

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
November 12, 2019

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the 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
	William Kramer	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Tony Rosati	ZBA member

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

1) Water Bill – T. Cotton:

Tom Cotton, Castle Hill Road, stated he received his first water bill since becoming an Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) customer and questioned why there was a maintenance (infrastructure) charge on the bill even though the water lines in his area are fairly new. Supervisor Bach explained that every ECWA customer throughout the county pays this charge to cover the cost of current and future repairs and upgrades being made to the water lines now under the control of the ECWA.

Mr. Cotton also discussed the lane mile reimbursement that the Town receives from Erie County for plowing/salting County roads. He believes that areas receiving more snow should receive extra compensation. Supervisor Bach stated the County wants a collective agreement with all the towns in Erie County. Highway Superintendent Gunner noted that the County does not want to negotiate with all twenty-five towns in the county.

2) Rezoning Request – 4479 Transit Road:

Jeff and Amie Simmons and Chris Revett appeared before the Board to discuss their application to rezone their property from RR (rural residential) to A (agriculture) to be able to convert part of an accessory building on their property into living area (in-law apartment).

The Simmons' purchased the property 1 ½ years ago. The 34' by 47' accessory building/garage already existed. Mrs. Simmons stated they want to convert half of the garage for her parents to live in. There would be separate septic and separate water. The building is already served with electric and gas. Mr. Simmons noted that the exterior would not change.

This property is zoned RR which does not allow dwelling groups (two separate residences on the same parcel). Two-family residences (two units in same building) are allowed.

Councilwoman Jeffe stated she is not in favor of rezoning, since it would be spot zoning.

Code Enforcement Officer Kramer suggested an area variance to accomplish what they want to do. Attorney Bennett believes it would be a use variance. The Board will look into this further to determine if a variance would be appropriate.

3) Town water bill overpayments:

Effective July 1, 2019, all water customers in the Town of Aurora became direct service customers to the Erie County Water Authority. Several of the water customers overpaid their bills when they were Town customers and should be reimbursed. A reimbursement check will be sent to the former Town customers who overpaid along with a letter explaining why the check is being sent and stating the check needs to be cashed within 60 days.

4) Gypsy Lane – No Parking:

During events held at Knox Farm State Park, persons attending the events are parking along the side of Gypsy Lane (a county road) which is causing potentially dangerous situations due to the lack of road shoulders and the narrow width of the road. The Town wants to have “no parking” signs installed along Gypsy Lane. The Town Code needs to be revised to include this parking restriction. After revising the Town Code, the Town needs to get a sign permit from Erie County and agree to install and maintain the signs. Attorney Bennett will prepare a local law to amend Chapter 109 Vehicles and Traffic to include a section on no parking along certain areas of Gypsy Lane.

5) Kistner Concrete – Box Culvert amended quote:

At their August 12, 2019 meeting, the Town Board awarded the culvert box bid to the low responsible bidder, Kistner Concrete Products, Inc., for \$85,772.03. Since the bid award, it was determined that the box culvert originally specified would not accommodate the sewer line and that additional holes were needed, along with some other changes. The total cost of the changes is \$1,015.97.

6) 2019 DA Fund – Budget amendment:

Kathleen Moffat is requesting Board approval for budget transfers in the DA (highway townwide) fund due to over spending in two of the budget lines.

7) Temporary Use Permit – Knox Farm State Park:

Supervisor Bach stated that the organizer of the Monsignor Martin High School All Catholic cross-country event applied to NYS Parks for a permit to hold the race on November 3, 2019 at KFSP, but was not aware that they also need a temporary use permit from the Town to use the Town managed portion of the park. Supervisor Bach met with the organizer, the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief to go over the event procedure. The event was allowed to go on as they had appropriate insurance and paid the appropriate fees. This is on tonight’s meeting agenda for retroactive approval.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk