

TOWN OF AURORA  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

May 18, 2010

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at 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
	Patrick Blizniak	Building Inspector
	Peggy Cooke	Recreation Director
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Richard Glover	Planning Board Member
	Ronald Krowka	Chief of Police

Supervisor Jeffe opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Town Boards met to discuss the following:

- 1) Handicapped Accessible Playground at Hamlin Park - The Aktion Club and Kiwanis Club are in the process of raising funds for a handicapped accessible playground at Hamlin Park. The plans are before the Village of East Aurora Board for their approval since Hamlin is a Village owned park. Peggy Cooke, Recreation Director, is coordinating the project and is requesting help from the Town Highway Department in supplying and delivering millings to the site. Highway Superintendent David Gunner stated that the millings are stockpiled at the highway garage. John Voss, Kiwanian, noted that the idea for the playground came from Aktion Club member Nick Benedict. Nick's idea was to have a playground that could be used by all handicapped persons, even those in wheelchairs. This will be placed on the 5/24/10 agenda.
- 2) Jewett Holmwood Subdivision Preliminary Plat – The traffic study engineer, project engineer and project attorney were present to answer concerns about traffic in the area of ingress/egress for the proposed subdivision. Peter Sorgi, project attorney, stated that Jewett Holmwood Road is a county road and that the Erie County Highway Department will not agree to a turning lane being put at this location because it is not warranted, but they will agree to the shoulder being widened to eight (8) feet (on the north side of the road). Councilwoman Friess said that one of her concerns is the switchback turn that occurs when traveling east on Rte. 20A and turning onto Jewett Holmwood Road and then having to turn left into the subdivision. Councilwoman Friess asked if anyone from the County had come out to view the area. Mr. Sorgi responded, no.  
Supervisor Jeffe asked about the distance between the neighbor to the west driveway and the subdivision road. Mr. Sorgi stated that there will be 35 feet between the pavement of the two.  
Supervisor Jeffe asked about where the deed restriction starts. Mr. Metzger, project engineer, stated that the deed restriction starts at the top of the bank and encompasses the steep slope and flat area near the creek. Richard Glover, Planning Board member, stated that collectively, the Planning Board, voted to recommend the preliminary plat, but noted that some wanted more restricted area to prevent construction near the top of the creek bank. Mr. Glover noted that lots 22 and 23 have significant wetlands, making the lot tight for building and pushing any structure close to the top of the bank. Mr. Metzger responded that these lots would accommodate a building with a 40' by 30' footprint. Supervisor Jeffe suggested that combining these two lots would minimize encroachment towards the creek bank. Councilman Harris asked who enforces the deed restriction. Mr. Sorgi stated they are enforceable by adjacent property owners and that the restriction is on the property survey and the subdivision map. Mr. Metzger stated that these are not highly erodible soils, but if trees are removed on or near the

bank, a condition that if trees are removed they will be replaced with some other erosion preventing plantings. Councilman Bach suggested that the Town authorize a TE-9 to ask to have the speed limit on Jewett Holmwood between Route 20A and Grover Road reduced. Attorney Bennett stated that when considering approval of the preliminary plat, the Town Board needs to include all concerns and needs to be specific as to the number of lots, location of restricted area(s), etc.

A street lighting plan shows light standards with underground wiring. The Town Clerk asked if New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) would be responsible for the light standards and the underground components. Mr. Sorgi responded that NYSEG would own and operate everything that involves the street lights.

- 3) Majors Park Message Center and Literature Rack – Peggy Cooke, Recreation Director, is requesting Board approval to purchase a message center/literature rack from The Park Catalog (Highland Products Group) for \$1,512.45 (double sided message center \$904.80; literature rack \$394.00; shipping \$213.65). Mrs. Cooke noted that this expense is part of the Majors Park Grant and will be disbursed from A7110.209, which has a current balance of \$30,000. This will be put on the 5/24/10 agenda.
- 4) Credit Card for Highway Superintendent – Recreation Director Peggy Cooke and Highway Superintendent David Gunner are requesting a credit card that can be used for highway and parks department purchases. (Note: Action #349 of 2009 – the Town Board authorized the highway superintendent to apply for a credit card.) Four town employees currently have credit cards issued to them from Chase.
- 5) Smoke-Free Parks – Several towns in Erie County have adopted a Smoke-Free Park and Playground Resolution in the format suggested by the Erie-Niagara Tobacco-Free Coalition. Supervisor Jeffe asked if we want to include all Town property or just parks and athletic areas. Councilman Collins suggested that parks should be a separate issue from other buildings/properties. The Town Attorney noted that this is not enforced, but is done on a voluntary basis.
- 6) Signage for Town Parks – Recreation Director Peggy Cooke, in a memo to the Board, noted that the signs at West Falls Park are rusted, no longer legible and need to be replaced. Mrs. Cooke has suggested that dogs on leashes be allowed in Majors Park and West Falls Park. This change would require a local law to amend Chapter 84 of the Town Code. This will be on the 5/24/10 agenda.
- 7) Gleed Ave. Bistro Update – Supervisor Jeffe and Councilman Bach measured the area in the Gleed warehouse that is being used by 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Catering so that the lease can be amended. Councilman Collins suggested reviewing all the Gleed Avenue leases.
- 8) Garbage/Recycling Service for multi-unit properties - Earlier this year the tax receiver did an audit of multiple unit residences in the Town and compared the assessment records with the town tax bills for each parcel. One of the findings from the audit was a list of properties that are receiving garbage/recycling service but are not being charged at all or are being charged for a fraction of the number of units on the property. Letters were sent to the property owners notifying them of the discrepancy. As a result, some paid, some are requesting “relief” and others have not responded. Town Board approval is needed for properties having four (4) units to continue to receive garbage/recycling service. This will be on the 5/14/10 agenda.

