

DRAFT

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees January 20, 2020 Work Session Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi, Janet Murphy, and Kit Van Orman

Others Present: Village Clerk Ann Balloni, Planning Board member Pat Foser, and ZBA member Laura Holland

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the work session to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Village Board debated the pros and cons of allowing large-scale solar arrays within the Village. Trustees Bates and Bianconi agree with allowing up to 20-acres in the Agricultural/Residential Zone with the belief that, during the application process, the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) will determine which sites, if any, are appropriate. Mayor Bennett and Trustee Murphy feel that the Board should adopt a solar law to allow for small, residential arrays and once the Comprehensive Plan is updated, potentially amend the law to regulate large-scale arrays. Trustee Van Orman remarked that in order to encourage solar in the Village, landowners need options beyond small-scale arrays.

The Board also discussed adopting the law allowing for large-scale arrays in the Institutional Zone and the capability of the grid for larger solar arrays.

The Board discussed the Village Ethics Policy and when/if Board members should recuse themselves from a vote.

The Board did not come to a consensus on the three options: 20 acres in Ag/Res, 20 acres in Institutional or no large-scale arrays.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk