

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
December 13, 2021

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, December 13, 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:	Joel Kurtzhalts	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Tim Stroth	Planning Board Member
	Greg Keyser	GHD

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:

Supervisor Bach stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the East Aurora Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. (EAKF) is before the Board this evening. Mr. Bach stated that in addition to this MOU, the agreement between the Town and East Aurora Baseball and Softball, Inc. (EABS) needs to be finalized. Other issues that need to be addressed are original and future naming rights of the fields.

Tim Stroth, representing EAKF, stated that the MOU is as general as possible so that EAKF can begin fund raising for making one or two of the baseball diamonds handicapped accessible.

Amy Sullivan, President of EABS, noted there have been no scheduling conflicts in the past, but if Aktion Club and others plan to use the fields more, it might require a closer look.

Councilman Wochensky suggested maybe having an on-line schedule.

Councilman Snyder asked if maintenance of the fields had been discussed. Mr. Stroth responded that he has had conversation with Highway Superintendent Gunner, but this still needs to be looked into further.

Supervisor Bach stated that the Town is still working on a plan to update Community Pool Park.

Amy Sullivan stated that the park is due for an update and noted that EABS does not have anything to do with the fundraising efforts of EAKF. Mrs. Sullivan did note that there might be some logistical issues with the new field(s) such as mound distance, portable mounds, and increased demand.

2) Praesidium – Background check agreement:

At their November 22, 2021, meeting, the Board voted to approve using Praesidium for background screening services for Town employees at a rate of \$16 per person per screening. The Town needs to enter into an agreement with Praesidium for this service.

3) Business & Industrial Zoning – Moratorium extension local law:

Earlier this year the Town Board adopted a Local Law setting a six-month moratorium on certain development in Business and Industrial zones in the Town. The first of two three-month moratorium extensions was enacted and since the updated code is still in development, the second three-month extension is proposed.

4) NYSDOT – resolutions and agreement for Routes 400 and 16 reconstruction (lighting):

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) reconstruction of the Route 400 and Route 16 intersection is set to begin in 2022. The NYSDOT will be constructing a round-about at that location and new streetlighting will be installed. Since the location is in the Town of Aurora, two resolutions are being asked for from the NYSDOT. First is a resolution granting the State the authority to install the new lighting system and the second is a resolution and agreement whereby the Town will maintain, repair, and energize the lighting system at the round-about.

5) Special Use Permit Application – 612 Buffalo Road:

Ben Bell has submitted an application for a special use permit to open a restaurant and bar at 612 Buffalo Road. The location is the site of the former American Grill restaurant and bar. Mr. Bell is also requesting a waiver of the 30-day notice period for applying for a liquor license for that location. He noted that he also has a restaurant/bar in Orchard Park near the football stadium.

6) Special Use Permit Application – 1887 Davis Road:

Jyl and Ricardo Rivera have submitted an application for a special use permit for a short-term rental unit (ex: AirBnB) at 1887 Davis Road. The property currently has five long-term rental units, and they want to convert one of them to short-term rental. The property abuts the property where they reside at 1895 Davis Road.

7) Special Use Permit Application – 1895 Davis Road:

Jyl and Ricardo Rivera have submitted an application for a special use permit for a short-term rental unit (ex: AirBnB) at 1895 Davis Road. The property currently has a two-family residence and a garage apartment. They reside in one of the units in the two-family structure and are looking to convert the long-term garage apartment rental into a short-term rental unit.

8) Letters of Support – Rural Transit and ErieNet:

Suni Stachura, Executive Director of Rural Transit Service, Inc., is applying for a grant from Erie County for the van service and has requested a letter of support from the Town as the van service is used by Town of Aurora residents.

Ben Swanekamp, Erie County Deputy Budget Director, has requested a letter of support from the Town for the ErieNet Open Access Fiber Optic Network that is being proposed to foster the development of broadband services throughout Erie County.