Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | October 13, 2026

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM. The Board met in-person at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York. The meeting was live streamed via YouTube.

Present:	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
	Benjamin Garvey	Councilmember
	Joseph McCann	Councilmember
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
	Raymond Wrazen	Councilmember
Excused:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
Others Present:	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Rich Miga	Assistant Code Enforcement Officer
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chair
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chair
	Patrick Welch	Chief of Police

Supervisor (Supv.) Snyder opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The first item on the agenda was a Public Hearing on the use of Erie County Community Development funds in the Town of Aurora. Supv. Snyder opened the hearing at 6:31 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment. Hearing no one, the Supv. closed the hearing at 6:32 PM.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of September 22, 2026 Work Session, September 28, 2026 Town Board meeting, and October 1, 2026 Special Board meeting minutes and the October 13, 2026 Abstract of Claims, consisting of vouchers 1174 through 1235, and manual check vouchers 1236 through 1238 to be paid from the following funds:

Action #351 9/22/26 Work Session, 9/28 Town Board, 10/1/26 Special Town Board minutes & 10/13/26 abstract approved

General Fund	$	25,382.50
Part Town Fund	$	125.00
Highway Part Town Fund	$	21,384.08
Village Bridge Repairs	$	608.12
Special Districts	$	28,896.64
Trust & Agency	$	280.69
Grand Total Abstract	**$**	**76,677.03**

Councilmember Garvey seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE I: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Armbrust moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign, submit and execute contracts for the 2027-28 Erie County Community Development Block Grant (ECCDBG) program for the following projects upon approval of the ECCDBG:

1) Improvements to the Aurora Town Library (reconstruct the handicapped access ramp)
2) Support the Village of East Aurora elevator modernization at the Police/Court Building
3) Support continuation of the Rural Transit Services, Inc. program

Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #352 Supv auth to sign 2027-28 CDBG program contracts – Aurora Town Library ramp listed as #1

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve the following changes to the 2027 Tentative Budget:

- Added delinquent Town of Aurora unpaid garbage payment: $247.83
- Increased appropriation line A 3510.102 Control of Dogs Director Stipend from $12,058 to $12,800
- Increased A Fund appropriated fund balance from $275,000 to $290,000
- Added appropriation line A3620.140 Safety Inspection overtime
- Increased appropriation line A3620.140 Safety Inspection overtime from $0 to $2500
- Added appropriation line A3620.141 Safety Inspection PT Assistant Code Enforcement Officer
- Increase appropriation line A3620.141 Safety Inspection PT Assistant Code Enforcement Officer from $0 to $30,000
- Added Codes 24651 - Garbage Tote unit count and 24652 - Recycling Tote unit count to the Summary by Assessment Code page

Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #353 2027 Tentative budget changes approved

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the 2027 Tentative Budget. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #354 2027 Tentative budget approved

Councilmember McCann moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, October 28, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing on the Town of Aurora 2027 Preliminary Operating Budget. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #355 Public hearing for 2027 Preliminary budget set

Councilmember Wrazen moved to adopt the following Local Law 10-2026 Town Clerk Salary; seconded by Councilmember Armbrust:

TOWN OF AURORA
LOCAL LAW INTRO 9 - 2026
LOCAL LAW 10 - 2026
A Local Law to Increase the Salary of the Town Clerk During the Term of Office

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Aurora as follows:

Section 1: Legislative Intent
It is the intent of this local law to provide an increase in the annual salary for the elected office of Town Clerk Jeanne Viger for the remainder of 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law. This increase is in excess of the amount specified in the notice of the public hearing on the preliminary budget published pursuant to Town Law § 108.

Section 2: Authority
This local law is enacted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10. To the extent necessary, this local law supersedes any inconsistent provisions of the Town Law or other applicable laws relating to the timing or adjustment of salaries of elected town officers, consistent with the authority conferred by the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Section 3: Salary Increase
Effective as hereinafter provided, the Town Clerk's annual compensation for the fiscal year 2026 shall be increased by amount of $4,057 per annum, prorated as appropriate to take effect on May 26, 2026 through the end of the fiscal year. The purpose of the additional compensation is to fund the Town Clerk's new role as the Town Webmaster.

Section 4: Budgetary Authorization
The Town Board hereby authorizes and directs that the Town budget be amended as necessary to fund the salary established herein, including any inter-fund or intra-fund transfers and modifications in accordance with applicable law and fiscal procedures.

Section 5: Severability
If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not impair the validity of the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, or section directly involved in the controversy.

