

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 22, 2024

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	James F. Granville	Councilman
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Rich Miga	Asst. Code Enforcement Officer
	Meaghan Tent	Recreation Supervisor
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

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

1) Friends of the Aurora Town Public Library – donation:

Paula Klocek, Aurora Library Director, thanked the Board for the storage shed that the Town had constructed at the Main Street library. Ms. Klocek stated that the Friends of the Library would like to donate \$721.92 for shelving supplies/materials for the shed.

2) Temporary & Permanent Easement follow-up documents:

On December 21, 2023 the Town Board approved the easement proposals from the NYS Department of Transportation for 1966 Davis Road and Veterans/Dam Site Park on Davis Road. The DOT requested a temporary easement on the park site and a permanent easement from the Town on the West Falls Library/Community Center site due to the DOT's Davis Road/Rte 240 reconstruction project. They are asking for a resolution ratifying agreement for advanced payment for the permanent easement, along with signed payment claim forms for both easements.

3) BridgeNY Grant Applications:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated he submitted three grant applications to the BridgeNY program. The applications are for Shearer Avenue and Oakwood Avenue in the Village of East Aurora, and for Cornwall Road in the Town outside of the Village. The total being requested is \$5.2 million. Mr. Gunner stated that if the funds are approved he anticipates that the Shearer project may have property acquisition issues, the Oakwood project issues are unknown as the current culvert pipe is under-sized, and he does not anticipate issues with the Cornwall project.

4) Dog Kennel Boarding Fees:

Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting that the Board raise the daily kennel boarding fee from \$20 to \$40 due to the cost of boarding dogs that are picked up by Dog Control.

5) Payroll Software:

Town Bookkeeper Kathleen Moffat is requesting that the Board approve the purchase of new payroll software. The current software will no longer be supported after March 31, 2025. Because the conversion to a new system is a lengthy process, new software needs to be purchased soon. Kathleen is recommending Edmunds Gov Tech.

Quotes were obtained from:

- UKG one-time fee \$9,000 annual fee \$9,072
- Edmunds Gov Tech one-time fee \$8,750 annual fee \$4,900
- Tyler Technologies does not provide stand-alone payroll software

6) CodeRed:

Councilman McCann spoke about the CodeRed program and how it is being utilized. Mr. McCann would like to include Zoning Board of Appeals notifications as another use and suggested using a radius in addition to abutting properties for notification purposes. Councilman McCann will meet with the Town Clerk to discuss this.

7) BnB Site Plan Applications:

Assistant CEO Rich Miga stated that his department searched the internet for Bed-and-Breakfast establishments in the Town and the three that are on tonight's agenda were identified. Town Code provides that a Bed-and-Breakfast is subject to site plan review regulations as provided for in Chapter 95 of the Code.

8) Short-term Rentals:

In a memo to the Town Board, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy is requesting the Town Board to reengage the Code Committee to discuss the issue of short-term rentals (example: Air BnB and VRBO) where the owner is not on site or the rental is in another structure on the property and to re-evaluate the existing Bed-and-Breakfast code.

9) Majors Park Kiosk proposal:

The Open Space Committee proposed plans to construct a new kiosk in Majors Park at the Hubbard Road trailhead. The cost of materials from Sixt Lumber is \$649.75. Students at the Ormsby Educational Center will be constructing the kiosk at no cost to the Town.

10) ARPA Funds:

In a memo to the Town Board, Bookkeeper Kathleen Moffat is requesting the Board approve a 2023 budget amendment to account for 2023 ARPA expenditures. Mrs. Moffat also noted the ARPA fund balance as of 12/31/2023 is \$81,964.12 and that the funds need to be obligated by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026.

11) West Falls Sculpture/Sign proposal:

Previously, a sculpture/sign was discussed by the Board for some location in West Falls. Ricardo Rivera of Arbortects/Buffalo Treehouse proposed a design and noted in an email to Highway Superintendent Gunner that he will provide the labor but would expect the materials to cost around \$2,800.

Supervisor Snyder asked where the sculpture/sign is proposed to go as it is quite large in size and asked if it could be scaled down. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the Depot site is not a good idea and a more appropriate site might be the Dam Site Park/Veterans Park. Councilman Wochensky suggested putting this on pause at least until the Town hears about the NY Forward grant results.

12) Temporary Use Permit – Knox Farm State Park: Eclipse:

The Friends of Knox Farm had previously presented an application for a Temporary Use Permit to use the Town managed side of the park for parking for their April 8, 2024 Eclipse event. The application was tabled and is now back before the Board. Kathy York, Executive Director of The Friends of Knox, spoke to the Board about their proposed event that will take place on the State managed part of the park. Ms. York noted that they have already begun to sell tickets for their event. They want to use the Town area for parking and anticipate a maximum of 1500 cars. Their event will take place regardless of the weather.

Councilman McCann noted that the parking will be weather dependent and that Highway Superintendent Gunner is good on the parking plan.

Martha Librock
Town Clerk

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