**Village of Aurora Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2015**

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

**Others Present:** Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Village Treasurer Deborah Brooks, CPP member Jeff Blum, Planning Board member Pat Foser, Village Historian Dr. Linda Schwab, David Brooks, Alan Clugston, Laura Holland, and John Wedler.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**May 20, 2015:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the May 20, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**June 9, 2015**: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the June 9, 2015 special meeting minutes.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Add Resolution #15-35: To Participate in New York Rural Water Association’s Source Water Protection Program

**Announcements**

**Mayor:** Mayor Bennett informed the trustees that the plan initiated by the Inns of Aurora to upgrade the storm system on Lafayette St, widen Lafayette St, and add parking spaces on the north and south sides was withdrawn. The Inns of Aurora prefer to have dedicated parking spaces for Wallcourt guests and are considering an alternate parking plan located behind the Fargo or Taylor House properties.

Discussion ensued on the need for a comprehensive plan for all the properties recently purchased by Pleasant Rowland. As Ms. Rowland essentially owns all the properties in the commercial district, an understanding of her ideas for the neighboring properties is essential for reasonable planning.

The trustees also expressed frustration over a lack of bargaining power on the Village’s part and believe, with current and future projects planned by Ms. Rowland, the Village should receive something in return. Trustees Bates and Van Orman strongly advocated for better access and extension of the Village Park along Cayuga Lake that borders the Aurora Inn property. Mayor Bennett commented that following the renovation of the stairs leading from the parking lot down to the park, patrons of the park have increased though there is still no vehicle access.

Mayor Bennett reminded the trustees that she first requested new easement agreements with Ms. Rowland when Ms. Rowland first purchased the properties from Wells College over a year ago. The Village is still waiting and cannot move forward to complete the renovation in front of the post office until the new agreements are in place.

Trustee Bates suggested forming a committee to address the village park issue and noted that, unlike Cayuga, Union Springs, and other municipalities along the lake, Aurora doesn’t have a designated public area for swimming and boating. Trustee Bates and Trustee Murphy agreed to draft a letter to the Inns of Aurora to discuss better access to the Village Park.

Mayor Bennett received notice of a feral cat problem at Wells College. A plan for veterinarians from Cornell University to trap, neuter, and release the cats is set for July 31- August 1st. Donations are being accepted for the program and information is posted on the Village Website: auroranewyork.us

Mayor Bennett also announced that Design Connect is accepting applications for the Fall semester to assist with municipal projects. Design Connect awarded a grant to Aurora in the Spring of 2013 to assist with design of the Village Fitness Trail. The Board discussed applying for further assistance with the fitness trail or access to the Village Park. The deadline for submission is July 17, 2015.

**Clerk:** Clerk Balloni informed the Board that included in their packets is a letter from Barbara Blom (attached) requesting assistance with her water/sewer payment. All meter readings for the past two years had been estimated due to no actual reads received and village personnel unable to access the meter. As the village is mandated by New York State to add all delinquent water/sewer bills to the tax rolls, the water/sewer charge owed by Ms. Blom was included on her tax bill mailed to village residents as of June 1st.

**Visitor Recognition**

**Laura Holland:** Ms. Holland inquired about the Farmers Market and Mayor Bennett explained that Wells College is operating the farmer’s market through a grant that they received.

**John Wedler:** Mr. Wedler questioned if the village is eligible for any waterfront improvement grant funding and remarked that, since the current village park is so small, the preferred place for a park would be the property north of the Wells College boathouse. Ms. Bates noted that the property north of the boathouse is owned by Wells College whereas the property south of the Aurora Inn is owned by the village.

