

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 19, 2013

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Southside Municipal Center Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Glead Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session.

Present:	Jolene M. Jeffe	Supervisor
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Jeffrey T. Harris	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Councilman
	James F. Collins	Councilman
Others Present:	Bryan Smith	Town Engineer
	Patrick Blizniak	Supt. of Building
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Ronald Krowka	Chief of Police

Supervisor Jeffe opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Open Development Area (ODA) –Blakeley Road:

Brian Howard, as representative for property owners Timothy and Karen Sievenpiper, submitted an application for an ODA at SBL# 187.00-02-7.2 Blakeley Road. The 2 ± acres are proposed to be split from the above referenced SBL. The Town Attorney reviewed the Driveway and Easement Agreements and believes them to be in order. Building Supt. Pat Blizniak recommended a residential fire sprinkler system.

2) U&S Services – HVAC Andover Control proposal:

The HVAC control system at the Southside Municipal Center is a DOS based system that is in need of updating. U&S Services of Tonawanda, NY has given a proposal for updating the Andover system. Councilman Collins and others will look at a working version of the system at the West Seneca Schools before any further consideration is taken.

3) Reed Hill Subdivision – update and minor modifications:

In a letter to the Town Board, Peter Sorgi, Attorney for the developer of the Reed Hill Subdivision, requested documentation of everything required by the Town Board in order for the road to be dedicated. In the same letter, Mr. Sorgi presented minor modifications that they would like to have made to the approved Reed Hill Subdivision plans:

- A) Sidewalks on the east side of Reed Hill Drive instead of on both sides.
- B) Amend proposed deed restrictions relative to wetland impact, noting that additional wetlands will be added to the overall site.
- C) Elimination of wall on buffer property between Mr. Pintabona's property and the subdivision roadway and the addition of more landscaping (trees).

Mr. Sorgi introduced Tom Johnson whose company will be overseeing marketing, real estate and home building for the subdivision. Mr. Sorgi requested a list of outstanding items that need to be addressed and/or completed prior to road dedication. He noted that the streetlights will be owned by NYSEG.

Mr. Sorgi and Mr. Johnson spoke about the continuation of the sidewalk along Route 20A from the Post Office to the subdivision. They are working with the NYSDOT on this issue. The Board requested that the developer work with the property owner at 431 Quaker regarding the proposed sidewalk.

Mr. Johnson noted that the homes that will be built are upscale, but not huge. They will be around 2500 to 3000 square feet.

Supervisor Jeffe noted that the Town will need to have any agreement between Mr. Pintabona and the developer in writing.

4) Safety Committee:

In October 2012, a Senior Loss Control Specialist from the NYS Municipal Worker's Compensation Alliance performed a loss control survey of the Town offices and departments, including Courts and Highway. A significant recommendation was for the Town to form a Safety Committee to:

- review workers' comp claims
- review incident reports of both employees and non-employees
- develop a training schedule and evaluate safety training plans
- ensure all safety programs and policies adhere to State and Federal laws and meet Public Employee Safety and Health (PEOSH) requirements

The suggested make-up of the committee is: one Town Board member, Secretary to the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, one union employee, one non-union employee and a disaster advisory committee member (who is not a Town employee).

5) Water District Debt Refinancing:

Supervisor Jeffe met with Jeff Smith from Municipal Solutions to review a financial analysis of all of the Town's debt service to determine which bonds could or should be refinanced. Mr. Smith's report indicated that the refinance of fourteen (14) of the USDA bond issues would result in an estimated savings of approximately \$1.1 million dollars.

Earl Jann, one of the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) Commissioners, commented on the proposed project for Center Street and stated that the ECWA requires an 8-inch line as opposed to the 6-inch line in the proposal. Mr. Jann stated that refinancing goes hand-in-hand with direct service from the ECWA. Councilwoman Friess asked if the Town's water districts would require upgrades in order for the ECWA to direct manage the districts. Mr. Jann replied, not many, if any. Hydrant rental costs would increase. Councilman Bach will meet with the ECWA regarding direct managed districts.

6) Budget Amendment – Knox Field:

Highway Superintendent David Gunner, in a memo to the Board, is requesting that the 2013 Knox Field Donations budget line (A2025.2) be increased by \$2,000. The East Aurora Driving Society will be donating \$2,000 with the expectation that the Highway Department will use this toward maintaining the Equestrian Fields for Driving Society events. Mr. Gunner is also requesting that the Knox Field labor line (A7189.105) be increased by \$2,000.

7) Knox Equestrian Field – split rail fence:

Liz O'Donnell, representing the East Aurora Driving Society, spoke to the Board about a three-railed split-rail fence that they would like to erect to enclose the Neil and Barbara Chur Family Equestrian Center at Knox Farm State Park. They believe this to be a safety and liability issue and that the fence will greatly improve safety. Mrs. O'Donnell noted that the Driving Society and the Western Chapter of the NYS Horse Council are prepared to fund the cost of materials and supply qualified volunteers to erect the fence.

8) Salary and Benefits discussion:

Councilwoman Friess noted that this is a follow-up to prior discussion regarding salary and benefits for part-time elected officials. She presented an updated list of salaries and benefits of other municipalities. Aurora's judges are compensated differently because one takes health insurance benefits and one does not. Councilman Harris stated that the benefit should be removed as an option for all part-time elected positions. Supervisor Jeffe stated she struggles with the part-time/full-time designations, since it is up to the individual to decide how many hours they work. Councilwoman Friess stated that benefits should come from the part-time elected officials "day job", but we may need to look at a salary package without benefits. It was noted that this is an election year for the supervisor and one of the judges and that the board should make a decision soon.

9) Main Street Library – building needs/grant extension:

Supervisor Jeffe met with Library Director Rob Alessi to discuss outstanding needs for the library building. Approximately \$40,000 remains in the library grant (\$20,000 in grant funds and \$20,000 in Town matching funds). These funds could be used for restroom floor

replacement, exterior lighting replacement, furnace replacement, a fire safety system and partial window replacement. The current grant expires in June 2013 and the Library Board has been asked to request an extension of the grant. Town resident Bill Kane stated that the lighting at the library needs to be addressed since it is very dark around the building.

9) Local Government Efficiency Grant – SWAT Team (E. Aurora/Orchard Park police depts.)

Police Chief Ron Krowka addressed the Board with regard to a shared services grant for an East Aurora/Orchard Park SWAT Team. Mr. Krowka noted that Orchard Park Police currently have a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and the grant would be used to create a single regional SWAT team to deliver first response to the Villages of Orchard Park and East Aurora and the Towns of Orchard Park and Aurora. The grant would cover training, equipment, over-time and vehicles. The participating Towns and Villages would have to cover 10% of the grant amount – Aurora’s share being approximately \$6500. Chief Krowka stated that legacy costs would be minimal.

10) RV Code:

Councilman Collins gave a summary of the proposed recreation vehicle (RV) code. He noted that the RV code probably shouldn’t be more restrictive than the Town code for accessory buildings. The current proposal is to prohibit RV storage:

- a) within 10 feet of any side or rear yard lot line
- b) within 50 feet of the road right-of-way
- c) within 45 feet of any side street right-of-way on a corner lot

Discussion will continue.

11) Wales Dog Control Contract:

Highway Superintendent David Gunner has recommended that the Town Board terminate the Dog Control Agreement that it currently has with the Town of Wales. The agreement expires at the end of 2013, but has a termination clause that allows either party to give 90-days written notice to terminate prior to the end of the contract. Councilman Harris stated that we can’t leave the Town of Wales hanging and we should be doing more shared services with other towns. Supervisor Jeffe stated that since we no longer have a full-time dog control officer, we should probably look at terminating dog control services to Wales.

12) Dog Census Notice:

With the lack of a full-time dog control officer it will be difficult to conduct a dog census as has been done annually in the past. The Town Clerk offered a draft of a dog census form that could be put in the Town’s newsletter. It was noted that other Town’s have had successful censuses that were done by mail.

13) Benefits Broker:

Supervisor Jeffe stated she and K. Moffat met with Benacare, a benefits broker, to discuss what they have to offer. One of the offerings would be administrative over-sight and services pertaining to “Obama-care”. The Supervisor noted there is no charge to the Town since these firms are compensated by the insurance companies. Mrs. Jeffe will be meeting with other companies that provide these services.

Councilwoman Friess moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the performance of two (2) employees and the union contract (CSEA contract), with no action being taken during the session.

Councilman Harris seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken:
ayes – five noes – none

Motion carried.

Action #95
Board enters executive session.

Councilman Bach moved to come out of Executive Session and adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Friess. Upon a vote being taken:
ayes – five noes – none

Motion carried.

Action #96
Board comes out of exec session and adjourns