

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
November 22, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, November 22, 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:	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Councilwoman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Deputy Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Donna Bodekor	Senior Center Director
	Greg Keyser	GHD
	Shane Krieger	Police Chief

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) Aktion Club Baseball Project:

Tim Stroth and Paul Synor, representing the East Aurora Kiwanis Foundation Baseball Committee spoke to the Board about their desire to improve two ball diamonds at Community Pool Park by replacing the dirt baseball diamonds with artificial, grass-like turf to improve safety for players and lessen the number of game cancellations. The fields are used by both Aktion Club (a service club for adults with disabilities) and East Aurora Baseball and Softball, Inc.

Mr. Stroth stated that Kiwanis has formed a foundation to be able to raise funds to be used for the improvements. Mr. Synor noted that the current dirt fields are difficult for disabled players to use.

Supervisor Bach stated that he is in total support of the project, but there are a lot of legal questions that need to be answered since it is Town owned property.

Deputy Attorney Bennett stated that the Board can commit to the proposal with an agreement. Councilman Wochensky suggested a Memorandum of Understanding that could be used by Kiwanis as an official document. Mr. Wochensky stated he will work on that with Attorney Kurtzhaltz and Supervisor Bach.

2) Abuse Prevention Policy:

At their November 8, 2021 work session the Board discussed several Town policies including the Abuse Prevention Policy (APP). At that time Councilwoman Jeffe had some unanswered questions and the APP was tabled. The policy is back before the Board. Supervisor Bach stated that Councilwoman Jeffe is now okay with the policy. No one else had any comments or questions on the policy.

3) Health, Dental and Vision Insurance:

In a memo to the Town Board, Kathleen Moffat, Assistant to the Supervisor, stated that she and Elizabeth Wilber had met with the Town's new health insurance broker, Hartloff Benefits, and several revisions to the medical insurance and new vision and dental offerings were suggested. Five health insurance plans will be offered – Silver POS 7100, Silver POS 8100, Platinum PPO Plus, Platinum POS Plus, and Gold Classic.

A Health Savings Account (HSA) through Hartloff Benefits is also being suggested. The HSA would be funded by employee deductions. The Town would serve as the payroll administrator for payroll deductions. Employees would be able to use the funds for medical related costs.

Two different dental plans would be offered – Delta Dental and BCBS. The Town would no longer use Guardian.

VSP is being recommended for vision coverage. The Town would no longer use Guardian.

4) Microsoft Office upgrade:

Kathleen Moffat stated that the Town is currently using Microsoft Office 10. Other municipalities have reported errors with this program, noting that it is no longer being supported. Ms. Moffat noted that this will be a subscription now and the cost will be \$168.00 for the remainder of 2021. Councilman Wochensky asked if the Town's laptops were included in this. Ms. Moffat responded yes.

5) Part Time Assistant Code Enforcement Officer:

Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy is requesting to hire a second Part Time CEO. James Kittner, 7 Victoria Heights, East Aurora, is a candidate for the position. Mr. Kittner is currently employed by the Town Highway Department. If approved, Mr. Kittner's start date will be 11/29/2021, at an hourly rate of \$20.60.

6) Senior Center Safety Improvements:

Erie County has received funds from the US Government and the Town expressed a desire to be able to use some of these funds toward safety improvements at the Aurora Senior Center. The improvements would include MERV-13 air filters, programmable thermostats, touchless faucets and touchless lavatories. The County has delivered an agreement for \$27,601 for the Town toward the projects.

7) Copier Lease:

The current lease on four copiers at the Aurora Municipal Center ends in December 2021. Proposals were received from Copier Fax Business Technologies – Konica Minolta (Sourcewell contract), Eagle Systems – Sharp (Sourcewell contract) and United Business Systems – Canon. The recommendation is to continue with Sharp copiers and Eagle Systems.

8) Open Space Committee:

Jennifer Brazill, in a letter to Supervisor Bach, expressed interest in becoming a member of the Open Space Committee.

9) Library Board:

Richard Wiesen will be resigning from the Aurora Library Board at the end of this year. Adam Zaremski has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Library Board.

10) Holiday Decorations:

Councilman Wochensky asked if there were going to be any holiday decorations on the Aurora Municipal Center.

11) Hamlin Park Agreement:

At the November 8, 2021 meeting, the Board voted to authorize the Supervisor to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Village regarding use and maintenance of Hamlin Park. Councilman Wochensky stated he thinks the utility payments the Town makes for the park should be included in the agreement. Supervisor Bach stated that the Town Board already approved the agreement and forwarded it to the Village for their approval.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk