

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
February 19, 2025

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 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.

Present:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James Granville	Councilman
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
Others Present:	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chairman
	Rod Simeone	Zoning Board member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman

Supervisor Snyder opened the session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Church Street and East Fillmore bridge/culvert reconstruction bids:

Highway Superintendent Gunner gave a recap of the bid results for the reconstruction of the Church Street and East Fillmore bridge/culvert project. The bid package came in at around \$414,000 over budget. Mr. Gunner stated the overage was caused by delays, which, due to inflation, drove up costs. He noted that there has been a 300% increase in the cost of pre-fab concrete products in the past few years. Oakgrove is the apparent low bidder for the project. Mr. Gunner stated that the Town needs to let the NYSDOT know if we plan on going ahead with the project. The consensus of the Board was that the Town will move forward with the project.

2) Street Sweeper:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that he is requesting that the Board rescind the action taken in July 2024 to purchase a 2024 Johnstone/Bucher street sweeper for \$268,900.00 due to the motor specified not being available. Mr. Gunner is asking that the Board approve the purchase of a 2025 Johnstone/Bucher street sweeper off of Sourcewell for \$288,900.00. The new model includes a catch basin (DI) hose which the original did not. Mr. Gunner stated that the Town should be receiving more CHIPS funding and that the 2025 model is available this Friday. The Town's old street sweeper lasted 23 years

3) Mill Road Overlook field rehab:

The Board discussed the proposal to have Ron Engasser plow and rehab the field at the Mill Road Overlook. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the field will be rehabbed in quarter sections starting on the right hand side, with one-quarter of the field being done each year. The first section would be done this Spring and planted with Timothy grass and the remainder would be brush-hogged this year. Supervisor Snyder stated he will ask the Town Attorney to prepare a 5-year agreement. Josh Balisteri of the WNY Land Conservancy sent an email to Mr. Gunner stating that "the farmer is approved to begin restoring the quality of hay within the designated hay field at Mill Road Scenic overlook."

4) Dog Kennel – NYS requirements:

A NYS law was passed that would require dog kennels to meet certain criteria for boarding dogs. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that there has been push-back from some municipalities on this law. Mr. Gunner noted that this can be tabled for now and any dogs the Town boards are well taken care of.

5) 1342 Quaker rezoning Public Hearing:

Due to an incorrect date being published for a Public Hearing on the Local Law to rezone 1342 Quaker Road, the hearing notice needs to be republished with a correct date. The Board will set a new hearing date at their next meeting.

6) Live Stream Coordinator Stipend:

Due to the audio/visual in the AMC Board/Meeting room now being direct feed to YouTube, the need for a live stream coordinator no longer exists and the stipend will be discontinued.

7) Zoning Moratorium:

Planning Board Chairman Doug Crow told the Board that there have been a lot of rezoning requests in the past year and a half. Since we do not know what the new Comprehensive Plan will look like, a moratorium on rezoning would be appropriate. Mr. Crow suggested an eight to nine month moratorium.

8) Water Rate Increase:

The Erie County Water Authority has raised the rates it charges. This will affect the rates that are billed to the Town for the private water line master meters. The Town needs to pass the increase onto the water customers in these areas. The Town serves as a pass-through for water service to these customers and should not be absorbing any of the ECWA costs.

9) Planning Board Alternate member:

Supervisor Snyder, Councilman McCann and Planning Board Chairman Doug Crow interviewed three people for the vacant Planning Board Alternate position. The consensus is that Ben Garvey would be the appropriate appointee. This will be on the 2/24/2025 meeting agenda.

10) Comprehensive Plan:

Councilman Wrazen stated he sent an email to all regarding the displays that will be used at the Comprehensive Plan Open House and he is looking for input.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk