**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2015**

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Grace Bates, Janet Murphy, Alan Ominsky, and Kit Van Orman

**Others Present:** Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Planning Board member Pat Foser, Heather Davidson, Meryl Davis, Marie Dentes, Robin Driskel, Sue Edinger, Jacci Farlow, Virgil Farlow, Andrew Fish, John Haggerty, Scott Heinekamp, Wendy Marsh, Elaine Myers, Alex Schloop, Kevin Van Orman, Ellen Wikstrom, and Kelley Zabriskie.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bennett explained that the Village Board would be discussing potential amendments to proposed Local Law #1 of 2015. As the public hearing for the proposed local law was closed, there will be no further public comment and the trustees will not answer questions. Mayor Bennett remarked that letters received after the public hearing would not be read aloud. However, the trustees all received copies (attached to these minutes) and may refer to them during the discussion.

Mayor Bennett then informed those present that no action would be taken at this meeting.

Mayor Bennett began the discussion regarding the public hearing comments by correcting misinformation stated during the public comment period:

* The new equipment for the Memorial Playground has already been approved and would not be affected by a moratorium.
* The village is not obligated to file a rationale plan of development on property it doesn’t own. That is the responsibility of the property owner/developer.
* The moratorium would affect zoning permits, not building permits.
* A comparison of Boston not enacting a moratorium while preparing for the Olympics is absurd.

Mayor Bennett then referred to a letter from the Village Zoning Inspector, Patrick Doyle, explaining the rationale for the moratorium including:

* An easier transition from the old law to the new law
* A more efficient process with the boards and staff focused on finishing the amendments
* Prevents confusion of knowing which law to apply regarding new applications
* A desire to fix long recognized problems with the current zoning law

Mr. Doyle also mentioned in his letter that the Town of Sennett enacted a moratorium to update their zoning laws and the revision was complete within three months.

Concerns voiced by the trustees included:

* The misperception by the public that the new law will be more stringent
* When copies of the amendments will be available
* False public perception that there is a hidden agenda
* The length the process has taken up to this point
* Aurora’s chances for receiving state grant money from the Cayuga County Economic Development Fund
* How to proceed with amending the zoning law without a moratorium

Upon further discussion, the trustees decided that they should consider revising the moratorium due to negative public comment and Cayuga County Planning Board concerns. The Trustees discussed limiting the moratorium to only subdivision applications and Mayor Bennett gave the trustees a revised moratorium from Village Attorney, Tom Blair, to review and discuss at a later date.

On motion by Van Orman, seconded by Ominsky, the Village Board voted to schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Murphy, seconded by Van Orman, the Village Board voted to adjourn at 5:35 pm.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk