

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
June 17, 2025

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, June 17, 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
	James Granville	Councilman
	Raymond Wrazen	Councilman
	Charles Snyder	Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
Others Present:	Richard Miga	Asst. Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Paul Ernst	ZBA Chairman
	Rod Simeone	ZBA Member

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

1) Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner purchase request - Chipper:

Highway Superintendent Gunner submitted a request to the Town Board to purchase a 2025 Bandit Intimidator 12XP Brush Chipper. This will be purchased from Niagara Frontier Equipment Sales Inc from the NJPA Sourcewell Contract #062117 for the price of \$54,172.40. This will be paid for out of DB5130.217 Equipment Purchase. Back in 2023, Highway Superintendent Gunner received an estimate on a Chipper that was \$57,000. The new Chipper is not diesel like the 2023 estimate. Diesels are not ordered as much as they use to. Chippers are not used as much as they were in the old days because of the Grapple truck. The current one we have now is getting expensive to repair. Soucewell is offering a \$7,000 trade. Would still like to put it on Auctions International to see if we can do better. Chipper is a 15-year tool. After approval, it will take approximately 3 months to receive Chipper. Current Chipper was bought used. Looking to get a Grapple Truck for 2027.

Highway Superintendent Gunner stated back in 2023 he talked about the 10-year plan. This year was a tough winter for the Town. After winter, the highway department examines our roads, and there was more damage than originally planned and more cost than planned. Because of that the highway department took a step back on finishing Sweet Road. Due to salt shortage, we had to spend extra to locate and purchase salt. Councilman McCann asked when the remainder of Sweet Road will be finished. Highway Superintendent Gunner said the section between Center Street and Hubbard Road that was not paved this year was last paved he believes in 2008. That section will be in the oil and chip program for next year.

Highway Superintendent Gunner plans to come to the board with budget transfers in the next few weeks to balance that out for the year. The Town received a bump in CHIPS of \$12,000.

Highway Superintendent Gunner found out that the circle at the end of NY 16/NY 400 is the Town of Aurora's responsibility. It is overgrown. The Highway Department will get a crew over there this week to clean it up. Would like to discuss with the board about possibly getting a Welcome to Aurora sign in there. This would come out the general budget, sign budget. Councilman Wochensky suggested talking to the Roycrofters at Large about the design. Also suggested reaching out to the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce for funding/donations. Once we receive the rules from the DOT we can discuss further.

2) Warren Park update:

Supervisor Snyder, Councilman Wochensky, Paul Ernst and his crew from FFAE have been working on a plan for Warren Park. Grant application submitted that this park would be an active park, but one where it was not organized, a way to get all generations to get active. Playground, skate park, pickle ball court and track, etc. A grant application was submitted for this. It was submitted in early May; believe we should hear by the end of July. The plans all totaled over one million dollars. Highway Superintendent Gunner has seen, if a park is not used, it turns into a bad place. Highway Superintendent Gunner has talked to the neighbors about noise where the current pickle ball court is, there is not a sound issue. There is a natural barrier and the hillside. Lights were discussed at the parking lot and the pavilion. Lights were not put in the grant application.

3) Jury Duty and Sick Leave Policy updates:

We have two highway workers that have been called up for jury duty. One is a full-time employee, and one is a seasonal worker.

Our policy is: In the event an employee is required to perform jury duty on a day the employee is scheduled to work; the employee will receive paid jury duty leave. Such leave will not be subtracted from any of the employee's leave credits. An employee is obligated to notify the Commissioner of Jurors that the Town is paying the employee's full salary during jury duty. An employee can collect and keep any mileage expense reimbursement that may be issued by the court system for performing jury duty.

Supervisor Snyder raises the question that there is no time limit on that and secondly it does not differentiate between seasonal workers, part-time workers and full-time workers.

Secretary to the Supervisor Jennifer Calkins has contacted our attorney about this and here is her suggestion:

It appears that as previously written, policy provided fully paid jury duty leave to all employees. If you want to change the policy so that a particular subset of employees (i.e. Seasonal employees) will only receive what is required by law (\$40/day for up to three days), and keep the fully paid jury duty leave for your regular full-time year-around employee, I recommend that you revise the policy as follows:

Jury Duty Leave:

Regular Full-Time and Regular Part-Time Employee – In the event a regular full-time employee is required to perform jury duty on a day the employee is scheduled to work, the employee will receive paid jury duty leave for up to ____ days of jury duty service. Such leave will not be subtracted from any of the employee's leave credits. An employee is obligated to notify the Commissioner of Jurors that the Town is paying the employee's full salary during jury duty. An employee can collect and keep any mileage expense reimbursement that may be issued by the court system for performing jury duty.

Councilman Wochensky questioned if this is in the union contract and would we have to get union approval. Supervisor Snyder replied yes, so we need to decide on the number of days and have the updates approved by the union. Councilman McCann says the Town of Aurora supports our employees in doing their duty and serving on jury duty.

Town Supervisor Snyder suggests we think about it and discuss at the next work session and put together a plan.

4) Judicial decision:

A resignation letter was received from Councilman Granville. A decision will be made at this coming meeting. Town Supervisor Snyder will be making the motion to appoint James Granville the temporary judge until December 31, 2025.

Supervisor Snyder and Councilman Wochensky have been working on the plan for the court's renovations. The Town Board viewed and discussed the plans. Wheelchair accessibility from the judge bench to the judge's office was discussed. There is no room for a ramp but could look at putting in a lift. The plan is to make it safer for everyone. The state has not approved of the plans yet.

The Village of East Aurora has approved the plans with one suggestion that the door down to the Chief's office gets locked. The Village of East Aurora has also asked about bullet proof glass and the cost of that. The Village of East Aurora is planning to pay for the bulletproof glass.

Councilman Wochensky questioned how the Town of Aurora plans to pay for this. The estimated cost is \$400,000. Supervisor Snyder has talked to Senator Gallivan, who has applied for a \$300,000 grant for us. The Town has not heard anything from him yet. The Town also does not have approval from the State Judicial OCA. Town Justice Jeffrey Markello was trying to get that done at a local office, not the NYC office. Councilman Granville believes there is something like JCAP that has helped build rural court houses for the past 25 years. Councilman Granville will check into this for the Town. Councilman Wochensky questioned if any of the state consolidated funding would work. This is being done for both the Village and the Town to have a joint facility.

5) Site Plan – 12 Old Glenwood:

Plans reviewed. Supervisor Snyder sees concrete porches and decks not even on this piece of property. They look like they are on the County or State property. Asst. Code Enforcement Officer Miga stated that the building is already across the property lines based on the survey. Town Board suggests that the owners should get permission from the State and the Rail Trail. This issue needs to be addressed before going to the Planning Board. Asst. Code Enforcement Officer Miga will work with the new owners. The new owners are trying to get away from putting in a sprinkler system by using stairway exits, having two exits.

Asst. Code Enforcement Officer Miga stated the Erie County Health Department has approved a new septic system design and placement for the additional three units they want to put on the first floor.

The session ended at 8:00 pm.

Karin L. Dojnik
Deputy Town Clerk