**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2015**

**Present:** Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Janet Murphy, Alan Ominsky, and Kit Van Orman

**Absent:** Trustee Grace Bates

**Others Present:** Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Village Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Planning Board member Pat Foser, and Village Resident James Knight

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the special meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Discussion ensued regarding the letter sent from Wells College to all residents in the 13026 zip code. The Village Board noted that a majority of the recipients of the letter do not live in the village and, therefore, do not receive village water.

Issues addressed included:

* A decrease in the number of Wells students as well as village residents since the agreement was last updated in 1989
* The amount of water used by the Inns of Aurora
* A realistic figure of the amount of water used by Wells College including the golf course
* Lack of maintenance of the water system by Wells College necessitating the purchase this year of new filters at a cost of $170,000.00
* Determining an actual ratio cost of water vs. sewer

Possible responses to the quadruple cost in water from Wells included:

* Bill strictly on usage
* Bill on assessment
* Increase the cost of sewer to Wells
* Make Wells a separate water district
* Research operating a village water plant separate from Wells

The Village Board agreed that good faith negotiations with Wells College are necessary to change the current agreement. Mayor Bennett informed the Village Board that Village Attorney, Tom Blair, recommended hiring a third party consultant during negotiations and all present agreed.

The Village Board also agreed that a response letter to the community was needed to clarify misinformation presented in the letter from Wells College. The resulting letter is attached.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to send a letter to the Village of Aurora residents in response to the letter from Wells College.

AYES: Bennett, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to send a letter to Wells College President deWitt requesting a postponement of the water cost increase set for July 1, 2015, due to the recent passing of the Village of Aurora 2015-16 budgets, and schedule a meeting for discussion with Mayor Bennett, Mr. deWitt, Wells Facilities, Operations, and Services director Brian Brown, and Village of Aurora Department of Public Works Supervisor Kurt Wilmot.

AYES: Bennett, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to adjourn the special meeting at 12:10 pm.

AYES: Bennett, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk