

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
August 22, 2022

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, August 22, 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:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Chris Musshafen	Recreation/Aquatics Director
	Donna Bodekor	Senior Center Director
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Elizabeth Deveso	Highway Secretary
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Supervisor Bach opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Climate Smart:

Matt Burke and Jason Kulaszewski from the UB Regional Institute spoke to the Board about the Clean Energy Communities Program (CECP). Local governments in New York State can use the CECP to implement clean energy actions, save energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment. The program provides tools, resources, and technical assistance and recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects.

Councilman Wochensky stated that steps going forward would be forming a committee or task force and naming a coordinator in order to gain points. Jason K stated there are grant funds available for energy related projects.

2) Temporary Use Permit JP Nicely West Falls Park – Cyclocross:

John Roden of WNY Cyclocross is requesting to hold their annual bicycle race at JP Nicely West Falls Park on October 16, 2022 from 7:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. This event has been held at the park in the past and Chris Musshafen noted that the group cleans up the trails in the park prior to the event and there have been no problems with the event.

3) Special Use Permit – Dwelling Group at 718 West Falls Road:

J. Gerard Green submitted an application to have a dwelling group at 718 West Falls Road. The property is zoned R3 along the frontage and A for the remainder of parcel. There are currently four dwelling units on the property – two single family residences and one two-family residence. Mr. Green would like to build a house for himself further back on the property. Supervisor Bach stated that the Board will consider referring this application to the Planning Board. Councilman McCann noted that emergency vehicle access is important.

4) Public Hearing for Local Law Intro – Amendment to RR zoning:

Councilman Snyder spoke about the proposed amendment to Chapter 116 that would add Dwelling Group to the RR (Rural Residential) zone. Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy stated this is in response to a request to rezone an RR property to A (Agriculture) to allow for an additional dwelling unit on the property for family use. NYS and Erie County are also looking at legislation regarding allowing additional dwelling units in residential zoned districts. A public hearing for the local law amending the chapter needs to be set.

5) Use of ARPA Funds - discussion:

Supervisor Bach stated that the West Falls Fire Company and the South Wales Fire Company have both approached the Town for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help them overcome the loss of funding due to having to cancel fundraisers during 2020 and 2021. The Board discussed if and how funds may be able to be provided, noting that both fire companies cover more than one town.

6) Senior Center Door Replacement bid spec proposal:

Fontanese Folts Aubrecht Ernst Architects have submitted a proposal to prepare the bid specs for the Senior Center door replacement project being funded by a CDBG grant. The cost is not to exceed \$7,000.00. Supervisor Bach noted that the fee can be paid with ARPA funds. The engineering/drawings are not part of the grant.

7) Grant Writing Proposal for NY Forward:

Previously the Town submitted a letter of intent to NY Forward and received an invitation to submit a grant application for revitalizing the Hamlet of West Falls. Alma Brown joined the meeting via Zoom and stated she is a grant writer with experience in writing and submitting such grants. Ms. Brown said that her fee would not exceed \$3,600.00. The Town will need a written proposal from Ms. Brown.

Martha Librock
Town Clerk