

Town of Aurora | Working Session | March 17, 2026

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Wednesday, March 17, 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.

Present:	Luke Wochensky	Councilmember
	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilmember
	Joseph McCann	Councilmember
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor

Others Present:	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer

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

1) Second West Falls Hamlet Sign – Alan Davis:

Mr. Davis, President of the Friends of Griffins Mills, requested support from the board for a second Welcome to Griffins Mills sign be installed at the east end of Griffins Mills. A check for \$810 was provided by the Friends of Griffins Mills with an ask to use the beautification funds to cover the \$1,000 difference to build it. This would also help draw attention to the nearby 35 MPH sign. The town would install this sign as they did the first. The board supports this initiative and it will be added to the March 23, 2026 Town Board agenda for approval and acceptance of the check.

2) Door Security System Upgrade – Nick Fodero (wnynetWORKS): topic postponed

3) 1196 Big Tree Road

Rachel Krajewski, owner of Carner Development Group and Peter Sorgi, her legal counsel, joined the board to discuss the aforementioned property which had been referred to the Planning Board on March 11. Mainly due to not meeting Planning Board quorum voting requirements, these Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review applications have come back before the board for further discussion. The proposal is for a campground at the Twin Elms property, about 86 acres, with most of the land in a conservation easement that will remain protected and undeveloped. The existing main house would become an administrative building, with additional lodging such as cabins and treehouses, plus a wellness center and a lodge for occasional events.

Mr. Sorgi stated that the project fully complies with code and does not require variances. A major point of discussion was whether the proposal properly fits the town's zoning definition of a campground, and Mr. Sorgi strongly maintained that it does and that the code interpretation must be in the hands of the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Sorgi states and Ms. Krajewski affirms that due diligence in meeting town code is their priority.

Board discussion focused less on the project design itself and more on process: whether the planning board's role is to evaluate site plan and special use permit criteria only, or also weigh in on the zoning interpretation. Because the planning board was split and lacked enough votes for a recommendation, the applications will return to the Planning Board for further review with the goal of full quorum in order to meet required voting parameters before returning to the town board.

****Unrelated to these applications, conversation ensued about an email phishing incident in which the Planning Board chairman was impersonated and requested sums of money for building fees. Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy reviewed the process for collecting monies, none of which is conducted via email.**

4) Town of Aurora Salt Barn Informational

Highway Superintendent David Gunner summarized a 2025 NYForward grant application for a new salt barn, a \$607,555 project funded 75% by grant and 25% by town match. The Hybrid Building Solutions quote from last summer has increased about \$10,000, which can go toward the match.

He said the proposal needed to be signed within two weeks to meet the March 31 expiration date and hold the contractor's place. The town would pay upfront and be reimbursed through the grant.

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said the site is fine, but the proposal must meet 2025 New York State code and still needs engineering and stamped plans, which could affect cost. The grant also includes a new brine facility quote, but not pipes or electrical.

Superintendent Gunner said the town would need to front about \$60,000 in material costs to start, though the current building budget line has only \$27,000. He also said delaying would not jeopardize the grant because the funding is already allocated through DEC. The board also discussed asphalt versus concrete, with Superintendent Gunner leaning toward asphalt.

5) June 6 Pride Event – AMC Parking Lot Use

Councilmember McCann asked Highway Superintendent Gunner for his help blocking off the parking lot, also needs podium and the doors to the municipal center open for public bathroom use.

****Notice of Executive Session****

Supervisor Snyder stated the Town Board would be holding an executive session at the end of this working session on the topic of an ongoing litigation.

6) 2025 Town of Aurora Comprehensive Plan – Implementation

Supervisor Snyder spoke up to acknowledge the positive feedback received during the Comprehensive Plan public hearing on February 23, 2026. He asked Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Chair Councilmember Wrazen if he planned to respond to any of the comments from the hearing and offered to work together on it. Councilmember Wrazen partnered with a few other communities to collect best practices for rolling out the plan. The Planning Board previously identified some “low hanging fruit” to tackle first: activate an implementation team and upon adoption, conduct a zoning audit. Councilmember Wrazen plans to implement, measure, monitor and report progress back as the plan comes online. Supervisor Snyder brought up leaning on the Code Committee as a resource to help with writing the local law to incorporate the comprehensive plan

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into town code. Councilmember Wrazen concurred having had the same idea; formalize the committee, set recurring meetings and align goals. Councilmember Wochensky said it would be advisable to officially form that committee through board action.

NYForward Grant Selection Committee

Supervisor Snyder teed up a quick chat about his recommendations for the NYForward Grant Selection committee. In addition to himself, he suggested Councilmember Wochensky, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy, Kathleen Moffatt, William Heidt, Meaghan Tent, Conor Schneider, Donna Schwarzewholzer and Adam Zaremski. This committee will propose how to implement the funds awarded to the town.

Invasive Hemlock Aphid Owens Falls

Councilmember Wrazen discussed the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive, aphid-like insect which has been identified as a threat to the trees in the vicinity of Owens Falls Park. The Land Conservancy recently treated hemlocks at J.P. Nicely Park providing a 5-7 year stave off period. Councilmember Wrazen expressed the need to go to the next level of treatment which introduces insects native to the Northwest US to eradicate the issue long term. He is in contact with the Land Conservancy about what needs to be done to advance matters proactively.

Executive Session

Supervisor Snyder made a motion to enter executive session to discuss an ongoing litigation at 7:49 PM, Councilmember Wochensky seconded. At 8:15 PM, Councilmember McCann moved to exit executive session and Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk