

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 9, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse meeting room at 5:45 p.m.

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

Others: Village Clerk Ann Balloni

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the special meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-05

Proposed Action: Village of Aurora Water System Improvements

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED VILLAGE OF AURORA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Village of Aurora (Village) is located in the Town of Ledyard, Cayuga County, New York; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Village has struggled with water quality issues due to an outdated water treatment system owned and operated by Wells College, and a water intake location that has shown to be susceptible to storms causing high turbidity issues; and

WHEREAS, the treatment process for the College has been in service since the early 1900's and is in need of significant improvements to its filtration process; and

WHEREAS, the College has stated its intent to discontinue the operation of the water treatment system which currently provides water to Village users; and

WHEREAS, the Village needs to supply about 100,000 gallons per day to serve its current users and an alternative water source or treatment system is needed to provide the Village with an improved water supply of both reliable and adequate quality; and

WHEREAS, the Village prepared a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), dated October 2018, which evaluated source water system improvement alternatives and recommended two viable options:

1. New water treatment facility and intake from Cayuga Lake (including a possible partnership with CCWSA for a new alternative regional source)
2. New Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority (CCWSA) connection and transmission main to the Town of Springport; and

WHEREAS, the NYSDOH has reviewed/approved the PER and has scored the DWSRF Project #18564 with 105 points; and

WHEREAS, the Village project is listed on the Environmental Facilities Corporation's (EFC) 2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP) as DWSRF project #18564 above the "hardship evaluation eligibility line", qualifying the project for low-interest or zero-interest loans and a potential for additional grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Village has made its project selection based on current information and the following objectives:

1. To provide safe, clean, reliable water to all Village users
2. To deliver timely results and yet be mindful of the CCWSA schedule
3. To be proactive and forward thinking
4. To be fiscally responsible by maximizing all funding opportunities
5. To provide design flexibility keeping long-term options in mind
6. To minimize all risks for the future water system
7. To fully involve and inform all levels of political leadership as to the circumstances surrounding the project and the funding challenges
8. To think locally, but consider the current regional water goals
9. To be mindful of the reality that Wells College's future is uncertain
10. To be aware that seeking funding requires a project to be selected

11. To proceed towards the most fundable project until circumstances change and the Board will then consider other project options
12. To be a project leader for the Village and the surrounding communities/businesses who also seek reliable drinking water; and

WHEREAS, a regional project in partnership with the CCWSA for an alternate source to Owasco Lake is highly fundable with the State programs because of the potential for consolidation, regionalization and cost reduction by working with neighboring communities that will also benefit from this new source water alternative; and

WHEREAS, the potentially benefiting neighbor communities are the areas served currently by the CCWSA and the City of Auburn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board selects to proceed with PER Alternative No.1: new water treatment facility and intake from Cayuga Lake (including a possible partnership with CCWSA for a new alternative regional source); and

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that this Village project will be transformative for the region and have a substantial impact on local communities since many municipalities will gain an alternative to the current problematic Owasco Source serving both Auburn and the CCWSA service area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution will be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk in files that are readily accessible to the public and made available upon request, subject only to the limitations established by New York's Freedom of Information Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately, and shall be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk within five (5) days hereof.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Janet Murphy, Trustee	AYE
Kit Van Orman, Trustee	AYE
Matt Bianconi, Trustee	AYE
Grace Bates, Trustee	AYE
Bonnie Apgar Bennett, Mayor	AYE

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated: March 9, 2020

GEIS: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to authorize Mayor Bennett to submit the Board's comments, as an Involved Agency in the Inns of Aurora Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), to the Village Planning Board by March 16, 2020.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Van Orman, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to adjourn the March 9, 2020 special meeting at 5: 58 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk