

TOWN OF AURORA  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION  
September 26, 2022

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, September 26, 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/Deputy Supervisor
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor (via Zoom)
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Donna Bodekor	Senior Center Director
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Deputy Supervisor Snyder opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Snyder stated that Supervisor Bach was attending the session via Zoom from Fort Stewart Florida and taking part in discussions but would not be voting on any of the motions.

1) Open Development Area application – 757 Center/Roland:

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated that this is an existing Open Development Area (ODA) that needs to meet today's ODA code. Mr. Roland wants to erect a Quonset hut type structure for storage. He already went before the Zoning Board for variances, and this does not need site plan approval. This will be sent to the Planning Board for review.

2) Rural Outreach Center (ROC) - amended site plan:

William Heidt, Fontanese Folts Aubrecht Ernst Architects, spoke on behalf of ROC about the amendments they are requesting to the original adopted/approved site plan. ROC is asking to revise the split rail fence along the southern border by installing it up to the western edge of the existing evergreen trees, so they won't need to be removed. The second item they are requesting is to replace the wood board privacy fence along the south property line with a chain-link fence to prevent the removal of existing trees and brush. The third revision being requested is to delete the requirement that up to 40 trees be planned for placement at the direction of the Town Board at the end of the project. The wood privacy fence was put in the original plan to help defer any noise from the proposed playground on the property. At this time, according to ROC officials, the playground is not happening.

Councilman McCann stated the chain-link fence has better functionality.

Sam Reidy, 6920 Olean, lives on the north side of ROC and stated this is the first he's hearing about the requested amendments. Mr. Reidy noted that he prefers a split rail fence instead of a chain-link fence along the ROC's north property line. He also believes that the 40 trees should remain as an option.

Kristel Dedrick, Olean Road, is the property owner to the south of ROC. Ms. Dedrick stated that she has no objection to the chain-link fence on south property line as long as a playground is not put in. She noted that ROC received a \$50K grant for a playground and asked what is happening with that. Ms. Dedrick would prefer a six-foot-high fence as opposed to a four-foot fence.

Councilman Granville asked if Mr. Reidy would be able to meet with ROC to see where the split rail fence would go on the north side since neighbors are hearing of this for the first time.

Councilman Wochensky stated he sees no benefit to a six-foot fence as it would be "prisoneseque".

Mike Sawicki, ROC board member, stated that the six-foot fence is more expensive, and their preference would be a four-foot-high chain-link fence.

3) Video Conferencing:

The Board discussed the amendment to NYS Public Officers law regarding video conferencing by municipal boards and committees. In addition to a local law allowing Board members to attend a meeting by videoconferencing, there needs to be a policy, also. Town Attorney Maloney will work on both.

4) Climate Smart Community resolution:

Councilman McCann stated he is okay with the draft that was in the meeting packet. Councilman Snyder stated he agrees with the concept but had some suggestions to changing some of the wording in the resolution. Councilman Wochensky stated he does not agree with changing wording. Mr. Wochensky noted that the Town should advertise that the Town is looking for people to be on the Climate Smart Task Force. Supervisor Bach suggested that Councilman Wochensky chair the project.

Martha Librock  
Town Clerk