

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 22, 2025

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Wednesday, January 22, 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
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James Granville	Councilman
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chairman
	Tim Stroth	Planning Board member
	Nancy Smith	Village resident

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

1) Olean Road Golf Center project:

Harrison Kelly, property owner, and Greg Schneider, project architect, spoke to the Board about the downsizing of the project. The downsizing involves the elimination of the outside mini golf course due to the wetlands and the extra engineering involved; scaled down building; and elimination of the kitchen. The project planned now has six golf simulators and mini golf in the building, along with a snack area. A septic area and detention pond have been added to the project. Mr. Schneider mentioned the possibility of having an area for food trucks.

The swale on the property would remain as it is. Development would occur on the property that is north of the northern most wetland. There is no Phase II to this project. Mr. Kelly stated that this is not a BYOB, there would be beverage services, but not a sit-down bar. Councilman Granville asked about the parking area. Mr. Kelly stated originally it was to be water permeable, but found out that it is not a good idea in areas where there is a lot of snow. He might look at water-permeable asphalt and wants the project to be ecologically friendly. The trees that will be removed are mostly dead, standing ash trees.

Councilman Wochensky noted that the neighbors to the south were most concerned, but this is now far from that area.

Mr. Schneider stated that at this time they wanted the Board to see the direction the project was heading in.

2) GoNetSpeed – tree trimming and removal:

Supervisor Snyder stated he found out that Stan, the arborist for O’Connell Electric, takes photos of the trees that need to be trimmed. Colors of the branches that need to go and those that stay are added to the photos. Mr. Snyder stated that the 10’/10’/15’ regulation for tree trimming comes from NYSEG and he was told this is based on OSHA minimum vegetation clearance regulations.

Nancy Smith, Sycamore Street, stated she has examples from other municipalities and not all are the 10/10/15 specs. Councilman Wochensky stated the Town needs to look into this and try to control things in the future and at this time we have no legal basis to challenge the 10/10/15 specs at this time. Attorney Maloney noted that OSHA has three types of employees and the space varies on the employee qualifications and the voltage of the wires.

Councilman Wochensky stated we want to conserve as many trees as possible.

3) Planning Board Vacancy:

There are currently two alternate member vacancies on the Planning Board. The Board is currently receiving resumes for the positions. After discussion, it was decided that Supervisor Snyder and Councilman McCann will interview the candidates.

4) Court Room Renovation update:

Supervisor Snyder stated that the proposed renovation of the court room and court offices are mostly for safety reasons. The preliminary sketch is done and the cost of the renovation is predicted to be around \$300,000.00. The Town Board needs to decide how it would be paid for. The Board discussed the possibility of having the court move to the Aurora Municipal building and having Recreation move to 571 Main Street where the courts are currently located.

5) Narcan Boxes:

Councilman McCann stated that Erie County is sending three Narcan distribution boxes to the Town. The Board will have to decide where the boxes will be placed.

6) AMC Board Room Audio/Visual:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the audio/visual in the AMC Board/Meeting room is now a direct to YouTube feed that does not allow people to Zoom. The default is YouTube recording. The Zoom language on the website and any agenda notices needs to be amended.

7) .gov domain:

Councilman Wochensky stated that they met with Town department heads to explain the transition from .com to .gov. Governor Hochul has signed a law that states all municipalities in New York State must use .gov for their website domain. Mr. Wochensky noted that the Town will keep townofaurora.com so no one can get hold of it. .com and .gov emails will be received and the replies will note .gov.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk