

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
November 27, 2023

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, November 27, 2023, 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 streamed via Zoom and YouTube.

Present:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Chris Musshafen	Aquatics/Recreation Director
	Rich Miga	Asst. Code Enforcement Officer
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Doug Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Supervisor Bach opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) NYSDOT – Route 240/Davis Road project:

Brian Dankert, NYSDOT Project Manager, and Nurul Akib and Huo Dong Lin from the NYSDOT attended the work session via Zoom. Mr. Dankert reviewed the Davis Road (Route 240) reconstruction project that will go from the Ellicott Road/Davis Road intersection in the Town of Aurora to the Town of Colden in the area of the Boston Colden Road/State Road (Route 240) intersection. Full reconstruction will take place in the Hamlet of West Falls and will include drainage upgrades, curbs, sidewalks and new pavement. Mr. Dankert stated that the project is in final design stage and he is expecting a Spring 2024 letting (bid opening) with a Fall 2025 completion.

Councilman Granville asked if a controlled flashing light in front of the West Falls fire hall was a possibility, as well as an additional crosswalk in that area. Mr. Dankert responded that the municipality would need to submit those requests to Brian Kirby, the regional traffic engineer for the NYSDOT.

2) KFSP – Temporary Use Permit: Soccer Tournament:

Tony Manetta, representing the Lancaster Depew Soccer Club (LDSC), has submitted an application for a Temporary Use Permit for a soccer tournament on the Town managed portion of Knox Farm State Park on July 26-July 28, 2024. The LDSC was issued a temporary use permit from the Town for a soccer tournament at the park in 2023.

Councilman Snyder asked if porta potties would be on site. Mr. Manetta, via Zoom, responded, yes, they will provide porta potties. Peter Sorgi, President of the Aurora Arsenal Soccer Club, via Zoom, stated that the Arsenal Club is in full support of this tournament and requested that the Board approve the LDSC's application.

3) KFSP – Temporary Use Permit: 2024 Solar Eclipse parking:

Kathleen York, representing the Friends of Knox Park, has submitted an application for a Temporary Use Permit to use the Town managed portion of Knox Farm State Park for parking for the April 8, 2024 total eclipse event. The application notes that they expect upwards of 2000 people to attend the event and that people will be crossing Knox Road to get from the parking area to the park. The organizers anticipate 300 to 500 cars. The Friends will be holding an eclipse “watch party” at the stable area of the park. This is a ticketed event. According to the application, ticket holders will be emailed clear parking and traffic information prior to the event.

4) Highway – Request to Purchase:

- A) 2024 Leaf Vacuum: Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to purchase an ODB X-Treme Vac (leaf vacuum) from Stephenson Equipment in the amount of \$125,590.82. Mr. Gunner stated that this is not funded in the 2024 Budget, but he noted that the Town will be receiving funds from a recycling grant. Mr. Gunner stated that he can find the funds and may have to use fund balance if required and that money will also be made from the sale of old equipment.
- B) 2025 Street Sweeper: Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to purchase a Johnston/Bucher Vacuum Street Sweeper from Cyncon Equipment, Inc., for \$278,900.00. Mr. Gunner stated that the current sweeper is from 2002. He wants approval in order to get on the manufacturers list to be able to get the equipment in 2025.

5) Association of Towns of NY – 2024 Conference:

Councilman McCann is requesting to attend the Association of Towns of NY 2024 Conference in New York City from February 17 – February 21, 2024. (The conference begins 2/18.) The cost will include hotel (approx. \$1232.00); registration (\$150.00); travel reimbursement and meal reimbursement. Supervisor Bach noted that the 2024 Budget only has \$2,000.00 in the Council travel line, therefore expenses should not exceed \$2,000.00.

6) Olean Road Rezoning:

Supervisor Bach stated that Harrison Kelly's attorney advised the Town Attorney that Mr. Kelly intends to request a reduction in the width of the buffer area and changes to the restrictive covenant proposed by the Town.

Mr. Kelly stated that the draft restrictive covenant is too restrictive. He noted that there are gas wells on the property that are owned by Weil Resources. Mr. Kelly believes that four acres seem excessive for a buffer. The Board reminded Mr. Kelly that the size of the buffer was his idea.

Councilman Wochensky stated that the Town needs to know Mr. Kelly's long-term plan for the property. The Town Board's first decision would be for the rezoning and the second would be for boundary restrictions. Mr. Kelly stated his investment hinged on the Board's zoning decision and that he has a three-phase plan for the 10-acre portion of the property, but nothing planned at this time for the 4-acre portion.

Councilman Wochensky noted that special use permits can be amended and easements can be removed. Mr. Wochensky stated that if the entire parcel is not rezoned to C2, then a residence could be built on the remaining 4 acres. The options are to rezone the entire parcel to C2 or rezone 10 of the 14 acres to C2 and leave the remaining 4 acres as RR/A. Councilman Granville stated that rezoning the entire parcel would eliminate the buffer zone. Attorney Maloney noted that a Special Use Permit would be used to control the buffer zone. Councilman McCann agreed that a buffer zone could be incorporated in a Special Use Permit. Councilman Snyder stated he would like the Board to request that the Town Attorney prepare a local law to rezone the entire parcel to C2.

7) Highway – NYS OGS Minibid results for pickup truck:

The Highway Department received approval at the last meeting to go out for bids for a 2024 Ford F250 XL pickup truck through the New York State OGS minibid program. Six bids were received ranging from the low bid of \$48,510.12 to a high bid of \$50,523.79.

8) Aurora Municipal Center (AMC) Sign:

Quotes for an exterior free-standing sign were requested from several sign companies. Visual Impact Signs responded to the request. Turn of the Century responded with a design fee and a sign cost range. Abbott Sign and Banner did not respond.