

## Town of Aurora | Work Session | August 18, 2026

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, August 18, 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<br>Benjamin Garvey<br>Joseph McCann<br>Charles D. Snyder<br>Raymond Wrazen | Councilmember<br>Councilmember<br>Councilmember<br>Supervisor<br>Councilmember |
| Absent/Excused: | Brigid Maloney                                                                              | Town Attorney                                                                  |
| Others Present: | David Gunner                                                                                | Highway Superintendent                                                         |

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

All agenda topics were brought to the board by Highway Superintendent David Gunner.

### 1. Recycling Grant and Highway Equipment

Superintendent Gunner stated that the Highway Department received a \$342,000 New York State recycling grant earlier than expected. Because reimbursement requires canceled checks, the Town paid for the \$274,000 grapple early so the reimbursement process could begin. Timing of the reimbursement depends partly on other municipalities included in the State's payment batch.

The Highway Department also proposed moving ahead with two equipment replacements already included in its long-term equipment plan. A new hook-lift truck would replace the existing unit while continuing to use its interchangeable bodies. Purchasing before new emissions requirements take effect is expected to avoid roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 in additional cost.

A new 2027 Ford F-550 is available for approximately \$77,000, compared with an earlier estimate of \$84,000. Combined with the savings on the larger truck, moving the purchases forward was estimated to save approximately \$38,000. The F-550 would be included in the new grant.

A separate plow package would include both a salt hopper and brine system, allowing the operator to switch between salt and brine as needed. This portion would not be eligible for the recycling grant and would be paid by the Town. The discussion emphasized brine as a lower-cost alternative given rising salt prices.

The existing grapple and F-550 were grant-funded in 2017 and cannot be sold until the required 10-year ownership period is satisfied. They are expected to be sold once eligible.

### 2. Salt Barn Project

The grant will fund the salt barn itself, but the proposed brine equipment was removed from the project. Earlier grant versions had included more equipment, but those items were reduced to control the Town's match and ultimately could not be included under the revised grant allocation.

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Questions remain about the plans required from Hybrid Building Solutions. The Town needs New York State stamped plans before a building permit can be issued. It was unclear whether Hybrid provides the necessary plans or whether the Town will need to hire an engineer. Supervisor Snyder agreed to clarify that directly with Hybrid.

The barn will be built at a new location near the highway garage, not on the footprint of the existing structure. A survey has been ordered, and a buffer of approximately 10 feet from neighboring property was discussed. The building is approximately 120 x 70 feet. The goal is to prepare the pad and footers, with construction occurring in the spring.

Superintendent Gunner plans to use accumulated millings to build the subgrade, reducing project costs. He expects the value of those millings can count toward the Town's required 25% grant match. A market value of approximately \$12 per ton was discussed. Estimated materials were just under \$60,000, plus roughly \$6,000 for equipment rental.

Because this is a buildings and grounds project rather than a highway expenditure, a separate project line will be established as a capital project. Town labor, employee benefits and eligible equipment usage will also be tracked as potential contributions toward the approximately \$121,000 local match.

### **3. Aurora Town Library, Landscaping and Procurement**

The concrete sidewalk and accessible ramp at the Main Street Library were described as deteriorated after decades of patching and water damage. The condition was characterized as a safety and accessibility concern, particularly for wheelchair users. Three contractor quotes were obtained and while the work had initially been anticipated to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000, the lowest estimates were closer to \$10,000.

Superintendent Gunner proposed using money currently allocated for the municipal landscaping/flower project. Approximately \$30,000 had been transferred for landscaping as a hold over plan to address the Japanese knotweed found in the soil when the original plantings occurred, but Superintendent Gunner did not expect to complete the full landscaping project this year and suggested that some of that money be returned to the general buildings and grounds line and use it for the library work.

That led to a lengthy discussion about the landscaping project itself. Superintendent Gunner envisioned doing smaller sections as time allowed, beginning near the municipal entrance. Others raised concerns that dividing a larger planned landscaping project into smaller purchases could appear to circumvent the Town's procurement requirements. There was agreement that the Town should first have a clearer landscaping design and then determine the proper purchasing process.

Councilmember Armbrust also raised a potentially significant issue with the library project: replacing the existing ramp may trigger current ADA requirements. Before choosing a contractor or approving the existing quotes, the Building Department will need to determine whether the current configuration complies and whether reconstruction would require a different ramp design. Several councilmembers stressed that the finished ramp needs to be genuinely usable, not merely technically compliant.

### **4. Baseball Field Lighting Project**

Superintendent Gunner presented an engineered lighting layout that showed the location of the new field lights and the distribution of light across the field. The proposed poles are approximately

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60 feet long, with about 10 feet below grade and 50 feet above ground. The Town will need appropriate stamped engineering documentation for the pole installation.

The main installation challenge is the side of the field near the existing overhead utility lines. The utility agreed to insulate the lines but will not allow the Highway Department to install poles in that area. Ferguson Electric, the utility-approved contractor, is expected to provide an installation quote. Because Ferguson will already need to install at least two poles, the discussion favored pricing installation of all six poles by the contractor.

Superintendent Gunner stated that the electrical service is expected to come from the area near the pickleball/tennis courts rather than the pool. Pole placement will also account for player safety, with fencing and protective padding contemplated where poles are close to the playing area.

A substantial portion of the project is being donated. The poles, LED light fixtures and custom mounting brackets are being provided at no cost by the suppliers. Superintendent Gunner is expecting to handle trenching, conduit and portions of the electrical work, subject to inspection and code requirements. Written documentation of the donations will be obtained.

The Board was generally supportive of proceeding with the pole installation, but additional information is still needed on engineering, installation cost, utility requirements and procurement. Supervisor Snyder requested a step-by-step project plan of Superintendent Gunner. The rough expectation was that the full lighting system could be operational in approximately one year, if the remaining pieces fall into place.

### **5. Closing Salt Barn Recap**

The discussion briefly returned to the salt barn. Even if the value of the millings cannot be credited toward the grant match, Superintendent Gunner still intends to use them because they are suitable for the subgrade. The difference would be that the Town would need to rely more heavily on payroll, equipment and other eligible expenses to satisfy the match.

Jeanne H. Viger  
Town Clerk