Town of Aurora | Work Session | October 20, 2026

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM 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. The Work Session was also live streamed via YouTube.

Present:	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
	Benjamin Garvey	Councilmember
	Joseph McCann	Councilmember
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
	Raymond Wrazen	Councilmember
Others Present:	Stephen Pigeon	Town Assessor

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

1. Veterans Disability Tax Exemption

Town Assessor Pigeon presented a new optional property tax exemption under RPTL §458a(11) for veterans deemed permanently and totally disabled due to military service. If adopted by the Town of Aurora, qualifying veterans would receive a full exemption from property taxes and applicable special district charges, assessments, and ad valorem levies on their primary residence. Steve identified 82 veterans with disability ratings of 70% or higher, including 57 in the Town and 25 in the Village, although not all would necessarily qualify. He explained that Erie County and several municipalities have adopted the exemption. Without Town adoption, existing veteran's exemptions would remain in place.

Board Members expressed support for disabled veterans while raising questions about the financial impact on other taxpayers, particularly those within special districts. Councilmember Armbrust requested an estimate of the potential tax redistribution before considering adoption. Councilmember McCann discussed the importance of a public hearing to allow residents to understand and comment on the impact.

Town Assessor Pigeon agreed to calculate an estimated maximum financial impact using existing veterans' tax bills, including special district charges. He emphasized that the estimate would represent a potential 100% participation scenario because actual eligibility remains unknown. He recommended that any adoption occur well before the Town's March 1 taxable status date, with the exemption expected to affect 2028 tax bills.

Several Board Members discussed whether water, sewer, garbage collection, and additional waste carts would be included. Councilmember McCann contacted County Legislator Lindsay Lorigo, who initially indicated that metered water and sewer charges may not qualify. Further clarification was requested before proceeding.

2. Erie County Veterans Services Outreach

Supervisor Snyder presented a request from Benjamin Manion of the Erie County Office of Veterans Services to use a Town conference room once a month, potentially on Thursdays, to assist local veterans with VA benefits, applications, and available programs.

The Board Members expressed unanimous support for the service and discussed helping publicize it through the Town's website and social media. The County would coordinate scheduling and provide promotional materials. The request will be placed on an upcoming Town Board agenda.

3. Electronics Recycling Program

Supervisor Snyder introduced a proposed electronics recycling partnership involving Sunnking and the Village of East Aurora. Councilmember Wrazen volunteered to take the lead in exploring the program and identified several outstanding questions, including collection procedures, locations, operating periods, staffing, security, and costs. He emphasized the need to understand the Town's responsibilities before proceeding.

Town Clerk Viger shared information from a discussion with Village Administrator Jess Tufte. The proposal would offer electronics drop-off during approximately four warmer months, with an additional collection opportunity shortly after Christmas. Town and Village residents could use either the Village's Pine Street location or a Town-designated site. The revised proposal calls for six pallets, divided equally between the municipalities. No decision deadline has been established.

Councilmember McCann raised concerns about limited Highway Department storage space, the need to secure electronics containing personal information, staffing requirements, and Councilmember Wrazen mentioned unauthorized dumping. Members noted that existing curbside collection helps ensure participation is limited to Town residents, while a drop-off program could offer greater convenience.

Councilmember Armbrust agreed that expanding recycling options and collaborating with the Village were worthwhile goals, provided operational concerns could be addressed.

Councilmember Wrazen will continue exploring the proposal with the appropriate representatives and report back to the Board.

4. Code Committee and Planning Board Revisions

Councilmember Wrazen requested an update on proposed code revisions reviewed by the Planning Board and asked that its recommendations be provided to the Town Board sufficiently in advance of work sessions.

Supervisor Snyder explained that Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga is maintaining a spreadsheet tracking revisions through the approval process. Suggested attending Planning Board meetings to better understand discussions and the reasoning behind proposed changes.

Councilmember Wrazen emphasized that the Town Board should receive proposed revisions and supporting information with adequate time for independent review, rather than immediately before meetings; specifically requested a clear understanding of how proposed code amendments align with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Board Members agreed that timely distribution of materials is necessary to support informed discussion and decision-making.

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk