

Town of Aurora | Work Session | May 19, 2026

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Tuesday, May 19, 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 meeting was live streamed via YouTube.

Board Members Present:	Joseph McCann Raymond M. Wrazen Jessica Armbrust Benjamin Garvey Charles D. Snyder	Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Supervisor
Others present:	David Gunner Roger LeBlanc Elizabeth Cassidy Paul Ernst Rod Simeone Douglas Crow Jeanne Viger	Highway Superintendent Dog Control Officer Code Enforcement Officer Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals Member Planning Board Chairman Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Snyder noted that the meeting was being recorded and identified the board members full titles for clarity, and that he'd be referring to them by first name throughout the meeting.

1.) Town Hall Door Security System

Nick Fodero, of WNY Networks, Inc. and the town's IT contractor, reviewed the proposed replacement of the Town Hall door access control system. The current system controls nine doors and has become increasingly unreliable over the past several months.

Three vendors were reviewed: Great Lakes Building Systems, Life Safety Security, and Parkside Fire & Security. Great Lakes, the town's existing provider, was recommended because they know the building's current system, can reuse much of the existing wiring, locks, controllers, readers, and employee fobs, and provided the most favorable overall pricing.

The proposed Brivo system would be cloud-based with a local controller backup. If internet service goes down, the system would continue using the last saved settings and sync again when service is restored. The system would allow authorized users to schedule door access, lock or unlock doors remotely, rename doors clearly, and make changes through a secure web portal or app.

There was discussion about the five-year subscription cost, possible negotiation, warranty differences between systems, and the useful life of the new equipment. Nick said the expected controller life is likely 7 to 10 years, though some systems last longer. The board expressed support for the recommendation.

2.) Climate Smart Committee: Community Solar Program

Councilmember Garvey reported that the Climate Smart Task Force requested permission to publicize the town's community solar program and share updated results with residents.

Updated figures show approximately 835,000 kilowatt-hours offset and about \$13,500 in annual savings. Participants noted that they personally see savings on their electric bills. The program does not require solar panels on a resident's property, has no upfront cost, and participants may cancel at any time.

There was discussion about making clear that residents and possibly businesses may be eligible when enrollment opens again. The board supported publicizing the program as a town initiative that can reduce electricity costs while supporting clean energy.

3.) Court Officers: Three-Hour Minimum

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The board discussed a request from court officers for a three-hour minimum when scheduled to work. The board reviewed recent hours and noted that officers already typically work close to or more than three hours, with only a few exceptions. Members expressed support, stating that it is reasonable and respectful to guarantee a three-hour minimum for trained personnel protecting the court.

4.) Wheelchair Van Program

Supervisor Snyder shared points from his discussions with Erie County regarding the wheelchair van program. For reference, Lancaster is in the early stages of making the program available, and both Aurora town drivers have already completed the required training as of last July.

Erie County may provide a \$10,000 grant to offset costs such as fuel and maintenance, prorated depending on when the town begins. The new van includes cameras. If the board approves the agreement at the next meeting, the program could be operational within two to three weeks.

The board discussed the need to meet with the drivers and county representative, review expectations, and clarify whether the service is curb-to-curb or door-to-door, especially for wheelchair users. Members also wanted to better understand the vehicle, wheelchair securement process, parking, and driver expectations before implementation.

5.) Dog Control Services

Making a quick note regarding Dog Control reporting, Highway Superintendent Gunner clarified that a prior report showing multiple calls in Holland included delinquent license door hanger follow-ups, not only emergency dog calls. The Highway department packages those visits efficiently when the Dog Control Officer is already working a three-hour minimum.

Highway Superintendent Gunner discussed the status of Dog Control shared service arrangements with surrounding towns. The Town of Holland is interested in joining the consolidated dog control service. Wales has not agreed to the cost, though it was noted that Wales would make geographic sense. Sardinia is already part of the arrangement. The service area is still considered manageable, with Aurora at roughly 15,000 residents and the smaller towns adding a limited population.

The dog shelter now has five kennels, with two more being added for climate-controlled space under Article 23-B requirements. The town also has isolation kennels for dangerous dogs or dogs with transmittable disease concerns. The Department Agriculture & Markets representative was reportedly very pleased with the facility.

The board discussed the success of the program, strong coordination with local clerks and the Sheriff's Office, and the potential to use revenue toward a future dog control vehicle. The current vehicle is aging and may need replacement within the next couple of years. Members agreed the program appears to be working well and providing a useful regional service.

6.) Water Supply Disruption and Emergency Planning

The board discussed follow-up from the recent water supply disruption meeting. Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner and Azar engineer Jerry Sentz have been reviewing the issue with the Department of Health and Erie County Water Authority.

The discussion focused on the need to better document and understand water system interconnections, especially related to the Village of East Aurora system and the town's east end. It was noted that the village system appears vulnerable because it has one main inlet, and some infrastructure knowledge was not fully documented or widely known.

The board agreed that the situation should be used as a learning opportunity. Jerry is expected to provide a detailed presentation. The goal is to document the system clearly so future officials, staff, and emergency responders understand available options during a water emergency.

7.) Rezoning Moratorium

Code Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Cassidy reviewed the status of the rezoning moratorium. The moratorium has already been extended twice, which was the maximum allowed under the existing local law.

If the board wanted to continue the moratorium, it would need to adopt a new local law. However, the Comprehensive Plan has now been adopted, giving the town guidance for reviewing rezoning requests and subdivision applications.

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated that no rezoning applications are currently pending and that she has received more questions about subdivisions than rezonings. The board did not see a need to pursue a new moratorium at this time.

8.) Code Committee Resolution and Future Structure

Councilmember Ray Wrazen led a discussion on the current Code Committee and a proposed resolution to formalize or update its structure.

The Code Committee currently meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 3 to 5 PM. It includes representatives from code enforcement, the supervisor, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning Board. Members review code issues, compare current zoning with the Comprehensive Plan, and track proposed changes through a spreadsheet.

The committee is now focused on reconciling the zoning code with the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The targeted timeline is approximately 18 to 24 months. The current plan is to approach the work holistically rather than passing changes piecemeal, since one section of the code may affect another.

Discussion focused on whether to add at-large community members to help bring in new perspectives and prepare future volunteers or officials. Several members supported the idea of broader participation but raised concerns about meeting times, workload, and the risk of disrupting a working process.

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy expressed concern about adding more evening meetings, noting that staff already attend many required night meetings and must use comp time within the same year. There was also discussion that committee work often requires additional subgroup meetings, meaning the workload typically exceeds two meetings per month.

Several speakers emphasized that the committee already works collaboratively with the Planning Board, ZBA, and Town Board. Proposed code changes still go through board review, Planning Board referral, public hearing, and final Town Board approval.

The board and audience members discussed possible ways to involve additional people without disrupting the current process. Ideas included adding a second Town Board member, inviting the Town Clerk to participate, maintaining communication with related boards, and exploring flexible ways for interested residents to learn from current members.

The discussion ended with general agreement that the committee is functioning well, but the town should continue considering how to include new voices and preserve institutional knowledge for the future.

Supervisor Snyder concluded the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Jeanne Viger
Town Clerk