Section 6: Subject to Permissive Referendum
Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 24, this local law is subject to a referendum on petition (permissive referendum). This local law shall not take effect until forty-five (45) days have elapsed after its adoption without the filing of a valid petition requesting that the local law be submitted to the electors for approval, or (ii) if a valid petition is filed within such period, until approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at a duly held referendum.

Section 7. Notice; Filing; Publication and Posting
The Town Clerk is hereby directed to:

- cause to be published and/or posted, in the manner required by law, a notice setting forth an abstract of this local law and stating that it is subject to a permissive referendum; and
- file a certified copy of this local law with the New York State Secretary of State as required by law.

Section 8: Effective Date
This local law shall take effect in accordance with Section 6 above, upon the expiration of the period for filing a petition for a permissive referendum without such a petition being filed, or, if a valid petition is filed, upon approval by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and subsequent filing with the Secretary of State.

Upon a roll call vote being taken:

Councilmember Wrazen	Aye
Councilmember Armbrust	Aye
Supervisor Snyder	Aye
Councilmember Garvey	Aye
Councilmember McCann	Aye

Ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #356 Local Law 10-2026 Town Clerk Salary Increase adopted

Councilmember Garvey moved to adopt the following resolution; seconded by Councilmember McCann:

TOWN OF AURORA
SEQR RESOLUTION
558 Buffalo Road (SBL# 164.00-1-16)

Action#357 SEQR Negative declaration 558 Buffalo Rd SUP adopted

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Aurora declares itself lead agency with regard to State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for the Special Use Permit to operate a dog grooming business with no boarding or daycare in the existing space at 558 Buffalo Road; and further

RESOLVED that after considering the action stated herein, reviewing the criteria contained in Section 617.11 of the Rules and Regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the Code Enforcement Officer determines that the actions are Unlisted actions; and further

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Aurora has determined that these Unlisted actions will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared; and further

RESOLVED that a negative declaration is issued with regard to the Special Use Permit to operate a dog grooming business with no boarding or daycare in the existing space at 558 Buffalo Road, East Aurora, NY.

Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action#358 Dog grooming business 558 Buffalo Rd SUP adopted

Councilmember Armbrust moved to adopt the following resolution; seconded by Councilmember Wrazen:

TOWN OF AURORA
RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIAL USE PERMIT
558 Buffalo Road (SBL# 164.00-1-16)

WHEREAS, Rebecca Bermingham/The Grooming Post has applied for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a dog grooming business with no boarding or daycare in the existing space at 558 Buffalo Road, East Aurora, NY; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Aurora referred the Special Use Permit application to the Town of Aurora Planning Board for their review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2026, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Board approve the Special Use Permit; and

WHEREAS, as an unlisted action under SEQR the Town Board found that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Code §95-2B(2) of the Town of Aurora, the Town Board of the Town of Aurora does hereby grant the attached Special Use Permit, including conditions, to Rebecca Bermingham/The Grooming Post to operate a dog grooming business with no boarding or daycare in the existing space at 558 Buffalo, East Aurora, NY.

Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #359 Payment # 26 for Church St bridge/culvert project approved

Councilmember McCann moved to approve Payment # 26 for professional services rendered from June 27, 2026 through September 25, 2026 to Azar Design Co. (formerly Foit Albert) in the amount of $608.12 for the Church Street bridge/culvert with funds being disbursed from H7 5120.210. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action #360 Recreation Budget Transfer addition to agenda approved

Supv. Snyder asked for a motion to approve adding a Recreation Department Budget Transfer as a new agenda item. Councilmember Wrazen moved, Councilmember Armbrust seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #361 Supv. authorized to sign ECDEP temporary and permanent Emery Park easement for culvert

Councilmember Garvey moved to authorize the Supv. to sign an agreement with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) for a temporary construction easement and permanent easement to replace and maintain the culvert in Cazenovia Creek in Erie County's Emery Park. These areas are identified as having an area of 3,180 +/- square feet, over, under, and across the portions of the Park Property known as 0 Emery Road (SBL: 201. 00-1-46) and an area of 3,180 +/- square feet over, under, and across the portion of the Park Property known as 0 Cornwall Road (SBL: 201.00-3-4). Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #362 Town Clerk budget transfers approved

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the following Town Clerk budget transfer to correct overdrawn appropriation line:

- From: A1410.413 PT Contractual $600.00
- To: A1410.107 Part Time Help $600.00

And to approve the following Town Clerk budget transfer to help prevent an overdrawn appropriation line:

- From: A1990 Contingent Fund $2000.00
- To: A1410.107 Part Time Help $2000.00

Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

In response to the Town Clerk's budget transfers to support recent increased labor needs, Councilmember Garvey said it was worth addressing the fact that Waste Management

had not delivered the promised website, despite earlier discussions about rollout challenges. He recommended addressing outstanding issues with Waste Management and preventing similar problems in the future.

Supv. Snyder noted the significant burden on Town staff, who spent considerable time responding to resident questions and complaints.

Councilmember McCann agreed that Waste Management's failure to meet commitments unnecessarily burdened the Clerk's and Supervisor's offices and suggested seeking accountability and remedies.

Councilmember Wrazen agreed, noting that it occurred during the school tax season. The website would have alleviated some of the call volumes.

Multiple board members acknowledged that conditions were improving but noted that the website could have prevented many issues including the unanticipated labor costs.

Town Clerk Viger reported that Waste Management had advocated for the Town to receive a website despite not meeting the population thresholds that receive custom websites. Originally expected in November, it may be available sooner.

Councilmember Armbrust emphasized establishing firm delivery dates for informational resources before future rollouts. Councilmember Garvey replied that you did this prior to this roll out and the website was not delivered.

Action #363 Supv. authorized to sign GovPilot agreement

Councilmember Armbrust moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign a three year contract with GovPilot, LLC DBA Spatial Data Logic, 990 Cedarbridge Ave Suite B7-363, Brick, NJ 08723 for Town Clerk software that will support point-of-sale transactions: dog license renewals, NYS Department of Motor Vehicle disability tag management, vital records and town government cash management, contingent on the approval of the 2027 Budget. This program will offer online services for residents. The contract is effective January 1, 2027 at subscription cost of $16,000/year. Quotes from other providers included Tyler Technologies; $27,000/year with a one-time $59,400 implementation fee and Edmunds GovTech BAS at $6,500/year with a one-time $3,500 implementation fee. GovPilot was selected because the offerings are more user-friendly both on the back end and resident facing and the level of customization available to meet our needs. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #364 Recreation approved to attend NYSRPS conference

Councilmember McCann moved to approve Recreation Director Musshafen and Recreation Specialist Tent to attend New York State Recreation and Park Society (NYSRPS) Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo, NY on November 4, 2026 with registration at $350/person. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #365 Recreation budget transfer approved

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the following Recreation budget transfer to prevent an overdrawn appropriation line:

- From: A7140.440 Program Supplies $750.00
- To: A7020.404 Travel & Expense $750.00

Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #366 Creation of Capital Project H8 Salt Barn approved

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve creating a new Capital Project, H8 for the Salt Barn Project that include:

- Revenue
  - H80-3891-0000
- Appropriation
  - H80-5197-0100-0000 Payroll
  - H80-5197-0200-0000 Equipment
  - H80-5197-0401-0000 Supplies
  - H80-5197-0413-0000 Equipment Rental

Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #367 Cemetery Fund balance approved

Councilmember Armbrust moved to approve a fund balance to correct an overdrawn appropriation line in the Cemetery Fund (CE):

- Decrease CE-0882 Restricted for Repairs Fund Balance by $113.00
- Increase Appropriation Line CE0-8810-0401 by $113.00

Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #368 Special Council fund balance approved

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the following budget transfer to prevent an overdrawn appropriation line and prevent further over budget incidents for this line in 2026:

- From: A1990 Contingent Account $7500.00
- To: A1420.416 Special Council $7500.00

Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #369 Transfer of Town Comprehensive Plan website approved

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the transfer of responsibility and expense of the Town of Aurora Comprehensive Plan website from LaBella Associates to the Town Clerk effective immediately. This represents a yearly Squarespace website

hosting cost of $228 and a yearly domain cost of $20. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve the proposal from General Code to update (codify and supplement) the Aurora Town Code for local laws adopted 2023 through 2026 to date at a cost between $4,300.00 and $5,190.00. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #370 General Code proposal to update Town Code approved

Councilmember Armbrust moved to approve the Dog Control Officer (DCO) part-time hire of Christa Filipski, a village resident, at $21.60/hour. First day of training will be on or after October 14, 2026. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #371 DCO Part time hire C. Filipski approved

Councilmember McCann moved to authorize the Supv. to sign a Shared Municipal Services Agreement for Dog Control Services with the Town of Sardinia, whereby the Town of Aurora Dog Control will provide services for pickup of dogs found at large in the Town of Sardinia, effective January 1, 2027. The Town of Sardinia shall compensate the Town of Aurora 10,000.00 a year for these services. Councilmember Garvey seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #372 Supv. auth to sign dog control shared municipal services agreement with Sardinia

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the Highway hire of Benjamin Myers, a village resident, as a Union Laborer at $20.80/hour. His first day will be October 17, 2026. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #373 Highway hire B. Myers approved

Councilmember Garvey moved to authorize the Supv. to sign a letter requesting that Erie County Civil Service consider approving the Town of Aurora title reclassification of part-time Court Officers from a competitive title to a non-competitive title. The intention is to increase the pool of applicants interested in working limited/infrequent 4-hour shifts. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #374 Supv. to sign Court officer title reclassification request authorized

Councilmember Armbrust moved to authorize the Supv. to sign a joint letter with the Town of Wales requesting that the South Wales Fire District provide its estimated fund balance statement, as required by New York State law, to the Supervisors and Town Clerks of both towns prior to the adoption of Fire District's proposed 2027 budget. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #375 Supv. to sign joint letter to South Wales Fire District authorized

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

A. Town Clerk – Sep '26 Report
B. Town Clerk – Sep '26 Tax Report
C. Town Clerk – Sep '26 New Garbage Report
D. Dog Control – Sep '26 Report
E. Highway Work Orders – Sep '26 Report
F. Parks Work Orders – Sep '26 Report
G. Building Department – Sep '26 Report
H. EA Police Dept – Sep' 26 Report

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Deputy Supervisor McCann reported progress on the Town's deer management program. He met with a prospective Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) who has a strong working relationship with Rich Richert, who oversees similar programs in Clarence and West Seneca and is interested in participating. Two additional operators are scheduled to meet next week, and a fifth local individual has expressed interest. Town Attorney Bridget Maloney is reviewing potential liability concerns, preparing agreements for use of private property, and verifying the Town's authority to use other properties.

Councilmember Garvey reminded residents of the paint recycling event on October 24, 2026 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Parkdale Elementary School. Additional publicity is planned, and residents may schedule appointments for convenient drop-off. Approximately 88% to 92% of collected materials are recycled. He also thanked Highway Superintendent Gunner and approximately 12 high school volunteers for removing weeds at the Route 400 roundabout. Superintendent Gunner estimated that 80% of the work was completed. Both expressed interest in making this an annual effort, with another volunteer opportunity anticipated in the spring.

Councilmember Armbrust reported on the October 6, 2026 Sewer District meeting. A contract was awarded for control systems technical services. One reactor and clarifier was repaired and returned to service, while another was scheduled for inspection and maintenance. Annual inspections were completed with no deficiencies. Electrical upgrades continue, and sand filter replacement is scheduled for November of this year. Proposed user charges for the coming year include both increases and decreases, with an anticipated balanced impact on users. A public hearing was held with no attendees.

Councilmember Wrazen reported participating in a four-session Soil Stewards training program covering composting, organic waste reduction, and soil health. The Towns of Aurora, Lancaster, and Hamburg are participating in similar pilot programs, providing opportunities to share resources and ideas. The Town's compost collection program is showing encouraging participation, with ten 20-gallon carts nearly full each week, representing an estimated 1,000 pounds of organic waste. Next steps include gathering data and engaging the community to determine future program improvements.

AUDIENCE II: none

STAFF REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent Gunner reported that leaf collection began this week while crews prepare snowplows for winter. Parks operations are winding down, buildings and grounds are in good condition, and dog control activity is beginning to slow following a busy September.

Police Chief Patrick Welch reported that two new officers have completed training and are performing well, leaving one remaining vacancy. The department continues recruiting part-time public safety dispatchers, which require 60 college credits, and substitute crossing guards. Carolcade has been rescheduled to Friday, December 18, 2026 to avoid traffic conflicts associated with the Buffalo Bills game scheduled for 8:20 PM on December 19, 2026. The department held a car seat installation and inspection event on September 26, 2026 serving 12 participants. Officers will complete annual Taser training by year-end. Chief Welch also warned of continued vehicle thefts from unlocked cars, primarily occurring overnight through organized groups targeting neighborhoods. Residents are urged to lock vehicles and bring keys inside.

Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga warned of increasingly sophisticated phishing scams targeting applicants whose contact information appears on public meeting agendas. Fraudulent invoices have circulated in both the Town and Village, including recent examples incorporating official Village watermarks. Residents should watch for suspicious invoices containing misspellings, incorrect addresses, or other inconsistencies.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Paul Ernst had no report.

Planning Board Chair Doug Crow reported that the Planning Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Special Use Permit and Site Plan sections of the Town Code. The Board submitted several recommended changes to the Town Board and is prepared to review additional sections as they become available.

Councilmember McCann moved to adjourn at 7:11 PM, seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #376 Meeting adjourned

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk