

JOINT MEETING OF THE
AURORA TOWN BOARD AND EAST AURORA VILLAGE BOARD

August 2, 2010

The following members of the Aurora Town Board and East Aurora Village Board met on Monday, August 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall meeting room, 571 Main Street, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a joint meeting followed by a Village Board work session.

Present: (Town)	Jolene M. Jeffe Jeffrey T. Harris Susan Friess James F. Collins James J. Bach	Supervisor Councilman Councilwoman Councilman Councilman
Present: (Village)	Alan Kasprzak Ernest Sheer Libby Weberg Kevin Biggs Patrick Shea Peter Mercurio	Mayor Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett Robert Pierce Kimberly Reichert Bryan Smith Alvin Fontanese Carol Griffis Deborah Carr-Hoagland William Kramer	Town Attorney Village Attorney Village Administrator Town Engineer Library Board member Library Board member Library Board President Building Inspector

Mayor Kasprzak opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Village and Town Boards met to discuss and/or review the following:

- 1) Public Hearing called by the Village Board seeking community input on a joint library/town/village facility proposed for Main Street at the site of the present library. Al Fontanese gave a brief presentation on the proposed SMSI plan for a joint facility on Main Street. He described the proposed building, the realignment of Whaley Avenue, and the library's current and future needs.

Supervisor Jeffe stated that this is an informational hearing called by the Village Board. She noted that she, Councilwoman Friess and Councilman Collins would make a power-point presentation this evening. Councilwoman Friess described the SMSI process beginning with obtaining the grant, along with the contract terms and work plan components. Supervisor Jeffe continued with the present State of the Town, offering information of the fund balances, debt service, future financial challenges and a fiscal summary. Councilman Collins discussed the future needs of the Town and Village, along with decreased state and federal funding. He noted that the Town Board needs to finish considering the information before them and that both Boards need to identify and implement specific cost savings that would be created by the move to a joint facility. Councilman Collins stated that without a commitment from the Village, the Town does not believe it can find enough savings on it's own to justify the Main Street facility.

At this time Mayor Kasprzak opened the floor to the public:

- Tony Rosatti, Center Street, stated that growth and revenue are needed from vacant properties and the Village and Town should be working with the Chamber of Commerce to attract more business.
- Mark Warren, Center Street, stated it was a good presentation, but not balanced since it was all fiscally focused.

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- Mr. Newcomb, Polo Grounds, stated his opinion is that we can't afford this and we should be happy with what we have.
- Margaret Potter, Park Place, believes that municipal offices and the library on Main Street are vital.
- Mike Croft, Fillmore Ave., stated that the cost of doing nothing was not weighed enough and no single decision will kill Main Street.
- Annette Troidl, Mill Road, stated somebody has to be fiscally responsible, "if we can't afford it, we just can't afford it". We spend money we don't have.
- Victoria Montagu, Olean Road, stated that there shouldn't be a referendum since the residents can't afford to pay for a joint building on Main Street.
- Dan Castle, Sycamore Street, stated this is not just a dollars and cents decision and that there is a community factor involved. Moving the offices to Glead would take the facility off the tax rolls.
- Mary Flickinger, Porterville Road, noted that the library issue has been hanging over our heads for a long time and that efforts should be made to help the library.
- Bob Troidl, Mill Road, stated the Town should sell Glead first, then decide on the SMSI project.
- Earl Jann, Grover Road, stated, based on assessments throughout the Town, some properties could be facing at least a \$500 tax increase if the joint facility were approved. He also stated that the brown field property at Main and Whaley should be looked at for a parking lot for the library.
- Art Giacalone, Knox Road, asked if the Town really wants to be on Main Street; why haven't they moved to Glead yet; and what is the realistic value of Glead?
- Bob Major, stated that the big issue is taxes and he has a serious problem with a referendum for the joint facility. He noted that information has to get to the residents in an informed manner.
- Tim Sievenpiper, Mill Road, stated he supports the Glead Avenue facility and that it has tremendous potential. He believes there is a great gulf between the Town and Village and this concerns him.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Kasprzak closed the hearing.

Councilwoman Friess stated that the Town needs to be fiscally responsible and prudent when considering this matter. If we want this, how do we get there?

Supervisor Jeffe asked in what ways can the Town and Village work together to change the financial picture so it makes sense to put the joint facility on Main Street up for referendum.

Libby Weberg stated that the SMSI committee has identified 2 to 2.5 positions that would be eliminated in order to save money. She noted that there are economic benefits to a Main Street facility. (Ms. Weberg did not say what they were.)

Village Administrator Kim Reichert stated she worked to develop the grant and presence on Main Street is important.

Mayor Kasprzak stated that a level of trust between the Town and Village is a major hurdle that needs to be addressed.

Councilwoman Friess stated the Main Street option needs to marry with fiscal responsibility and the Town can not do it alone. New revenue streams are needed.

Councilman Harris noted that two years ago when 300 Glead was purchased by the Town, the economy was entirely different. He stated that the figures could very well be more than the predicted \$0.95/\$1000 AV if the project were to be approved.

Kevin Biggs stated he is all for discussing a shared cost for everyone and as a Village Trustee he is dead set against moving the Village off Main Street. He stated the public should have a say.

Councilwoman Friess noted that there could be a referendum when everything has been discussed.

Supervisor Jeffe stated that the Town and Village need to spell out the opportunities for savings.

Mayor Kasprzak asked if this will be put to referendum or not.

Councilman Collins stated it could go to referendum when we're done investigating and have all the answers we need. What/who are the 2 to 2.5 positions/people that would be eliminated to produce savings? What happens if the interest rate on borrowing goes up significantly by the time the project is bonded?

Councilwoman Friess said she believes the Village feels the SMSI committee has done their job, but the Town needs to find offsetting savings and time to digest the information. She stated some of the things we need to know are: what is the Village's debt service and what is in the "big picture" for the Village.

Supervisor Jeffe stated that the library board members have mentioned funding sources – what are they?

Councilman Harris stated that maybe a new library and not a joint facility is what's needed.

Kim Reichert suggested a capital planning committee to get some financial planning facts and figures.

Libby Weberg asked how much money was left in the grant. The response was \$15,000 - \$20,000.

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- 2) Local Government Efficiency Grant – DPW/Highway Consolidation Study.
Supervisor Jeffe noted that the approved work plan and contract from the State have been received. The Center for Government Research (CGR) has submitted a proposal to conduct the study which would start in September 2010 and end the first part of 2011.

The joint meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk