

TOWN OF AURORA  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

January 18, 2011

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session.

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Supervisor
	Jeffrey T. Harris	Councilman
	Susan Friess	Councilwoman
	James F. Collins	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Councilman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	Bryan Smith	Town Engineer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Peggy Cooke	Recreation Director
	Nancy Smith	Open Space Committee

Supervisor Jeffe opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Eric MacIver, the son of John MacIver and Linda MacIver, former Village employees.

The Board met to discuss the following:

- Youth Cycling Event  
John Roden, a member of the US Cycling Federation and Aurora resident, is requesting to conduct a youth bicycle race at JP Nicely West Falls Park on a Saturday, July 16, 2011 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Proceeds from the race will go to WNY Wellness (501C3). Mr. Roden will provide the Board with a certificate of insurance and sample waiver. This will be placed on the 1/24/11 meeting agenda.
- Explore & More Touch-A-Truck Event  
Representatives from Explore & More Children's Museum are requesting to use the parking lots and additional outdoor space at 300 Gleed Ave., to hold their second Touch-A-Truck event, on Sunday, May 15, 2011. The event was held last year with no reported problems. This will be placed on the 1/24/11 meeting agenda.
- On-line Registration for Recreation Programs  
Peggy Cooke, Recreation Director, is requesting to purchase the management software from MyRec.com to enhance the existing website to allow on-line registration with credit cards and health insurance flex benefits. The Town's internet service would need to be upgraded. Quotes for the on-line registration service were received from three companies. Councilman Bach asked if there would be savings/efficiency if this were implemented. Mrs. Cooke responded that they would be able to cut back on seasonal staff. She also noted that having a separate bank account for this would make balancing easier. Tony Rosati, CATV committee member, asked about the security offered with the system and if the email was encrypted, noting that email storage could be an issue. Town Attorney Ronald Bennett will review Article 2 Section 5 of General Municipal Law which addresses payment of fees with credit cards via the internet.
- Knox Farm State Park Cooperative Operation and Maintenance Agreement  
Supervisor Jeffe stated that the Town is looking at entering an agreement with New York State through the Commissioner of Parks whereby the Town would plow Knox Farm State Park, namely the main entrance driveway off of Seneca Street, the main parking area and the exit driveway back onto Seneca Street. Jeffe stated that this agreement is between the State and the Town and it's possible that the Town could enter into an agreement with the Village of East Aurora to help with the plowing.

5. Mill Road Property Acquisition Plan

The Friends of Mill Road (a volunteer committee) has been organized to conduct fundraising to allow the Town to purchase a 60-acre parcel on Mill Road for Open Space purposes. Nancy Smith, Open Space Committee, stated that the acquisition plan is contingent on the WNY Land Conservancy accepting the proposal. The Town Attorney stated the purchase contracts were in acceptable form. Councilman Bach noted his concern regarding Mr. and Mrs. Closs retaining rights to the gas well on the property and any potential for hydrofracking. The Town Attorney will review the lease between the Closses and the gas company.

Bill Patterson, Grover Road, asked why the Town needed to be involved in this. Councilwoman Friess noted that a survey of Town residents showed that many want open space, but a referendum held several years ago showed that they don't want their taxes increased to pay for it. By purchasing the land for Open Space in this manner, the committee would raise the funds through private donations, the Town would be lead agency on applying for a grant from New York State Parks and town taxes would not have to be raised to acquire the land.

6. Proposed Town Code Changes

The Town Board is looking into changing several sections of the Town Code – Open Development Area and Subdivisions. This will be tabled until the next work session in order to get more input from the Planning Board.

7. Hydrofracking

Councilman Bach stated that there will be an informational meeting on Hydrofracking on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at the Town Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue. He noted that the notice would be sent to surrounding municipalities and anyone interested can attend.

8. 300 Gleed - Needs Assessment/Financial Analysis

Supervisor Jeffe stated the Town Board needs to make a decision with regard to relocating Town offices. Three options were addressed:

- Find a location for a new building
- Find a building to purchase and renovate
- Renovate and move into the Gleed building

Councilwoman Friess stated that option one goes on the assumption that there is property available. Supervisor Jeffe stated option two assumes a suitable building can be found.

Supervisor Jeffe stated that after an in-depth review of the financial situation, the refinancing of the initial purchase is recommended by the Town's accountant and Municipal Services. An amended bond resolution would be adopted for the refinancing, subject to permissive referendum.

Councilman Harris stated that we own a building that has great amenities – including the auditorium, proximity to Community Pool Park, sports fields – and we should move there.

Supervisor Jeffe noted that staying at the South Grove location is not an option since the lease with the Wendt Foundation is up in 2013 and it is a very dysfunctional building. The Supervisor stated she looked at many locations, but can not find a feasible option.

Councilman Bach stated the Town has exhausted its search and the offices can not continue in the Main Street/South Grove building as it is very ineffective space for conducting Town business.