

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Monday, February 9, 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 streamed via YouTube.

Present:	Joseph McCann	Councilmember
	Raymond M. Wrazen	Councilmember
	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
	Luke Wochensky	Councilmember
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Rich Miga	Assistant Code Enforcement Officer
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chairman
	Rod Simeone	Zoning Board Member
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairman
	Patrick Welch	Chief of Police

Supervisor 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 for a site plan application for the solar panel installation at 50 Center Ridge Road, East Aurora. The Supervisor opened the hearing at 6:30 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment on the application.

Shannon Murphy of Empire Solar Solutions recapped the proposal, which includes 74 HiN-t solar panels and two Tesla batteries, utilizing most of the home's roof planes and benefiting from substantial existing screening on the property.

Supervisor Snyder and Councilmembers McCann and Wrazen asked for more detail on the batteries. Ms. Murphy explained they will be located outdoors next to the meter, encased in durable white plastic, approximately 3 feet by 4 feet in size, with a combined storage capacity of 32.190 kilowatts. She added that the system design is driven by the homeowner's demand, which is required for utility company approval. Based on historical power consumption, the panels will offset the home's demand and exceed it by about 10% to account for factors such as snow and shade. Any excess will feed back to the grid as credits and be applied to the homeowner's meter during winter months when usage increases.

Councilmember Wochensky asked whether excess power can be sold. Ms. Murphy clarified it cannot; the grid can only be fed, and the utility company credits the homeowner's demand on their monthly bill. She compared it to "rollover minutes" on a cell phone plan. Councilmember McCann asked whether the system uses the two-way lines to feed the grid, and Ms. Murphy responded that it is solely credit-based.

Supervisor Snyder asked about distance requirements for the batteries and directed the question to Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga. Officer Miga stated the batteries may be installed on the exterior of the house as long as they are at least three feet from any opening, and Ms. Murphy agreed.

Planning Board Chairman Douglas Crow added that the Planning Board reviewed the proposal and recommended approval. He noted he spoke that day with East Aurora Fire Department Chief Bruce Ross to address concerns about a larger system. Chief Ross indicated two key considerations: maintaining access to the shutoff and battery location (which this plan provides) and ensuring the roof can support the panel weight. Chairman Crow said the roof is well built and the home appears newer, so there was no concern. He also shared that Chief Ross generally prefers systems not installed on roofs because they are simpler to manage in the event of a fire.

Supervisor Snyder asked whether the town requires an engineer to assess roof load capacity. Officer Miga responded that under the residential code, a structural letter is required confirming the roof has been analyzed for live and dead loads consistent with snow load requirements, and the Building Department has that letter on file.

Councilmember Wochensky sought clarification on battery access. Chairman Crow reiterated that access is required and is met here. He also said the Planning Board supported the proposal because it is well engineered, addresses the issues raised, and the home is well screened from neighbors, reducing visual impact.

Hearing no further comments, the Supervisor closed the hearing at 6:38 PM.

In closing, Councilmember McCann and Supervisor Snyder clarified for interested parties that a vote will be taken at the next board meeting on February 23 and that they will be notified of the result.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the January 26, 2026 Town Board meeting, the February 9, 2026-2025 Encumbered Abstract of Claims, vouchers 1897 to 1917, to be paid from the following funds:

Action #42
1/26/2026 TB min,
2/9/26 & 2/9/26-25
enc abstracts
aprvd

General Fund	\$	9,980.94
Part Town Fund	\$	438.20
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	1,704.06
Special Districts	\$	334.01
Water Districts	\$	1,427.74
Grand Total Abstract	\$	13,884.95

And the February 9, 2026 Abstract of Claims, vouchers 54 to 125 to be paid from the following funds:

General Fund	\$	9,980.94
Part Town Fund	\$	438.20
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	1,704.06
Special Districts	\$	334.01
Water Districts	\$	1,427.74
Grand Total Abstract		\$ 13,884.95

Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, abstentions – one, noes – none. Motion carried. Councilmember Wochensky abstained due to not attending January 26, 2026 board meeting.

AUDIENCE I: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Armbrust moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing on a site plan application for 359 Quaker Road. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #43
Public hrg set for
359 Quaker Rd site
plan

Councilmember Wochensky moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, NY as the date, time and place for a public hearing on proposed Local Law 1-2026 for an increase to the Highway Superintendent's salary. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #44
Public hrg on LL 1-
2026 Dog Control
set

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 - correction from the notice stating February 19 - at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing on the Town Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #45
Public hrg Comp
Plan set

Supervisor Snyder stated this will allow all required entities to respond to the SEQR. Councilmember Wrazen added it is available on the website for review. Supervisor Snyder also said he'd have our town website updated to reflect the new public hearing date and Councilmember McCann offered to add it to the Town Facebook page.

