

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
July 11, 2022

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. 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:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Deveso	Highway Clerk
	Chris Musshafen	Aquatics/Recreation Director
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Adam Zaremski	Library Board member
	Rod Simeone	ZBA member
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Supervisor Bach opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence for all those affected by violence, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Center Street/Cazenovia Creek kayak/canoe launch proposal:

Mark Gaston, District Field Manager at Erie County Soil and Water, spoke to the Board about water access and a proposed kayak/canoe launch near the Center Street bridge at Cazenovia Creek. Mr. Gaston noted there are still some Erie County Highway issues to figure out, but the general plan is to have a ramp to be able to access Cazenovia Creek for kayaking and canoeing and a small parking area for 2 to 3 cars. Mr. Gaston stated he would help with permits and preliminary plans and noted there are funding opportunities.

Councilman Snyder asked if the parking lot and trail to the water would be made of stone. Mr. Gaston responded, yes.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the Town doesn't own the whole area. Most of the launch area would be on Erie County land as there is an Erie County right-of-way along Center Street and the Center Street bridge. Mr. Gunner stated he would cut the embankment and major rocks would be put in place to help prevent erosion. The 6 to 8 feet wide trail would be millings. Only a small portion of the launch would be on Town owned land. Mr. Gunner stated this is probably a \$50,000 job and that Mr. Gaston can probably get us \$25,000 in funding.

Supervisor Bach asked about ingress/egress to the parcel. Mr. Gunner responded there would need to be a curb cut and the guiderail needs to be moved.

Councilman McCann stated it would not impact wetlands and no trees would be removed. Mr. Gunner noted that there may need to be tree removal in the parking area.

Councilman Wochensky stated there is a need for a safe spot to launch kayaks and canoes, but the Board needs to hear the concerns of neighbors and townspeople.

Councilman Snyder wants to know how many people use Cazenovia Creek and how many put in at the Legion. He wants input from residents.

Mark Gaston stated it is adjacent to the flood plain and wetlands and he is looking into the impact in the right-of-way.

Vanessa Wazny, Lake View, NY, spoke on behalf of Town resident Steve DeBoer, and stated she is the administrator of the WNY Paddlers. Ms. Wazny spoke in favor of the kayak/canoe launch.

2) West Falls Advisory Committee:

The Board looked at the proposed by-laws of the West Falls Advisory Committee. Councilmen Granville and Wochensky stated they may have some suggested changes and proposed that the Board have any suggestions for the next Town Board meeting, make the changes and then vote at the 1st meeting in August to establish the committee.

3) Building Permit Fees:

Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy spoke about proposed increases for building permit application fees, permit fees and other miscellaneous fees. Several new fees are being suggested in addition to the fee increases: \$1,000 tower application fee; Type 1 SEQR fees depending on the acreage would range from \$1,000 to \$1,600; Unlisted SEQR fee is proposed to be \$150. Building permit fee increases range from \$10 to \$50 depending on the type of permit

Supervisor Bach asked what amount would be generated by these increases. Mrs. Cassidy responded she can't say for sure. Mr. Bach asked about fees for fire inspections. Mrs. Cassidy responded they could be a potential hardship for businesses. Supervisor Bach stated that a fee for a call-back or third time fire inspection is needed.

Councilman McCann stated he would like to review the list.

4) Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:

Matt Burke from UB spoke to the Board about potential locations and funding for EV charging stations. Councilman McCann, Highway Superintendent Gunner and Mr. Burke looked at four possible charging locations in the Town – highway garage, Community Pool Park, West Falls Dam site and Town Hall. Mr. Burke stated there are grant funding opportunities available where 80% of the project is funded by the grant with a 20% local match.

The locations were discussed. Mr. Gunner wondered if the West Falls site would get enough use and stated that the Town Hall site would need a pavement cut through the parking lot, and there are existing charging stations at the Senior Center. The consensus was that Community Pool Park and the highway garage would get the most use. Councilman Granville stated he will talk to the WFFD to see if a charging station at their location is feasible.

5) Comprehensive Plan resolution:

Councilman McCann read the Comprehensive Plan resolution that is before the Board for consideration at tonight's meeting. The resolution will be included in the grant application begin prepared by Wendel.

6) Videoconferencing:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the Town Attorney will need to draft a local law regarding the ability of the Town Board to meet via videoconferencing.

7) Dwelling Group recommendation from Planning Board:

As a result of reviewing a rezoning application from a Transit Road resident to allow a dwelling group (more than one dwelling unit/residence) on her property, the Planning Board moved to recommend that Dwelling Group Special Use Permits be added to Rural Residential and Residential 1 zoning districts. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated that the Planning Board is concerned with setting a precedent for rezoning for dwelling groups. The Board discussed setting up a committee of two Planning Board members, two Zoning Board members; two Town Board members, Town Clerk and Code Enforcement to discuss this issue.

8) Fireworks Permit:

Strawberry Banks Farm has applied for a permit to allow Skylighters of New York, LLC, to conduct a fireworks display on July 30, 2022 at 1181 Quaker Road. It was noted that a similar event was held at this location in 2019 without incident.