

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 9, 2023

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, January 9, 2023, 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
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Rod Simeone	Zoning Board Member
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Timothy Stroth	Planning Board Member
	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. Mr. Bach stated that an additional item is being added to the work session agenda – Internet service on Knox Road.

1) Internet Service (broadband)– Knox Road:

Councilman Wochensky presented a PowerPoint regarding (lack of) Spectrum internet service on Knox Road in the Town of Aurora. Mr. Wochensky noted that Spectrum has performed several surveys of the area and the result, according to Spectrum, there is only one remaining area in the Town of Aurora without broadband coverage. The survey results are: \$86,000 would be required from a non-Spectrum source to connect down Knox Road; \$17,000 contribution from Spectrum; and an estimated \$45,000 in additional costs for non-standard installations (generally, houses more than 250 feet off the road).

Councilman Wochensky suggested that the residents involved should visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov and use the challenge location button before January 13, 2023, because the map shows that they have broadband/internet service, when in fact they do not. Mr. Wochensky stated that federal funding is coming to New York State and that the Town is not allowed to pay for residents internet installation or service.

Brian Caputi, Knox Road, stated he resents that Spectrum wants to charge for coming down Knox Road. Councilman Wochensky responded that right now there are not enough homes on the road to meet Spectrum service regulation for them to bring service to that area.

2) West Falls Depot – resolution of support re: National Historic Register:

Conor Schneider, new owner of the West Falls Depot previously requested that the Town Board adopt a resolution supporting the nomination of the West Falls Depot to the National Register of Historic Places. At that meeting Town Attorney Maloney stated she had questions and recommended tabling this matter.

Since that meeting Mr. Schneider presented documentation that explained what the designation would mean; the roles of state and local governments in the process; and a list of frequently asked questions from the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

3) GOW School SEQR and Site Plan:

The GOW School is proposing to demolish one of their school buildings at 2491 Emery Road and replace it with a new education building. The Planning Board reviewed the application at their December 7, 2022 meeting and recommended that the Town Board approve the site plan with several conditions – 1) several changes be made to the SEQR form as requested by GHD; and 2) a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be provided.

The applicant updated Part 1 of the SEQR form and will provide a SWPPP for the project.

4) West Falls Center for the Arts (WFCFA) – letter of support:

The WFCFA is submitting a grant application for funding for their goals to build outdoor performance space, a stage, outdoor artist space and to make improvements to its parking lot and signage. The WFCFA has requested a letter of support from the Town Supervisor.

5) Village of East Aurora – request to annex property:

Supervisor Bach stated he was approached by the Village to consider annexing a parcel of property in the Town on Bowen Road that is owned by the Village and abuts a parcel owned by the Village that is within the Village boundary. Mr. Bach noted that the Town needs to weigh the pros and cons and that we need more information from the Village as to what they propose to do with the property and why they want it annexed. Mr. Bach requested that the Town Attorney review this.

Martha Librock
Town Clerk