

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
February 26, 2024

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, February 26, 2024, 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:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Shane Krieger	EA Chief of Police
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

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

1) Telecommunication Tower – Site Plan/Special Use Permit:

VB BTS II, LLC and Verizon Wireless, as agents for Murray Bros. Nurseries, Inc., have submitted Telecommunications Special Use Permit and Site Plan applications for a proposed monopole telecommunications tower at 4399 Transit Road. A memo to the Board from Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy notes that both applications should be sent to the Planning Board for review and recommendation(s). Representing the petitioners were Anthony Siriani, Brett Morgan and Steve Matthews (via Zoom). Mr. Siriani stated that the applicant has findings that determine a need in this area. Mr. Morgan noted that FCC regulations need to be followed.

2) Temporary Use Permit- KFSP for NCAA Cross Country Regionals:

Greg Galinas, Director of Sports Development for the Buffalo Sports Commission, spoke to the Board about the permits that are being applied for by Daemen College to host Division 1 and 2 NCAA Cross Country events at Knox Farm State Park, including the Town managed portion of the park. Mr. Galinas said he is asking for permits for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Supervisor Snyder stated that the Town is looking at revising its policy for accepting applications and granting permits for these types of applications. The event would be held in late November of each year.

Highway Superintendent Gunner noted that in a conversation with Peter Sorgi of Aurora Arsenal Soccer it was mentioned that the agreements between the Town and the Arsenal group and the Town and NYS Parks are coming up soon and need to be considered.

3) Grant Writer:

Supervisor Snyder stated that he asked other town's supervisors who they used for grant writing and Rotella Grant Management was mentioned several times. Mr. Snyder has a meeting with Rotella later this week. Councilmen Granville and McCann stated they had someone in mind also. Supervisor Snyder asked that they get the information to him in the near future.

4) Board of Assessment Review (BAR) appointment:

In a memo to the Board, Town Assessor Stephen Pigeon requested that the Board consider appointing Craig Eckert of Hillcrest Road to the BAR. Councilman McCann stated he would like to talk with Mr. Eckert before making any decisions.

5) Town Prosecutor/Deputy Town Attorney – resignation:

Supervisor Snyder noted that Town Prosecutor/Deputy Town Attorney Edward (Ned) Snyder submitted his letter of resignation effective 2/23/2024. Councilman McCann thanked Mr. Snyder for his service to the Town.

6) Town Prosecutor/Deputy Town Attorney – appointment:

Supervisor Snyder stated he received a letter of interest from Robert Gurbacki, Bowen Road, to be considered for the Town Prosecutor position. Mr. Snyder noted that Mr. Gurbacki is familiar with the Town court.

7) CAT Box Rake purchase – Highway:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that this equipment, CAT PR118 Hydraulic Power Box Rake, is on the NYS OGS/Sourcwell contract and does not require additional quotes. The cost is \$13,658.65 and funds will be disbursed from DB5130.217. Mr. Gunner stated that due to the mild winter, there should be additional funds available for this purchase.

Mr. Gunner noted that the box rake will help with repairing roadside plow damage and can be used on the Town's baseball diamonds, too.

8) ErieNet – Letter of support:

ErieNet is a not-for-profit local development corporation designed to provide stewardship for the fiber optic network that will span nearly 400 miles throughout Erie County.

ErieNet has applied for a grant to the Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP). Erie County municipalities are being asked to send letters of support for this grant application, which if the funds are received, will help with the expansion of the fiber optic internet service that is needed in many areas of the county, including the Town of Aurora.

9) Climate Smart Community Task Force Website:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the website is very comprehensive and would like approval to go live and link the Climate Smart website www.cleangreenaurora.com to the Town's website. Mr. Wochensky noted that they are working on silver certification for the Town.

10) BridgeNY Grant:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated he submitted a BridgeNY grant application for the Brooklea bridge. Mr. Gunner noted that based on being more than 20 feet long, Brooklea is considered a bridge and not a culvert. The BridgeNY grants cover 100% of the costs for culverts, but only 95% for bridge projects.

At the conclusion of the work session, Erie County Legislator Lindsay Lorigo spoke to the Board. Ms. Lorigo stated she recently met with Supervisor Snyder and will be meeting with other town supervisors and highway superintendents in the future.

Martha Librock
Town Clerk