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026 - correction from the notice stating February 19 - at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing on the Town Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #45
Public hrg Comp
Plan set

Councilmember McCann moved to request the Town Attorney draft a local law regarding the code changes to Chapters 35, 87, 93, 95, 95A, 99 and 116. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #46
Req for Town Atty
to draft LL for code
changes

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NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Armbrust moved to refer the Site plan review for the 690 South Street EA Baseball/Softball application to Erie County Department of Environment & Planning as required and to waive the referral to the Planning Board. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #47
Refer Site plan
review 690 South St
EA Base/softball to
ECDEP; waive PB
ref

Councilmember Wochensky moved to approve transferring the cash balance of \$55,616.61 from H5-Capital Project to A-General Fund to be used toward the April 1, 2026 debt issuance effective December 31, 2025. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #48
Trnsf \$55.6k from H5
to A for debt
issuance apvd

There was brief discussion among the board acknowledging this signifies closing out the new town hall building project with receipt of grant monies, although noting the building is not paid for.

Councilmember Wrazen moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Bank of Holland Wire Transfer Agreement. Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #49
Auth for Supv to sign BOH Wire Trnsf Agrmt aprvd

Councilmember Wochensky moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Bank of Holland Positive Pay Services Agreement. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #50
Auth for Supv to sign BOH Positive Pay Svcs Agrmt aprvd

Councilmember Armbrust moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Bank of Holland Merchant Capture Agreement. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #51
Auth for Supv to sign BOH Merchant Capture Agrmt aprvd

Councilmember McCann moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the New York Forward Grant. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #52
Auth for Supv to sign NYF Grant contract aprvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to initiate Justice Court action for Jennifer Gemerek, E. Aurora, for an expired building permit at 129 Manchester Rd, E, Aurora (Town Code Chapter 65-4(l)). Councilmember Armbrust seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five; noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #53
Justice court for J. Gemerek, 129 Manchester Rd Creekview Ct authorized

Councilmember McCann moved to approve a Temporary Use Permit to N.E. Toys Productions Inc. film production staging, parking, etc. using Knox Farm State Park Soccer Fields on February 13, 2026 and February 17 – February 18, 2026 from 4 AM – 10 PM. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion.

Action #54
TUP for N.E. Toys Productions at KFSP aprvd

Councilmember Armbrust moved to approve the wage correction for L. Donnarumo and K. Aures Parks & Recreation Department employees and to back date for the pay period beginning January 1, 2026 . Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #55
Wage correction and backdate aprvd

COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

- A. Town Clerk – 2025 Annual Report

B. Town Clerk – Jan 2026 Report

C. Town Clerk/Tax – Jan 2026 Report

D. Town Clerk/Water – Jan 2026 Report
- E. New Garbage Accounts – Dec 2025 Report

F. Senior Center – Jan 2026 Report

G. Recreation – Jan 2026 Report

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Councilmember McCann stated he and Councilmember Armbrust met with the Highway Department to discuss the improvements at the baseball field which included the plan-in-progress shed and possible lighting. The latter poses some challenges sourcing 60 foot telephone poles however there may be some corporate entities that may be interested in supporting that effort. Councilmember McCann spoke to the local NYSEG shop who stated they only have 55 foot poles on hand.

Councilmember McCann applied to attend the NYS Climate Connection Summit on June 10 & 11, 2026 in Utica that requires approval from the host to attend, more information to come.

Councilmember Wochensky welcomed anyone to attend the Climate Smart Task Force Committee to begin transitioning it, encouraged people to become actively involved. There are a lot of good things going on and we want to keep that moving forward. The next meeting is Wednesday February 18, 2026 from 6-7 and we stay close to that schedule.

Councilmember Armbrust agreed that the Highway Department meeting related to the baseball project was very informative and she followed up with a tour of the Highway Department and garage the next day with Highway Superintendent Gunner and Highway Superintendent Assistant Deveso.

Additionally, Councilmember attended the NYAOT state budget webinar to understand the process for how town budgets are handled.

Councilmember Wrazen shared that he and Councilmember Amrbrust will host the first Sewer District meeting for the year and hope to schedule time to tour the facility.

Supervisor Snyder expressed it was an honor to attend the South Wales Fire Company induction and that he always finds it enjoyable. He appreciates seeing all the firemen and hearing

about all the great things they do and the number of calls they handle. He finds it incredible to see the dedication and output from a volunteer fire company as they serve their community.

Secondly, Supervisor Snyder recalled that we had applied for a grant for Warren Park improvements and while we were denied then, the work he and Councilmember Luke did recently with the grant writer is giving us a second run and an optimistic chance of winning the grant. Councilmember Wrazen asked what the target grant goal was, Councilmember Wochensky replied that the target and maximum amount is \$900,000.

AUDIENCE II: none

STAFF REPORTS:

Police Chief Welch shared that the bitter cold has stifled a lot of activity aside from car accidents that the department has responded to. Regarding training, all officers went through the required CPR training that includes bleeding and tourniquet training.

Remaining staff and auxiliary board chairs and members did not have anything to report.

Councilmember McCann moved to adjourn at 6:56 PM. Seconded by Councilmember Armbrust. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #56
Meeting
adjourned

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk