

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
December 11, 2023

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, December 11, 2023, 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
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Rich Miga	Asst. Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Doug Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA 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.

1) KFSP – Temporary Use Permit: 2024 Solar Eclipse parking:

Jennifer Brazill spoke to the Board about the 2024 Solar Eclipse event that is being held at the stable area of Knox Farm State Park by the Friends of Knox. Ms. Brazill stated that they are looking to use the Town managed part of the park for parking for their event. She expects that 2,000 to 3,000 people will attend but noted that the remainder of Knox Park will be open to the public on that day.

Councilman McCann stated that there may be a major influx of people to the area for the eclipse and that a meeting of Town, Village, EAPD, park officials/personnel would be a good idea.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that he believes that approximately 500 cars could be parked on the “rain-proof”/gravel areas – 300 at the east end and 200 at the west end. Mr. Gunner suggested that Knox Road be closed in order to park more cars along the shoulder of the road.

The Board agreed that this discussion could be tabled until Councilman McCann sets up a meeting with the involved parties.

2) Olean Rezoning – Local Law Intro:

Town Attorney Maloney prepared a local law for the rezoning of a parcel on Olean Road (SBL# 176.00-4-25.1) from A (agriculture) and RR (rural residential) to C2 (commercial) that was presented to the Board. A public hearing will be set for a January 2024 meeting.

3) Site Plan for Ground Mounted Solar Panels – 1204 Blakeley Road:

At their December 6, 2023 meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Board approve the Special Use Permit for the installation of a ground mounted Soar Electric PV System at 1204 Blakeley Road. Supervisor Bach stated that the original site plan that was submitted showed the power going from the panels to an inverter in the barn on the property. John Hughes, the property owner, told the Town that the inverter should be at the house and that CIR should be sending a revised site plan showing this.

4) 2024 Water Rate Increases:

The Erie County Water Authority notified the Town that some of their ECWA rates will be increasing as of January 1, 2024. The commodity volume rates which affect the costs associated with the master meters and water usage for private water line customers in the Town are being increased along with the rate per 1000 gallons. These increases will be reflected in the 2024 rates that the Town charges to the private water line customers. Supervisor Bach stated that these costs need to be passed on to the water customers.

5) Highway – Pay rate increase request:

Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting a pay rate of \$20.00 per hour for the following part time employees effective January 1, 2024:

David Thomason
Mark Gemerek
Paul Kielich

Mr. Gunner is also requesting that Paul Keilich's title be changed to laborer Regular Part Time and he stated he spoke to the Board about this during the 2024 budget preparation.

6) Sexual Harassment Policy update:

Valerie Venturo, Secretary to the Supervisor, is requesting that the Board approve replacing the Town's existing Sexual Harassment Policy (Section 5.02 of the Town's employee policy book) with an updated policy from NYS.

7) NYSDOT – Permit for West Falls Hamlet signs:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that a new, larger welcome sign is being made for the Hamlet of West Falls and that the existing sign will be moved to a new location. Both signs will be in the NY State right of way, therefore the Town is required to sign an NYSDOT permit to locate the signs in the State right of way. One sign will be placed along the southbound lane of Route 240/Davis Road at mile marker 1151 (just north of Behm Road) and the other will be placed along the northbound lane of Route 240/Davis Road at mile marker 1144 (across from 2075 Davis Road).

Martha Librock
Town Clerk