

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
August 12, 2019

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Southside Municipal Center Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Present: | Jeffrey T. Harris | Councilman |
| | Jolene M. Jeffe | Councilwoman |
| | Susan A. Friess | Councilwoman |
| | Charles D. Snyder | Councilman |
| | James J. Bach | Supervisor |
| Others Present: | Ronald Bennett | Town Attorney |
| | David Gunner | Highway Superintendent |
| | William Kramer | Code Enforcement Officer |
| | William Wheeler | Engineer/GHD |
| | Robert Goller | Town Historian |
| | Tony Rosati | ZBA Member |

Supervisor Bach led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Historian's Office – proposal re: hours/cost:

Aurora Town Historian Robert L. Goller spoke to the Board about the future of the Historian's office. Mr. Goller noted that the demand for information and records has increased and he is looking for direction from the Board as to addressing the increased workload. In a letter to Supervisor Bach, Mr. Goller outlined three options for the Historian's office: 1) 10 hours per week which is the current schedule which includes three hours of public office hours; 2) 15 hours per week which would result in six hours when the office would be open to the public; and 3) 20 hour per week which would include six hours of daytime public access per week and two hours of evening public access twice per month.

The Board discussed who would perform payroll duties and suggested asking if the Village would consider processing the Town's payroll. Councilwoman Jeffe stated the Town needs a Human Resources person. Supervisor Bach stated this would be done in tiers.

2) Polo Grounds Cluster Subdivision – site plan proposal:

Frank Chinnici and Attorney John Garas presented a site plan for the Polo Grounds Cluster Subdivision and a request to split a double unit into two single units and to add an additional single unit on Cheval Road. They are asking for a total of four units on Cheval, rather than the three units (one single and one double) approved on the subdivision plat. Mr. Garas contends that they are entitled to 47 units based on the condominium offering. Bill Kramer, Town Code Enforcement Officer, stated they are approved for 46 units now due to the density calculations. Mr. Garas stated that everyone there wants 47 units to spread the cost. Mr. Chinnici stated he wants three more single units on Cheval in addition to the one already built. He noted he would do two if he had to.

3) North Grove culvert box:

On August 8, 2019, a bid opening was held at the Aurora Town Clerk's office for a concrete culvert box for the North Grove Street bridge in the Village of East Aurora. Kistner Concrete was the only bid received. The bid amount is \$85,772.03 and includes a box culvert, outlet head, inlet headwall, cut-off walls, rigging, onsite inspection and supervision, and crane coordination (crane to be paid for separately by the Town). Highway Superintendent Gunner stated the Town would need to hire a crane and operator to install the box culvert.

4) North Grove Street bridge – cost estimates:

Highway Superintendent Gunner presented the Board with a cost estimate for the removal and replacement of the North Grove Street bridge in the Village of East Aurora. The total is \$215,520.00 (\$35,000 previously funded from A fund balance plus \$180,520.00 needed

to complete the project). Mr. Gunner will need to provide an amended 284 Agreement for the DA fund. The Board discussed how to fund these expenses and possibly issue a bond that would include bridges in the Village and highway equipment.

5) Request to purchase Crafcro Crack Sealing machine:

Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to purchase a used 2006 Crafcro Supershot 125 Crack Sealing machine from the Town of Perinton in Monroe County. Mr. Gunner stated he felt \$10,000 was a fair offer, but Perinton officials came back with a cost of \$9,500 due to a possible minor problem with the machine. Mr. Gunner stated having this machine would allow the highway department to utilize it when weather permits rather than renting a crack seal machine, having the weather turn bad and not being able to do the work.

6) Public Hearing for Local Law to rezone property on Olean Road:

Todd Lehmann has requested to have property at SBL#188.01-1-13.3 Olean Road rezoned from A and RR to B2 for a jewelry making business. A public hearing will need to be held on the Local Law Intro for the rezoning. The Board discussed having the Town Clerk send the notice of public hearing to all properties abutting this parcel.

7) Knox Farm State Park Polo Field/ Use by Buffalo Polo Club:

Phil Van der Burgt, President of the Buffalo Polo Club, has requested use of the Knox Farm State Park polo field for polo events and would like to be the only polo club allowed to use the field for polo events for the next five years. Councilwoman Jeffe stated she is not comfortable with a five-year commitment to one establishment and suggested an annual agreement with a renewal clause. Supervisor Bach suggested an exit clause be added to the agreement. Attorney Bennett stated he needs a copy of their corporate papers. Highway Superintendent stated that use of the field for polo events needs to be limited to three events per year. Supervisor Bach stated he would like to give them one specific day per year and the other days they would need to apply for separately. Attorney Bennett will make revisions to the proposed agreement for the Board to review.

8) Zombie Properties Initiative MOU:

Erie County Clerk Michael Kearns has launched a ZOMBIES (Zero Tolerance, Open lines of communication, Municipal participation, Bank accountability, Investment in neighborhoods, Engage and educate communities, and Solutions) Initiative to help smaller towns in Erie County use tools afforded by new state laws that hold banks accountable when they foreclose on homes and then fail to complete the foreclosure process.

The Board reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the WNY Law Center, Inc. and the Town whereby the Law Center will provide services to municipalities that include outreach events, community presentations, collection of complaints and general advice regarding zombie properties. The program is funded through a grant from the Erie County Clerk's Office. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Kramer said there is currently one zombie property in the Town.

9) Independent Contractor Agreement/Contract:

The Board is considering using an agreement/contract for its independent contractors such as those persons hired by the Recreation Department as golf, chess, and lacrosse instructors. It would also be used for any contractors hired to perform work for the town.