**Treasurer’s Report:** No report for May

**Budget Modifications**

**General Fund:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications to the General Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

$259.30 From: A1440.4 Engineer – Contractual

$135.21 To: A1410.21 Treasurer – Personal Service

$106.09 To: A1410.43 Clerk/Treasurer – Postage

$18.00 To: A1410.4 Clerk/Treasurer – Contractual

$75.96 From: A5110.2 Street Maintenance – Equipment

$75. 96 To: A5110.1 Street Maintenance – Personal Services (Overtime)

$1,284.70 From: A8140.4 Storm Sewers – Contractual

$1,284.70 To: A8010.12 Code Officer – Personal Services

$0.08 From: A7510.4 Historian – Contractual

$0.08 To: A7510.1 Historian – Personal

**Sewer Fund:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the Budget Modifications to the Water Fund.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

$32.49 From: G8130.5 Sewage Treatment – Chemicals

$32.49 To: G8130.1 Sewage Treatment – Personal Services

**Bills**

**General Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #1-7, 9-18, 21-38, 40, and 41

Total: $25,289.07

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #1, 14, 15, 17, 27, 37, and 39

Total: $3,655.04

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer Fund:** On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #1 for payment.

Voucher #1, 4, 8, 13-15, 17-20, 25, 27, and 37

Total: $8,770.81

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Trust and Agency:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Trust & Agency abstract for payment.

Voucher #21

Total: $500.00

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Code Enforcement:** (see attached) Mr. Piechuta issued 3 permits and inspected 6 sites.

**Village Historian:** (see attached) Dr. Schwab reported on the Aurora Historical Society Pop-Up Museum at Patrick Tavern on May 29-30 and a program presented by the Society on June 8.

Discussion ensued regarding the expansion of the athletic fields at Wells College and how artificial turf may affect drainage. The athletic fields are located in the Town of Ledyard and the Town of Ledyard Planning Board is holding a public hearing on June 24.

**Buildings and Grounds:** No report.

**Parks and Recreation:** Trustee Murphy reported that the kayak racks have been delivered and that Olivia Shea is interested in designing the signs for the fitness trail.

**Streets and Public Safety:** Trustee Van Orman remarked that complaints have been submitted to the Inns of Aurora regarding the backup beeps of the heavy equipment at the Wallcourt project. Work on the project is starting before the permitted time of 7:00am and nearby residents are requesting enforcement of the Village Noise Ordinance.

**Water and Sewer:** Trustee Bates commented that all is well following the storms of the previous month.

**Old Business**

Mayor Bennett called the Public Hearing for adoption of Local Law #4: To Amend Local Law #2 of 2001 for Rules and Regulations Governing the Use and Supply of Water; and Local Law #5:To Amend Local Law #1 of 2010: Sewers, to order at 7:47 pm.

Mayor Bennett asked if there was any public comment on Local Law #4 and there were no comments from the public. Mayor Bennett then asked if there was any public comment from the public on Local Law #5 and there were no comments from the public.

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adjourn the public hearing for Local Laws #4 & 5 at 7:50 pm.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution #15-32 Adoption of Local Law #4 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #2 of 2001 for Rules and Regulations Governing the Use and Supply of Water**

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora occasionally needs to update Local Laws; and

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora seeks to bring Local Law #2 of 2001 to current standards; and

**WHEREAS:** A Public Hearing was held on June 17th, 2015 at approximately 7:45 pm;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Village of Aurora adopt Local Law #4 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #2 of 2001 for Rules and Regulations Governing the Use and Supply of Water.

**FIRST:** Trustee Janet Murphy

**SECOND:** Trustee Kit Van Orman

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Murphy, and Seconded by Trustee Van Orman, a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:

Mayor Bennett - AYE

Trustee Bates - AYE

Trustee Murphy - AYE

Trustee Ominsky - AYE

Trustee Van Orman - AYE

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution #15-33 To Adopt Local Law #5 of 2015 To Amend Local Law #1 of 2010: Sewers**

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora occasionally needs to update Local Laws; and

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora seeks to bring Local Law #1 of 2010 to current standards; and

**WHEREAS:** A Public Hearing was held on June 17, 2015 at approximately 7:45 pm;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Village of Aurora adopt Local Law #5 of 2015: To Amend Local Law #1 of 2010: Sewers.

**FIRST:** Trustee Kit Van Orman

**SECOND:** Trustee Alan Ominsky

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Van Orman, and Seconded by Trustee Van Ominsky, a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:

Mayor Bennett - AYE

Trustee Bates - AYE

Trustee Murphy - AYE

Trustee Ominsky - AYE

Trustee Van Orman - AYE

Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Mayor Bennett called the public hearing for Resolution #15-34: To Adjust Sewer Rates in the Village of Aurora, to order at 7:51 pm.

Mayor Bennett asked if there was any comment from the public and there was no public comment.

On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Ominsky, the Village Board voted to close the public hearing for Resolution #15-34 at 7:52 pm.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #15-34 : To Adjust Sewer Rates in the Village of Aurora**

**WHEREAS:** The Village of Aurora sewer system budget must be self-supporting; and

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Aurora intends to have the actual operating cost of the plant, including reserve funds needed to sustain and improve infrastructure, met by income from equitable sewer rates; and

**WHEREAS:** a public hearing was duly noticed and held on June 17, 2015;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that, to maintain a balanced sewer budget, the Village of Aurora quarterly access fee for sewer for all metered customers remain at $25.00 per quarter, and sewer fee based on the per/1000 gallon water usage rate decrease to $5.00; the charge for the single unmetered customer, Wells College, shall be set at $7.15 per 1000 gal. of water usage, to adjust for the absence of access fees. The new rates to take effect July 1, 2015.

**First:** Trustee Murphy

**Second:** Trustee Van Orman

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**SCAT VAN:** On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve the SCAT VAN contract for the 2015-2016 budget with a contribution of $700.00.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Electric Bids for the Firehouse:** The Aurorafest Committee approached the Village Board to request temporary additional electric access to the Village Firehouse for Aurorafest vendors to be paid for by the committee. Pleasant Valley Electric submitted a bid for a temporary installation and Saxton electric submittedone bid for temporary installation and one bid for permanent.

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to approve additional electric service at the firehouse.

AYES: Bennett, Murphy, Ominsky, and Van Orman

NAYS: Bates

Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on what was more sensible – a temporary set up or a permanent one for other firehouse activities. Mayor Bennett argued that, since we don’t know what Pleasant Rowland plans to do with the neighboring property, a temporary set up is more reasonable. Trustees Ominsky and Van Orman countered that a permanent installation works better with the idea of possibly placing a pavilion on the field for use by village residents or as rental space. Mayor Bennett asked for a straw vote from the board for temporary or permanent and is recorded as follows:

Bennett: Temporary

Bates: Permanent

Murphy: Temporary

Ominsky: Permanent

Van Orman: Permanent

Mayor Bennett then remarked that a second bid for permanent installation was required.

On motion by Trustee Ominsky, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to give Mayor Bennet the authority to spend up to $3,800 on permanent electric installation.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to accept a donation of $2000.00 from the Aurorafest Committee to help defray the costs of the electric installation.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Rural Water Authority Agreement:**

**Resolution #15-35: To Participate in New York Rural Water Association’s Source Water Protection Program**

**Whereas:** the Village of Aurora needs to further develop its water resources and planning and management strategies in order to protect and provide drinking water resources for village residents; and

**Whereas:** the New York Rural Water Association’s federally-funded Source Water Protection Program provides technical assistance at no charge to rural and small communities for the identification, development and implementation of local source water protection plans and laws designed to prevent the deterioration of water resources used for drinking water; and

**Whereas:** development of a source water protection plan typically involves the following steps: defining the water supply resources to be protected; identifying potential threats to the quality and quantity of drinking water resources; recommending and implementing measures to reduce threats to drinking water resources; and planning for the future, including water supply emergency events; and

**Whereas:** NYRWA’s Source Water Protection Specialist will work with the Village of Aurora during the planning process to ensure that the completed source water protection law reflects the needs of the local community; and

**Whereas:** the Mayor and Superintendent of Public Works met with Steven Winkley, NYRWA’s Source Water Protection Specialist, and determined that he has the expertise needed to guide us in the process of developing the technical aspects of an aquifer protection law; and

**Whereas:** Mr. Winkley indicated interest in working with our Village, and will be available to do so beginning in the summer of 2015, and expects that he can complete an aquifer protection draft plan by the end of September, 2015;

**Therefore be it resolved:** that the Village of Aurora intends to participate in NYRWA’s water source protection program.

FIRST: Trustee Murphy

SECOND: Trustee Van Orman

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Van Orman, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Next meeting:** July 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk