

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 18, 2025

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of holding a work session. The Board met in-person at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York.

Present:	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman (participated via phone)
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	James Granville	Councilman
	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
Others Present:	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chairman
	Rod Simeone	Zoning Board member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman

Supervisor Snyder opened the session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Griffins Mills Hamlet signs:

Alan Davis and Eric Diebolt from the Friends of Griffins Mills, Inc., a non-profit group, spoke to the Board about installing two signs along Mill Road identifying the Hamlet of Griffins Mills. An estimate for the signs from Visual Impact Signs is \$3,620.00. Mr. Davis asked if the Town would be able to contribute \$1,000.00 toward the signs with funds from the Town's West Falls Beautification budget line. The Friends group would find additional funding from other sources. They suggesting placing one sign on the south side of Mill, west of the bridge over Cazenovia Creek and the other sign on the north side of Mill Road, west of Grover where the speed limit reduction sign is located. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that since Mill Road is an Erie County road a permit would be needed from the county for the placement of the signs and they would need to be placed in the county right-of-way.

Mr. Davis noted that they are trying to hi-lite the historic importance of Griffins Mills. He also stated that they are in the preliminary planning stage for a Heritage Days event that would be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025, similar to the event that was held in 2021. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that if they plan on closing part of Mill Road a permit from Erie County would be required.

2) 1342 Quaker – rezoning proposal:

Supervisor Snyder reviewed the history of business uses along Quaker Road/Route 20A, in the Town, noting that there is an architect office, a short term rental, subsidized housing, office space, wedding and event venue, illuminated landscaping business, veterinary office and a commercial nursery with retail space. Since 1964 the property at 1342 Quaker has been used as gas/service station, taxi service, car sales, retail grocery, pool sales, and convenience store. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated the variances given to 1342 Quaker remain in place forever. Councilman McCann questioned if rezoning would eliminate previous use variances.

Planning Board Chairman Doug Crow stated that the Planning Board discussed and reviewed these issues before making the recommendation to the Town Board to rezone the property from RR to C1.

Supervisor Snyder stated he will contact the Town Attorney regarding the uses and discontinuation of uses question. Mr. Snyder suggested tabling voting on the rezoning until the April 14th Town Board meeting.

Zoning Board member Rod Simeone spoke to the Board about the rezoning and stated that he believes C1 uses do not conform to this area.

3) Mill Road Overlook field rehab:

The Board discussed the proposal to have Ron Engasser plow and rehab the field at the Mill Road Overlook. Highway Superintendent Gunner stated that the field will be rehabbed in quarter sections starting on the right hand side, with one-quarter of the field being done each year. The first section would be done this Spring and the remainder would be brush-hogged this year. The Town Attorney prepared a 5-year agreement between the Town and Mr. Engasser. The area over the Tennessee Gas pipeline will not be plowed. This area will only be mowed.

4) Deer Overpopulation:

Councilman McCann stated that he met with Ryan Rockefeller from the NYDEC regarding the overpopulation of deer in the Town. Mr. McCann noted that according to the DEC there is a remedy. The Town would need to adopt a resolution declaring deer a nuisance and complete an application for unlimited doe permits. Property owners would sign up for the program to allow hunters on their property to cull the doe population. Mr. McCann stated that the program works best when you have experienced hunters involved.

Martha L. Libroch
Town Clerk