

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
August 9, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, August 9, 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:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Councilwoman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Wilber	Secretary to Supervisor
	Robert Goller	Historian

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) Erie County Office of Agriculture Available Funding – Dan Castle

Dan Castle, Deputy Commissioner, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, spoke to the Board. Mr. Castle oversees the Office of Agriculture which is involved with Ag Districts, farmland protection plans, farmland solar development, updating the agriculture portion of comprehensive plans, and updating zoning. Mr. Castle stated that there is approximately \$75K in their budget for funding projects related to those items stated above. Applications will be sent out this Friday (8/13).

Supervisor Bach asked if matching funds were required.

Mr. Castle responded that they want the municipalities to provide some funding.

Councilman Wochensky asked if the funds were specifically for agricultural use.

Mr. Castle responded they are for any update to promote farmland protection, for example, making sure codes are up to date regarding use of farmland for solar projects.

2) Electric Car Charging Station:

Elizabeth Wilber presented information on the Charge Point electric car charging stations located in the Senior Center parking lot. The Town has offered these charging stations to for the past four years at no cost to the user. In the beginning, the Town received funding and a 3-year software subscription for the stations. Currently the Town pays \$.06 per kWh plus an annual ICloud software fee of \$329 per unit to run the stations. A modem upgrade plus installation is required by 12/31/2021 in order to continue use. After lengthy research and data collected, Mrs. Wilber is recommending the Town begin charging \$0.15 per kWh energy fee while charging and begin charging fee of \$2.00 per hour that would go into effect 15 minutes after the charging stops. She also noted that the rates/fees can be adjusted as we go along. The after-charge fee would prevent users from parking at the site when others could be using it. Also, Charge Point charges a 10% calculating fee which was taken into consideration when calculating the entire cost.

The software Cloud Plan renewal is offered in 1, 3 or 5 year terms. One year costs \$658.00. Three years costs \$1,778.00 (\$592.67 per year) and five years costs \$2,638.00 (\$527.60 per year). The cost to upgrade to 4G is \$740.00.

Councilwoman Friess asked if we know the cost of usage today. Mrs. Wilber responded that \$0.06 is the guesstimate cost. We do not have an exact cost because the charging stations are metered through the senior center and do not have their own meter.

Councilman Wochensky asked who else has these stations. Mrs. Wilber responded that the Town of Cheektowaga has charging stations for town employee use only.

Councilman Snyder asked how long it takes for a car to charge. The response was 2 to 3 hours as we are a level two station.

Evan Roden, Grover Road, stated he drove an electric car here tonight and is currently using the charging station. He noted that most municipalities do not charge for use and the most expensive unit in Buffalo is \$0.10. Mr. Roden stated it would be a disincentive if he was charged for using the charging station. He also stated that Erie County parks have charging stations.

Councilwoman Friess and Councilman Snyder stated we need to figure out a fee that is a break-even for the Town.

Councilman Wochensky asked how many kWh it takes to charge a car.

Evan Roden responded that according to the app it is 9 kWh per week of use.

Elizabeth Wilber noted that the Town has four years of use to recoup.

Councilman Wochensky stated this is a subsidy we should pay to encourage use of electric cars.

Councilman Snyder asked if the 4G upgrade is a one-time cost. The response was yes.

3) East Aurora HS Cross Country Event – Walt McLaughlin:

East Aurora Varsity Cross Country coach Walt McLaughlin submitted an application for a temporary use permit to hold the 2021 Knox Cross Country Invitational on September 11, 2021 (set up 9/10/2021) and use the soccer, polo and equestrian area of Knox Park for a portion of the event course and the parking area for spectator parking. Knox Road between Gypsy and Village line will be closed to through traffic to allow buses to park along the road. Mr. McLaughlin submitted a traffic and parking plan, along with an insurance certificate naming the Town of Aurora as additional insured.

4) Compost Agreement with Orchard Park:

Two years ago the Town entered into an agreement with the Town of Orchard Park that allowed the Town to bring brush, leaves, tree trimmings, tree trunks, etc., to the compost site at 6909 Milestrip Road, Orchard Park. The proposed agreement is for three years (2022-2024), with Aurora paying Orchard Park \$12,500 in year one; \$13,000 in year two; and \$13,500 in year three. The agreement allows Aurora residents to purchase mulch from the site under the same terms offered to Orchard Park residents.

5) SWPPP for ROC:

Rural Outreach Center (ROC) was required to submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for their proposed project at 730 Olean Road. The Town requested a proposal from GHD Consulting Services, Inc. to review the plan. GHD will review the plan for a lump sum fee of \$2,000 and the ROC will reimburse the Town for this cost.

6) Proposed Local Law re: Smoking:

Supervisor Bach stated that this will be tabled in order to make changes to the proposed law before setting a public hearing.

7) Speed Limit Signs – Mill Road near Village line:

Village resident Carl Lamendola recently spoke to Supervisor Bach about the location of speed limit signs on Mill Road. Mr. Lamendola noted that his property is on the west side of Mill and is in the Village of East Aurora and that a 45mph speed limit sign is at that location. On the east side of Mill there is a yellow 30mph advisory sign. Mr. Lamendola would like to have the 45mph sign moved further south on Mill, possibly past the Aurora Mills driveway to discourage drivers from speeding up along this stretch of road where there are driveways from Kelly Drive apartments and Aurora Mills subdivision, along with several private driveways.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated he will ask the County if the 45mph sign can be moved.

8) Aurora Community Garden:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the Community Garden group has done a lot of clean up at the site. Supervisor Bach stated that he and Highway Superintendent Gunner visited the garden about a month ago. Mr. Gunner noted that a porta potty has been put at Major Park for the garden group to use.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk