

TOWN OF AURORA  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION  
May 22, 2023

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, May 22, 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 (via Zoom)
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	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) Highway – Various truck purchase/surplus requests:

A) Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to surplus two International plow trucks and salt hoppers in order to use them as trade towards a new 2023 Western Star plow truck that Mr. Gunner received approval in 2022 to purchase:

- 2009 International truck VIN# ending in 114487, Town truck 324, inventory #2058 including Smith salt spreader, Viking-Cives plow wing and Viking-Cives 10' wing
- 2009 International truck VIN# ending in 114488, Town truck 328, inventory #2060 including Smith salt spreader, Everest main plow and Viking 10' wing

Fleet Maintenance Inc. presented an offer of a total of \$40,000.00 credit for these two used trucks to be used toward the purchase of the new truck .

B) Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to purchase a 2024 Kenworth dump truck with Henderson plow equipment. The cab and chassis will be purchased off a Sourcewell contract. The total cost of the truck, dump body and plow is \$260,951.00 and will be paid from the 2024 budget, contingent upon the budget being approved.

C) Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to advertise for bids for a 2022 or newer pickup truck for the Highway Department.

D) Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to declare a 2020 Dodge Ram pickup truck, VIN# ending in 273988 to be auctioned through Auctions International with the proceeds going toward the purchase of a new pickup truck.

2) Employee Policy – replace Section 5.04:

The Town's labor attorney is suggesting that Section 5.04 Drug-Free Policy from the adopted employee policy document be replaced in its entirety with a new Section 5.04 titled Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace. Councilman McCann suggested changing the word marijuana in the policy to cannabis, as it covers a broader range of products. (See the 5/22/2023 Town Board meeting minutes for the policy wording.)

3) Court Clerk – Request to hire/pay rates:

Town Justices Markello and DiFilippo are requesting to hire a new court clerk at a rate of \$20.50 per hour and to increase the rate of Court Clerk Elizabeth Wilber to \$21.00 per hour. Supervisor Bach stated that this is raising the bar with regard to salaries and will need to be addressed at budget time for other Town employees.

Councilman Granville stated that the person being hired is unqualified and that the Judges are irresponsible to leave this to the last minute as this is a special position. Supervisor Bach stated his definition of qualified is different from Mr. Granville's and that the person may be untrained but is not unqualified. Councilman McCann stated he has only heard good things about the candidate for the position.

4) Open Development Area (ODA) – Heiler Drive:

Bill and Mary Beth Putney submitted an ODA application for their property at 81 Heiler Drive. The Putney's want to construct a single-family residence on the property. In 2014 the Town Board approved a multiple lot ODA for 71 Heiler and two other lots, including 81 Heiler – this was prior to the ODA code being changed. On April 20, 2023 the Zoning Board of Appeals granted the following variances for 81 Heiler Drive: front yard setback, lot area (lot size), lot width for the frontage and right of way (ingress/egress) width. This ODA application will be sent to the Planning Board for review and recommendation(s).

5) Recreation – New program request:

Recreation/Aquatics Director Chris Musshafen is requesting approval for a new recreation program. He would like to offer a two-week diving camp that would be instructed by Jasper Adams, a WNY diving coach and would be held at the East Aurora High School pool. Mr. Musshafen is requesting that the instructor receive 95% of the net revenue. Supervisor Bach stated that 85% of the net revenue is the norm for programs instructors who are not Town employees.

6) Hubbard Cabin - Condemnation:

At the May 8, 2022 work session, CEO Cassidy stated that the structure known as Hubbard Cabin in Majors Park is in extreme disrepair and needs to come down. On May 9, 2023 CEO Cassidy issued a notice of condemnation for the Hubbard Cabin. Councilman Wochensky asked if there should be a public hearing. CEO Cassidy stated the building is a public safety issue and needs to come down.

Martha Librock  
Town Clerk