

TOWN OF AURORA  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

February 16, 2010

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, February 16, 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:	Edward Snyder	Deputy Town Attorney
	Bryan Smith	Town Engineer
	William Kramer	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Peggy Cooke	Recreation Director
	Michael Marino	CRA Engineering
	Open Space Committee Members:	Nancy Smith, Libby Weberg and Kathy Lasher

Supervisor Jeffe opened the work session at 7:00 p.m. The Board met to discuss the following:

- 1) 686 Quaker Road ODA application – Greg and Kathy Schneider had previously submitted an Open Development application for 686 Quaker Road. After several revisions and review by the Planning Board, the Planning Board, on February 3, 2010, voted to recommend approval of the ODA. Since then, Mr. Schneider made several minor modifications to the plan: The west property line of parcel #1 was moved 15' to the west for the first 120' to the north from the right of way at Quaker Road. It then jogs back 15' east into alignment with the original parcel #1 lot line. The depth of parcels #1 and #2 was decreased from 330' to 320'. As a result of these modifications the farmhouse lot will retain its existing west side driveway. Parcel #4 will have a 50.37' right of way adequate for the private drive and utilities as planned. Bryan Smith reviewed the changes and determined them to be inconsequential to the overall plan. Mr. Schneider stated his anticipated time frame is to put lot #2 up for sale this spring. The driveways won't be put in for quite some time. A public hearing on this application is scheduled for February 22, 2010.
- 2) Open Space Committee – Nancy Smith, Libby Weberg and Kathy Lasher presented a draft version of the committee's Open Space Plan – Protecting Our Natural Heritage. Supervisor Jeffe asked why this was set up as a town board committee and not a citizens committee. Nancy Smith responded that other towns with the Open Space Committees are set up the same way. Councilwoman Friess noted that this plan should be looked at in conjunction with the proposed master/comprehensive plan. Mrs. Smith stated that the committee is looking for the Board's support of the Aurora Open Space Plan. Discussion also took place regarding the vacancy on the committee.
- 3) Erie County Division of Purchase memorandum – Several businesses are on the Erie County Bid list (bid # 290086-004) to provide tune-ups and repairs for heavy duty trucks and equipment at discounted rates for labor and parts. Supervisor Jeffe recommended that the highway department consider using these vendors.
- 4) IT Services – Supervisor Jeffe stated that Lisa Hoffman will be the coordinator for all IT issues, a position formerly held by Sue Mascia. The Supervisor also prepared a brief summary of the Town's IT system and a comparison with the Village system. The Town currently uses Network Services as its IT service provider. The contract for 2010 is for \$14,560.00 (208 hours @ \$70.00 per hour) and provides two hours of on-site service/support two days per week.

In her memo, Supervisor Jeffe requests that the contract for IT services be signed for the remainder of 2010. Councilman Collins stated he believes the contract is too much and that services should be cut to one day per week. The Supervisor suggested that the 2010 contract be approved and that a tracking system will be utilized for any work that Network Services performs.

Internet Options – The Town currently uses Choice One for internet access for the town hall, court office and highway office at a combined rate of \$227.00 per month. The bandwidth is .768m, which is extremely slow. Other options, Verizon and Time Warner, are available that would offer larger bandwidths that would increase the size/speed of internet service. One question that was raised was whether or not the Town could get out of its contract with Choice One for this service. Tony Rosati, Center Street, stated that Verizon is a more dedicated service, while Time Warner is a shared service. He also noted that routers, modems and other equipment might be added costs not given in the rates the Supervisor presented.

- 5) Facility Use Procedures – Councilwoman Friess stated that a good set of guidelines is needed for anyone who wants to use the Town Hall meeting room. The Town currently has a written list of rules for use of the Senior Center. A similar list needs to be compiled for the Town Hall.
- 6) DEC Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program – Members of NEST (Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board) are being asked to support a resolution asking the governor to agree to provide the 50% match for the household hazardous and electronic waste collection events held by NEST in 2009 and to fund the 2010 collection events. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 7) Recreation Programs – A) Recreation Director Peggy Cooke is requesting to add a new program entitled *Geocaching*. The proposed fees are \$50 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. The program would run from 6/28/10 through 8/2/10 and would teach students in grades 4 – 12 how to use a GPS receiver and compass and how to find a geocache. B) Recreation Director Peggy Cooke is requesting to offer an annual schedule for Nature Programs sponsored by the Buffalo Audubon Society to be held at Majors Park, JP Nicely West Falls Park, Hamlin Park and Village owned Sinking Ponds. Any fees would be paid directly to the Buffalo Audubon Society. C) 2010 Community Pool Member Rates – Peggy Cooke presented proposed rates for resident and non-resident pool memberships. She noted that the rates for single membership are being decrease, while the remainder of the rates would increase. Rates for one-time afternoon open swim are also being reduced. These items will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 8) Boy Scout Request to use Majors Park – Boy Scout Troop #513 is requesting to use Majors Park for an overnight campout. This troop has done this several time is recent years. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 9) Microphones for Gleed Auditorium – Supervisor Jeffe received quotes from three vendors for four wireless microphones for the Gleed Auditorium. All the quotes include microphone stands and installation. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 10) Wind Energy Conversion System Code – The Town Board will request that the Planning Board initiate the development of a Wind Energy Conversion System local law for the Town. The Board is offering guidance, guidelines and suggestions to the Planning Board. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 11) SEQR for Jewett Holmwood Subdivision – Bryan Smith stated that the SEQR process for the subdivision proposal must be in parallel with the project's preliminary plat review. The Board reviewed comments from interested agencies who responded to the SEQR referral dated 12/2/09. Part 2 – Project Impacts and their Magnitude was also reviewed by the Board. This will be placed on a March 2010 meeting agenda.

- 12) Leaf Vacuum –Highway currently has two (2) leaf vacuums - one from 1970 and the other from 1997. Highway Superintendent David Gunner is requesting to purchase a new leaf vacuum to replace the 1970 machine. The purchase was not budgeted for 2010. Before the purchase/bidding can be approved funding has to be secured. Some suggestions were: rent a leaf vacuum for 2010 and put funds in 2011 budget for purchase; apply for a grant to cover the purchase; borrow a leaf vacuum from the Village of East Aurora. Superintendent Gunner also discussed having a vendor tub-grind leaves and brush in exchange for the mulch. He stated, that with his permission, someone from Marilla came and took about 500 yards of leaves from the highway property and that he, Gunner, had an insurance certificate from the individual.
- 13) RFQ for Grant writer – Supervisor Jeffe is working on preparing a request for qualifications for a grant writer for the Town. Sue Barnes, Grantwriters Advantage, will no longer be the Town’s grant writer since she is cutting back on the number of clients she has.
- 14) Franchise Fee Review – Computel Consultants, Earlville, NY, is proposing to identify errors that may have resulted in underpayment of cable franchise fees to the Town from Time Warner Cable. If a refund is secured, Computel is paid a one-time 50% fee. Several years ago Computel secured about \$4,500 from an audit of street lighting charges from NYSEG.
- 15) Local Government Efficiency Grant – DPW/Highway consolidation study – Supervisor Jeffe stated that the NY Secretary of State will be in Buffalo on Thursday, 2/18/10 to discuss several grants that were awarded to communities in Niagara, Erie and Chautauqua Counties, including the Town of Aurora.
- 16) Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Support 2010 – The Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora are required to comply with provisions of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit which covers MS4’s. Conestoga Rovers and Associates (CRA) have been providing support for both the Town and Village for several years. The 2010 proposal is for \$16,000 with the Town and Village each contributing 50% of this amount. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.
- 17) 1519 Quaker Road ODA Application – In November 2009 the property owner of 1519 Quaker Road submitted an Open Development Area application. The application was sent to the Planning Board, who in turn sent it to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance for the width of the ingress/egress easement. The Zoning Board deferred to the Town Board for some guidance, since this is the first ODA application being addressed by the ZBA, whose members feel that whatever decision is made will set precedence for any future ODA applications/decisions. Bryan Smith and Supervisor Jeffe will work on drafting ODA guidelines for the Planning Board and Zoning Board.
- 18) DCO Request to apply for grant – Dog Control Officer Sheryl Harris is requesting to apply for a Meacham foundation Memorial Grant awarded through the American Humane Society for shelter expansions or improvements. Mrs. Harris would like to apply for the grant to create an exercise area for impounded dogs. This will be placed on the 2/22/10 meeting agenda.

Martha L. Librock  
Town Clerk