9)

Councilwoman Friess moved to approve the request from David Gunner, Highway Superintendent, to attend the Association of Towns of the State of NY and Cornell Local Roads Program 2010 Highway School at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, on June 6-9, 2010. The total cost of \$507.00 (\$90 registration; \$417 three nights hotel fee) will be disbursed from A5010.404 Highway Administration – Expense & Travel. Councilman Bach seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five noes – none Motion carried.

Action #184  
Hwy Supt  
auth to attend  
highway  
school.

10) Wind Energy Code – The Planning Board forwarded their final draft of a Non-Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Code. Pat Blizniak, Superintendent of Building, noted some of his concerns/issues in a memo to the Town Board. The Board discussed the proposed height limitation (100 feet) versus the average height of 120-140 feet for residential WECS, as well as the height of WECS placed on hills versus those placed on lower ground. Other suggested changes include:

- Requiring SEQR Visual EAF Addendum (D-3)
- County Planning Board Notification – needs accurate requirements (D-4)
- Clarification of how 2500 feet is measured – from windmill site or from property lines (D6h)
- Where signage should be placed? (D6o)
- Fee Schedule – not included (G1)
- Zoning Board of Appeals versus Town Board – for any variance(s)

The Town Attorney has been asked to put the code in the form of a local law.

11) Employee Use of Motor Vehicles and MV Reports – The Town policy for operating motor vehicles is that the employee must be at least 21 years of age and have 5 years driving experience. The Board discussed having annual motor vehicle reports done for all employees who operate town vehicles.

12) 300 Gleed Door Monitoring/Fob System – On May 8<sup>th</sup> a power surge damaged the door controller system, leaving portions of the building unsecured. The current components were installed in 1995. Life Safety Commercial Fire & Security Services quoted a price of \$7150 to repair the system and \$8790 to upgrade the system. Replacement controllers for the current system have been discontinued. There are compatible controllers that could be used to repair the system, but Honeywell has scheduled them for “end of life” in 2011 and will not guarantee parts and/or service. The upgrade uses new controllers and software, but the locks, door contacts and cables currently in use do not have to be changed.

Councilman Collins moved to authorize the upgrade and replacement of the security door system at 300 Gleed Avenue, due to the emergency situation of having the building unsecured, for a total cost of \$8,790. The work will be done by Life Safety Commercial Fire & Security Services, 25 Tyrol Drive, Buffalo, NY. Funds will be disbursed from ER1621.422 Enterprise Fund – Repair and Maintenance. Councilman Harris seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five noes – none Motion carried.

Action #185  
Emergency  
upgrade of  
Gleed door  
security  
system  
approved.

13) Budget Transfer Requests – Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting that \$4480 be transferred from the Parks RPT Laborer budget line A7110.106 to A7110.105 Seasonal Parks. There is no longer an RPT laborer employed by the Town. Mr. Gunner is also requesting \$6360 from the RPT line to A7110.101 Parks Director. He is also asking to be appointed Town of Aurora Parks Director and is requesting a \$200 per week stipend

to go along with the appointment. Supervisor Jeffe stated that adding extra seasonal employees would be the best way to proceed. Councilman Collins asked what the purpose of the stipend is. Supervisor Jeffe responded that it would compensate for non-typical duties. Councilman Collins stated that we need to look more closely at this request and that The Highway Superintendents duties are to manage other people, and not necessarily to do their work. Councilman Bach asked how this amount was determined. Supervisor Jeffe stated that the number of years of experience is irrelevant, that pay should be for the scope of the job. After discussion between the Town Attorney and Town Clerk as to the legality of raising the rate of pay for an elected official over what was published for the budget, Supervisor Jeffe stated that the Board needs to find out if this stipend can legally be given.

- 14) Budget – Supervisor Jeffe noted that the Town faces several challenges for the 2011 Budget. Three of the challenges are: police contract expenses, Gleed Avenue and long range capital plans. She also stated that the SMSI proposal would be discussed at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> work session.

The Board adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Martha L. Librock  
Town Clerk