

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 25, 2024

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, March 25, 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) Grant Writer:

Supervisor Snyder stated that he met with Robbyn Drake regarding grant writing for the Town. Mr. Snyder noted that he felt she was very personable and experienced with writing grants. With regard to Mr. Harvey's resume, the Supervisor stated he did not see any grant writing. Councilman Granville stated that Mr. Harvey wrote grant applications for the West Falls Center for the Arts. Councilman McCann noted that he spoke with Ms. Drake and that she came recommended by the Water Keepers group. Councilman Wochensky stated Ms. Drake comes well recommended. Supervisor Snyder said that Ms. Drake's fee is \$70 per hour and mentioned a 20-hour upfront retainer. Ms. Drake will provide a list of grants directed to the Town.

2) 600 Olean – Site Plan and Special Use Permit Applications:

Harrison Kelly, Grover Road, stated that there has been a change from the initial proposal in that the building needed to be relocated on the parcel due to the need for a septic field. Mr. Kelly noted that it was originally thought that there was municipal sewer at that location. He presented a front elevation sketch of the proposed building. This resulted in the driving range being eliminated from the proposal. Supervisor Snyder noted that these applications will be forwarded to the Planning Board for review and recommendation(s).

3) KFSP – Temporary Use Applications for 5K race:

Sophia Starosielec, representing the American Cancer Society Career Action Network (ACS CAN), spoke to the Board regarding the request to use the Town managed portion of Knox Farm State Park for part of the 5K race they have planned. Councilman Wochensky stated that closure of Knox Road need to be approve by Erie County. Ms. Starosielec noted that last year the road was not closed for the race and that they had crossing guards but would prefer that the road be closed. Last year the event was held the weekend before Memorial Day weekend.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the date they are requesting is during Memorial Day weekend and he does not believe that the County will close the road during a holiday period. Police Chief Krieger suggested that they hold the entire race on the State managed side of the park which would eliminate the need for road closure or crossing guards. Councilman McCann stated he would recommend only using the State side of the park also.

4) Building Department Intern:

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated that Ron Pasqualetti from the Ormsby Center has requested the placement of a student intern in the Building Department for the month of April for a work experience internship. Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES will provide insurance coverage. The student will not ride in any Town or Town employee vehicles.

5) Plowing/Seeding of Mill Road Overlook:

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that one of the stipulations of the Mill Road Overlook agreement with the WNY Land Conservancy is that the field be mowed/hayed on a regular basis. Mr. Gunner noted that the field is now mostly weeds and needs to be rehabbed. Ron Engasser has been mowing it for the past four years and prior to that it was mowed by Joe Grover. Mr. Engasser's proposal is to plow and reseed one quarter of the field each year for the next four years. Mr. Gunner stated that Mr. Engasser would like exclusive rights to haying the field for the next five years.

Supervisor Snyder stated he is waiting for written confirmation from the WNYLC that this proposal is okay and that it does not violate the agreement.

6) West Falls Bridge Railing donation:

Town of Aurora resident Terry Sprague wishes to donate ten (10) lattice railing sections from the 1930's West Falls Bridge to the Town to be used at the West Falls Veterans Park near the dam site. Highway Superintendent Gunner noted that when the bridge was taken down in the 1960's Mr. Sprague saved the railing sections. Mr. Gunner stated that the railing sections fit perfectly in the area from the current bridge to the dam site along the creek. They will need to be sand-blasted and powder coated.

7) 420 Olean Road Special Use Permit Application:

Ron Bartsch, Bartsch's Auto Service, is looking to open an auto repair and undercoating business at the Shanley Collision building at 420 Olean Road. The property is zoned C2. The Town code requires that special use permit applications for this type of business be sent to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.

8) 1686 – 1688 Davis Road rezoning:

Supervisor Snyder stated that the original application to rezone the property at 1686-1688 Davis had an outdated survey. The petitioner, Mr. Herbst, provided a copy of the correct survey. Planning Board Chairman Doug Crow explained to the Board what the Planning Board saw and is confident that the Planning Board will agree with the new survey as to what is being requested to be rezoned. The Planning Board will review this at their April 3rd meeting. Supervisor Snyder stated that in the mean time he will ask the Town Attorney to write a local law for the rezoning.

9) Structural Analysis for Proposed Driving Range Canopy:

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy is requesting approval to have GHD Engineering review the structural analysis for a proposed canopy over the driving range at Bob-O-Link Golf Club at 4085 Transit Road. Any additional cost for the review will be passed on to the Bob-O-Link organization.