

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
August 23, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, August 23, 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
	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Greg Keyser	GHD
	Tony Rosati	ZBA member/Village Trustee

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) East Aurora Baseball & Softball (EABS) – Amy Sullivan

Amy Sullivan, President of EABS, and Jim Kittner spoke to the Board about the 2021 baseball season and some projects they would like to see accomplished. During the 2021 season there were 250+ participants, about 60% of pre-Covid numbers. No teams were put on pause and they had no issues what-so-ever with Covid. Mrs. Sullivan noted that there are field improvements currently underway – two of the Lilley diamonds are being skinned (grass removed) and drainage issues are being taken care of so those fields will be able to be used by both baseball and softball.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the backstops at these fields are an issue as they are not permanent and are very tiny. Also, there is no fencing in front of the players benches which makes it a bit dangerous. EABS would like to see the backstops improved and fencing or cages put in to protect the players benches.

Mrs. Sullivan noted that they brought a \$2,500 donation for diamond dirt and in the near future they will have \$2,000 to be used toward upgrading the backstops. She stated that the temporary backstops can be repurposed and used as bull-pens. Mrs. Sullivan noted that more diamond dirt was needed this year.

Jim Kittner stated that one of the diamonds never had real diamond dirt and the second skinned diamond will need less diamond dirt.

They also presented an estimate from Capital Fence Company for new fencing, which can be installed in-house at a considerable savings.

Mrs. Sullivan stated EABS would like to have “fall-ball” from the end of August until late October. They would rent a porta-potty for the fall-ball games.

Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Kittner asked if the fee that the Town charges other organizations to use the baseball diamonds could be raised to help cover costs. They noted that EABS buys and provides the bases and pitching mounds, but other groups get to use them.

Councilman Wochensky suggested that EABS get a list of what other communities charge for diamond rental.

2) East Branch Cazenovia Creek log jam:

Supervisor Bach stated that there is a huge log jam in the East Branch of Cazenovia Creek from behind 1645 Olean north to the Blakeley Road bridge. The jam recently caused

major flooding and the loss of some livestock. Erie County Soil and Water District Field Manager Mark Gaston believes that it is a significant safety issue and if not removed before winter, could cause major ice jamming and significant flooding. It is thought that even if the jam breaks on its own, it would only jam further down the creek. Mr. Gaston and others determined that the most cost effective way to remove the debris is to bring in a grinder, excavators and bulldozers to clear the trees from the creek bed. It is estimated that the cost of the project would be \$50,000. Erie County Soil and Water is requesting that the Town share equally in the cost of the project, not to exceed \$25,000 from the Town and \$25,000 from Erie County Soil & Water. The Town of Aurora is being asked to provide manpower and equipment for the Olean Road lane closure. Mr. Gaston is able to procure the necessary permits and easements. The contractor, Union Concrete, is on the Erie County bid list.

Supervisor Bach stated that the Board would need to approve expending funds not to exceed \$25,000 toward the clean out of this log jam and that funds are available in the Contingency budget line. Mr. Bach went on to say that everything to date has been verbal and there is nothing in writing yet about the cost or the plan.

Supervisor Bach and Councilman Snyder both visited the site and determined the jam to be between 500 and 1,000 feet long.

3) Recycle Bins – request to purchase:

Quotes for 500 14-gallon recycling bins were received from:

Orbis	\$9.10 per bin (shipping included in the cost)	\$4,550.00
Cascade	\$10.05 per bin (plus \$475.00 shipping)	\$5,500.00
Recycle Away	\$13.95 per bin (plus 416.03 shipping)	\$7,391.03

The price of recycling bins has almost doubled since 2019 due to factors created by the Covid pandemic, such as an increase in the cost of materials. Residents currently pay the Town \$7.00 for a new bin if they do not bring in a broken bin for replacement. Also, new build residences receive one bin free of charge. The cost to residents for the new bins will need to be raised to at least \$10.00.

4) Smoking Restrictions – Proposed Local Law:

The Board discussed what they would like to see in a local law for smoking restrictions on Town property. Supervisor Bach stated that we may need to provide a designated smoking area at the Highway garage. Councilwomen Jeffe and Friess said there should be no smoking in Town vehicles. Councilman Wochensky stated he would be hesitant not to provide an area at the Highway barns. Mr. Wochensky would not want smoking in Town vehicles. Councilwoman Friess stated she would like to wait for Highway Superintendent Gunner to come back from vacation and get his opinion. Councilwoman Jeffe stated it is a pretty common practice not to allow smoking in Town vehicles.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk