

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
July 27, 2020

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 5:30 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	Councilwoman
	Susan A. Friess	Councilwoman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
Others Present:	Ronald Bennett	Town Attorney
	William Kramer	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Chris Musshafen	Recreation/Aquatics Director
	Elaine Schiltz	Recreation Supervisor
	William Wheeler	Engineer/GHD
	Shane Krieger	Chief of Police

Although this work session was held “in-person”, due to the coronavirus/Covid19 pandemic, it was also live-streamed via Zoom and YouTube in accordance with NYS Executive Order 202.1 – *Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or similar service: Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such action authorized by the law without permitting public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.*

Supervisor Bach opened the session at 5:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and noted the regular meeting would begin immediately after the work session.

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

At their July 2, 2020 meeting, the Aurora Planning Board reviewed the application from Eric and Rachel Brown for an ODA at 2331 Lapham Road and recommended approval, including the need for variances for lot size and frontage width.

Eric Brown stated that they would most likely move the house forward to have a setback of less than 750’ in order to not require a sprinkler system.

Supervisor Bach stated that a lot size variance and lot width variance would be needed if the Board were to approve the ODA.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked about a driveway agreement. Eric responded they have an easement to access their property. He questioned being able to put bump-outs along the driveway where there is an easement, noting a hill on one side and trees on the other may make it impossible to meet the distance between bump-outs requirement.

Supervisor Bach stated the fire department might need to look at that situation since the bump-outs are there for emergency reasons.

2) Warren Drive Park use:

A. Lacrosse: Scott More and Colleen Aungst from the East Aurora Lacrosse Association spoke to the Board about being able to use a portion of Warren Drive Park for lacrosse games and practices. The EALA would be required to enter an agreement with the Town similar to that of the Aurora Arsenals. Ms. Aungst stated that they could fit two youth fields at the park and that they do not have a dedicated space for their teams to play. Currently they rent the field at East Aurora High School.

Scott More stated they began in 2012 and the organization has grown considerably. EALA would like a long-term, possible five-year, agreement for use of Warren Drive Park.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked how many kids were on the field at any one time. Ms. Aungst responded that for practices there will be 30 or less on each field. Two groups would practice at one time. Mr. More stated they play from Memorial Day through August 1st. In the future, they might like to have a concession stand.

Supervisor Bach asked that Mr. More and Ms. Aungst email him their ideas and plans in order to incorporate them into any agreement.

B. Pickle ball Court: Highway Superintendent Gunner stated there is a need for a pickle ball court and Warren Drive Park would be a good place to build it. Elaine Schiltz noted that Warren Drive is not used enough and lacrosse would be a good use as would pickle ball. Mr. Gunner stated the pickle ball area is 64' by 61' and would be built in-house. The Town would need to pay for blacktop.

Supervisor Bach questioned the parking situation at the park. Mr. Gunner said it should not be a concern, but he could double the size of the existing lot. Supervisor Bach stated he is concerned with the budget. Mr. Gunner responded the pickle ball court would be done with this year's budget and he is ready to start right away.

3) Route 400 terminus at Route 16:

Ken Kuminski from the NYSDOT spoke to the Board about the project being proposed by the NYSDOT at the south end of Route 400. Mr. Kuminski stated they have decided on the proposal for a single lane roundabout at the intersection of NY 400 and NY 16/Olean Road. Mr. Kuminski presented a sketch depicting 18 reported accidents at or near this intersection over a three-year period from 2014 to 2017. Mr. Kuminski noted that a roundabout would eliminate or sharply decrease head-on and/or T-bone accidents at this location and it would calm traffic.

Mr. Kuminski stated that they are looking at something farther up from the roundabout to slow traffic down, including signs and rumble strips. He stated that the speed in a roundabout is 15-20 mph, tops.

Councilwoman Friess asked if this would require property acquisitions. Mr. Kuminski stated there would be a few very minor "takes".

Supervisor Bach asked if the DOT would be holding public hearings. Mr. Kuminski responded, no, due to Covid 19. He stated that meeting with local municipal boards is what they are doing instead. Mr. Kuminski noted that the Town of Wales is on-board with the project and he is asking the Town Boards to help get the word out.

Mike McClure from the South Wales Fire Department asked if the speed limit northbound on Route 16 from Emery to the 400 could be reduced and suggested 30 mph. Mr. Kuminski responded that a speed study could be requested from the regional director at any time and noted that getting a legislator involved is a good idea. Mr. Kuminski stated at this time the plan is to have the northbound speed limit stay the same as it is, but new "features" would be used for traffic calming. It was noted that the traffic control gate will remain at the entrance to the 400.

Supervisor Bach stated that the Town of Aurora, the SW Fire Department and the residents living along Route 16 would like to see a lower speed limit on Route 16 from Emery north to the roundabout incorporated into the NYSDOT plan, not a separate speed study request.

4) JP Nicely West Falls Park – request to use:

Molly McDermott, Sycamore Street, E. Aurora, a HikYoga instructor, is requesting to hold a HikYoga event at West Falls Park on August 8, 2020. Ms. McDermott noted this is a 1.5 hour class that includes light hiking, yoga and meditation. There would be approximately 10 people and a fee would be charged.

Supervisor Bach asked if she had a certificate of insurance. Ms. McDermott responded it was forthcoming.

Chris Musshafen noted that this is not a Town Recreation sponsored event, just a park rental. Councilwoman Jeffe and Attorney Bennett stated there needs to be at least a nominal fee charged to the user when they are a for-profit charging a fee for the event. Ms. McDermott stated Buffalo Harbor charges \$25 for a season.

Councilwoman Friess stated she would like to see this event approved, but the applicant needs to present a plan for any future use(es).

Councilman Wochensky suggested charging a \$5.00 fee for this one event and then making a policy for the future.

5) Whaley Bridge – Box Culvert Change:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the requirements of the Erie County Sewer Authority for the Whaley Bridge project have necessitated a design change. Kistner Concrete Products bid on the box culvert in May 2020 and on 5/26/2020, the Town Board approved the \$107,066.00 bid from Kistner. Due to the new design requirements, the new culvert box will cost \$128,360.00. Mr. Gunner is requesting the Board approve this change order for a new box culvert that meets ECSA requirements. This change order will result in a \$21,294.00 increase.

6) Public Hearing notices:

Councilman Wochensky commented on the Town's public hearing notices, stating that we do what is legal, but they need to be on the website and possibly use signs on the properties that will be addressed at a public hearing.

Bill Kramer stated he would like to have a discussion on this and that the signs in the Village draw in people who are in no way affected by what will be happening on the property. Councilman Wochensky asked what the problem is with a sign on all projects.

Supervisor Bach suggested giving this to the Planning Board for their thoughts and recommendations.

7) Fence along property line of Senior Center and 113 King Street:

A resident on King Street is requesting to repurpose the wooden fence along the south boundary of the Senior Center. Attorney Bennett noted that the Town cannot just give it away. Mr. Bennett stated Board would need to surplus the fence and put a value on it, then it could be disposed of, but, the value and availability needs to be made known. Supervisor Bach asked if the Highway department could take the fence down and stack it at the rear of the property. Superintendent Gunner said they could, and he will ask a fence company for a value.

Martha L. Librock
Town Clerk