due to the pandemic, the 2020 season was cancelled. Their organization is preparing for the 2021 season and would like to make some improvements to the baseball diamonds. The first improvement is to put two electrical outlets on two of the pitchers mounds at the Lilley Complex diamonds. The outlets would be used for the pitching machines. Currently the pitching machines are run off a gas generator that is very loud, heavy and needs to be filled with gas often. Ms. Sullivan stated that there is a similar electric outlet at the EMW Creek Road baseball diamond. EABS will pay for this improvement. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated the highway department would help by digging a trench for the conduit.

The second item is that EABS wants to paint the snack-shack blue and white. The Kiwanis sign would remain and an EABS logo would be added.

EABS has a park clean-up day scheduled in early April when volunteers will clean up the baseball areas. There is a Major League pitch/hit/run event scheduled for mid-May. Covid protocol is in place and is updated regularly.

Ms. Sullivan stated they begin practices April 26th and they may have to bring in porta-potties because that is earlier than the pool opens. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the bathrooms might be able to be opened earlier.

The agreement between the Town and EABS for use of the baseball diamonds at Gleed Avenue and Community Pool Park needs to be finalized.

2) Blueberry Tree House – Site Plan, ODA, & Special Use Plan update:

Jyl and Ricardo Rivera presented their plan for the Blueberry Tree House complex to the Board. They presented an update to their current Special Use Permit along with applications for ODA and Site Plan. Mrs. Rivera stated they would be expanding parking, purchasing the property next door for the additional parking and ingress/egress and building a deck/treehouse where they will serve alcohol on the blueberry farm property, which is a flag lot.

Mr. Rivera stated there was a gravel lot at 1887 Davis Road at one time and they will clean that up in order to increase the parking spaces from 55 to 95. This will also allow for a secondary entrance and a new exit. The bar will be moved up the hill.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked if anything was marked/flagged on the property. Mr. Rivera responded that he could ribbon off the deck/bar area.

Councilman Snyder asked what type of event would have 380 attendees, which is the number they included in their submission. Mr. Rivera said that was based on the code, but they would be looking toward smaller events.

Supervisor Bach asked if there would only be one event at a time. The Riveras' responded, yes. Mr. Bach also asked if the deck/bar would accommodate weddings or if tent(s) would be needed. Mr. Rivera responded it would depend on the customer.

Councilman Snyder stated he wants to send this to the Planning Board for review.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked if amplified sound would be down by the stage and if there was to be amplified sound at the bar. Mr. Rivera responded there would be a speaker system at the stage and soft music on the deck (bar).

Councilman Snyder stated there also needs to be a public hearing. The Riveras' stated they would like to open earlier than July and noted they only have a small window prior to that for when they can build the deck (bar) area. After discussion, the Board agreed that the Public Hearing could be set for April 12, 2021.

3) 583 Olean Road – Special Use Permit:

In 2020, a Special Use Permit application was submitted for a storage building at 583 Olean Road. The plan/application was reviewed by the Town Board, Planning Board, Erie County Department of Planning and SHPPO. SHPPO recently submitted their determination.

4) Public Employee – Emergency Plan:

Section 27-C of the NY State Labor Law mandates public employers to develop operation plans in the event of certain declared public health emergencies. Councilman Snyder worked on the Town's plan. Supervisor Bach stated the plan is similar to the Village plan. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated the plan contains pretty much of what the Highway Department has been doing during the Covid pandemic.

5) South Herrick – master water meter:

Joseph Wetzel from GHD presented the Board with information on the ISO fire flow requirements and indicated that GHD determined that reducing the South Herrick Road master meter size from 6-inch to 4-inch will provide the required fire flows while maintaining greater than the minimum pressure in the water line system. The Town will ask ECWA to change the meter from 6-inch to 4-inch.

6) Fireworks/Independence Day:

The Board discussed the possibility of events for Independence Day and determined that the fireworks display would not be possible this year due to Covid restrictions. An Independence Day parade may be an option if the route is changed and people can be socially distanced.

7) Rural Outreach Center (ROC):

The Board discussed the zone most appropriate for what the ROC wants to do at 730 Olean. Councilwoman Friess stated that R3 works, especially if the Board thinks that another "B" district is needed. Supervisor Bach stated that ROC will be approached to submit an amended application for R3 zoning. The Board then discussed a moratorium for B and I districts in order to review the Town Code and make appropriate changes.

8) AMC – window blinds:

Councilman Snyder stated that he had measured the windows in the Town office portion of the Aurora Municipal Center, as blinds are needed on the west and south sides due to intense sun and on the first floor north side for privacy. Mr. Snyder obtained a quote for \$4640.00 for the same blinds as are being used at the Senior Center and the Highway Department would install them. One bid was obtained based on standardization, as we already have blinds like this.