

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
June 14, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 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. Public attendance was allowed at this meeting.

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Councilwoman
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Absent/excused:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Donna Bodekor	Senior Center Director
	Kathleen Moffat	Asst. to Supervisor/Bookkeeper
	Chris Musshafen	Recreation/Aquatics Director
	Joseph Wetzel	Engineer/GHD
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police

Supervisor Bach opened the work session at 6:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and noted the regular meeting would begin immediately after the work session.

1) Abuse & Molestation Insurance – J. Daughton (Vanner Insurance):

John Daughton of Vanner Insurance spoke to the Board about Abuse and Molestation insurance coverage with Selective. Selective is requiring additional information regarding screening procedures, policies and background checks for volunteers and employees that work with children and vulnerable adults. The Town is required to have these in place in order to renew coverage in March 2022. For 2021, the Town, at minimum, needs to provide a plan to have policies and procedures in place for Abuse Prevention, Online Social Networking and Workplace Bullying. Mr. Daughton stated that the three policies will be incorporated in a handbook.

Kathleen Moffat stated she is concerned with the cost of the background checks and that those costs need to be considered in future budgets. Only those 18 years and older need background checks if working with children.

Councilwoman Friess asked if Selective reviews the policies. Mr. Daughton responded, yes.

Councilwoman Jeffe stated that backgrounds checks could cost as much as \$200 per person and that the Town needs to shop around this service. Mrs. Jeffe said she would help Kathleen Moffat go through the policy samples.

2) Borderland Temporary Use Permit:

Jennifer Brazill spoke to the Board about her request for a Temporary Use Permit to use the Town managed portion of Knox State Park for parking for the 2021 Borderland music event being held September 18 & 19. Ms. Brazill gave the Board a Traffic and Parking Management Plan for the event.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked if there is a map. Ms. Brazill stated she would provide an updated map.

Councilwoman Friess asked if there would be “no parking” signs on Gypsy Lane in addition to those on Knox and Buffalo Roads. Police Chief Krieger responded, yes.

Supervisor Bach asked about the town employees on site that is noted in the plan. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated this was done in the past and that Borderland has

donated funds to the Town to cover the cost. Ms. Brazill stated Borderland will reimburse the Town.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked what happens in the event of rain.

Highway Superintendent Gunner responded there is back-up parking on the State side that can be used. Ms. Brazill stated that if there are thunder and lightning storms, the event would be cancelled.

Highway Superintendent Gunner noted that Uber and other ride-share programs would be using the Seneca Street (Buffalo Road) parking lot. Councilwoman Jeffe asked if there is documented permission from the State Park to use the lot. Ms. Brazill stated she could get that document.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked what the capacity is for the event. Ms. Brazill responded that she expects the same as last time – about 6,000 attendees on Saturday and 5,000 to 6,000 on Sunday. She also noted that a lot of people ride their bikes or walk to the event.

Supervisor Bach stated that Ms. Brazill still needs to provide proof of insurance naming the Town as additional insured.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that Ms. Brazill needs to check with the Aurora Arsenal Soccer organization to make sure they do not have anything planned for these two days.

Several changes need to be made to the Traffic Plan, including directions to the event, as Chief Krieger noted that cars can only enter from Willardshire to Knox in order to access the parking lots.

Councilwoman Jeffe suggested that Ms. Brazill make the needed changes and get the plan back to the Board for review. Supervisor Bach stated that this will be tabled and put on the next meeting agenda once the revised plan is received.

3) Aurora Town Library – LED lights:

Councilman Snyder stated he has been working with Library Director Paula Klocek to have the fluorescent lights at the Aurora Town Library converted to LED. The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Program Equipment and Facility Improvement Initiative will provide the LED bulbs and funding for the labor to install them. As owner of the building, the Town will pay for the labor and be reimbursed up to 75% of the cost. The Town needs to adopt a resolution stating they will pay for the labor.

4) 535 Jewett Holmwood Road ODA – withdrawal:

At their May 24, 2021 meeting, the Town Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Development Application to split the parcel at 535 Jewett Holmwood Road into two lots, one having the required frontage and one having less than the required frontage. On June 10, 2021, the property owners wrote in an email to the Town Clerk that they had decided not to go forward with the ODA for several reasons. The Board will consider rescinding the approval.

5) Vision/Dental Insurance:

The Vision and Dental Insurance coverage plan offered through Guardian for eligible Town employees begins its renewal on July 1, 2021. The Dental plan rates will remain the same: Single \$57.08/month and Family \$154.86/month. Vision plan rates will decrease: Single will decrease from \$10.45 to \$9.93/month and Family will decrease from \$22.52 to \$21.30/month.

6) Water Rate Increase:

Supervisor Bach explained that the Town still manages a Public Water Supply consisting of water lines on private roads/private property. The Erie County Water Authority does not

provide direct service to these water customers because they are on private roads. An internal audit of the Town's water rates was done. The Board is proposing to set all rates at \$4.51 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

7) Beechwood/North Willow street signage:

Supervisor Bach stated that residents of the Beechwood and North Willow area have contacted him about the confusion as to where Beechwood ends and North Willow begins. Deliveries are being made to wrong residences. Mr. Bach noted that the least complicated way to take care of this is to add more directional street signs. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated the signs are ready to be installed, as are the new 35mph speed limit signs on Sweet Road between Grover and Mill. Police Chief Krieger said he would have a speed monitor placed in that area of Sweet Road until drivers become used to the new speed limit.

8) Community Pool Park – improvements:

Councilman Snyder stated that Community Pool Park is being used more and more and he proposes that improvements such as new restrooms be added to the park. Councilwoman Friess asked if any of the funding coming from the Federal and State government be used toward this. A plan will be developed for the park.

Highway Superintendent Gunner spoke about Warren Drive Park and the need for additional storage for the Town and the Lacrosse group. Mr. Gunner stated that Pickleball is very popular at this location and talked about improving the Pickleball court at JP Nicely West Falls Park. Councilman Snyder suggested putting numbers together for the 2022 budget discussions.

Highway Superintendent Gunner noted that the boardwalk at Major Park has been fixed and that the blue color in the pond at Knox Park is from an additive used to treat algae.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk