

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
July 12, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, July 12, 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. The meeting was also streamed via Zoom and YouTube:

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Councilwoman
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Tony Rosati	Village Trustee/Town ZBA Member
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Member
	John Hughes	Open Space Committee

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) Eagle Scout Project: Majors Park repairs/restoration – Gregory Wilber

Boy Scout Gregory Wilber, a member of Scout Troop 599, spoke to the Board about his proposed Eagle Scout project that would involve the following at Majors Park:

- Repair and clean the park benches
- Clean the boardwalk
- Trim vegetation along and around the boardwalk
- Erect two bluebird houses

Gregory noted that he would have approximately six additional Scouts helping him with the project and would like to do this in late July or early August of this year. The Board was very receptive to the proposed project.

2) Polling Place Agreements:

The Erie County Board of Elections uses space at the Aurora Senior Center, Aurora Municipal Center and Town Highway building for Primary and General Elections. The Board of Elections sent Polling Location Lease Agreements for the June 2021 Primary and November 2021 General Election to the Town for approval. The Board of Elections pays \$100 for each election day at each location.

3) Knox Box – AMC:

As a result of a recent HVAC unit malfunctioning at the Aurora Municipal Center and ingress to the building delayed, it was suggested that a Knox box or some other type of lock box be installed in order that the police and/or fire department be able to access the building in case of an emergency. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated she will be meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss what he would like to see installed.

4) Rural Outreach Center (ROC) – Special Use Permit:

Supervisor Bach stated that the Special Use Permit application from the ROC will be referred to the Planning Board and he or Councilman Snyder and Councilwoman Friess will meet to go over the plan from the ROC.

Councilman Wochensky stated he would like to see a list that does not make them come back before the Board for each activity.

Supervisor Bach stated that knowing the time for the different uses and events is important.

Councilwoman Friess noted that she wants to see information on event types, times, possible noise, etc.

5) Willardshire Road ODA – E. Morrow:

Supervisor Bach stated that the proposal most accepted by the Town is for Mr. Morrow to merge lots 1 & 2, keep lot 3 the same size it is now and that size and front yard setback variances for lot 3 would be considered by the Board.

Mr. Morrow stated he was advised to ask for a vote on not combining lots 1 & 2, and stated he was not part of the conversation regarding the Town's proposal.

Supervisor Bach stated that Mr. Morrow said he was willing to give up lot 1 due to it being non-conforming. Mr. Morrow stated he would like to keep lot 1 and recognizes that it is not buildable.

Councilwoman Friess stated she is looking at the three parcels as one big picture and would give leeway to lot 3 for area variances, but would not vote separately on combining or not combining lots 1 & 2. Councilwoman Jeffe noted she agreed with Councilwoman Friess.

The Town Clerk noted that resolutions need to be prepared for SEQR, variances and the ODA.

Councilwoman Jeffe stated that this ODA approval would be for a buildable lot, but in the future anyone who is going to build there would need to come back before this Board and get approval for the location of the house, turn-around area and any other improvements proposed for lot 3.

6) Cannabis legislation:

Supervisor Bach asked the Board how they felt about sending out a survey to residents asking their opinions on cannabis legislation for the Town. Mr. Bach noted that the Town's Cannabis Committee is leaning toward opting out to see what happens in other localities as the Town can always opt in in the future and he is waiting to hear what the Village is doing.

Councilman Wochensky asked why the Town would opt out other than to wait and see. Mr. Wochensky stated we need to consider what is best for our community and need to consider opinions of residents.

Councilwoman Friess noted that a survey is only as good as the number of people who return it. Mrs. Friess believes it is too early for a survey and that we need more answers to questions.

Councilman Wochensky suggested coming up with some proposals. Mr. Wochensky asked if we could get facts from other states that have legalized marijuana.

Police Chief Krieger responded that information from California and Colorado show that the number of fatal accidents is up as are disorderly conducts and petty crimes.

Village Trustee Rosati stated that the Village has not had a detailed discussion on this issue, but he reached out to the Chamber of Commerce to see how local business owners feel.

Councilwoman Friess stated we need more information before making any decisions.

7) Smoking Rules – Town Parks/Property:

The Board began a discussion on smoking in Town parks and on Town property.

Supervisor Bach stated that the Town Attorney will draft a local law regarding no or restricted smoking in Town parks and on Town property.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk