

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | September 28, 2026

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Monday, September 28, 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 live streamed via YouTube.

Present:	Benjamin Garvey	Councilmember
	Joseph McCann	Councilmember
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
	Raymond Wrazen	Councilmember
Excused:	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chair
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chair
	Rodney Simeone	Zoning Board Member

Supervisor (Supv.) Snyder opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then announced that Councilmember Armbrust was excused. He also corrected an announcement from the August 24, 2026 Town Board meeting, noting that the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant would be held October 13 rather than October 12 due to the holiday.

The first item on the agenda was a Public Hearing for Local Law Intro 9-2026 - Town Clerk Webmaster Stipend increasing the clerk's salary for assuming the responsibility of webmaster. Supv. Snyder read the local law and opened the hearing at 6:31 PM, asking if anyone in the audience wished to comment. Hearing no one, Supv. Snyder closed the hearing at 6:32 PM.

The next item on the agenda was a Public Hearing for Local Law Intro 10-2026 that would allow the Town Board to override the tax levy limit, established in General Municipal Law Section 30c, for the 2027 budget. The notice was published in the East Aurora Advertiser and posted on the Town's website and Town Clerk's bulletin board. Sup. Snyder opened the public hearing at 6:32 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment. Hearing no one, Supv. Snyder closed the hearing at 6:33 PM.

The final public hearing was on the application for a Special Use Permit from Rebecca Bermingham/The Grooming Post to open a dog grooming business with no boarding or daycare in the existing building/space at 558 Buffalo Road, East Aurora. The Supv. opened the hearing at 6:33 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment on the application. Hearing no one, Supv. Snyder closed the hearing at 6:33 PM.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of September 14, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes and the September 28, 2026 Abstract of Claims, consisting of vouchers 1124 through 1171, manual check voucher 1172 and P-card voucher 1173 to be paid from the following funds:

Action #334
9/14/26 Town
Board minutes &
9/28/26 abstract
approved

General Fund	\$	129,479.70
Part Town Fund	\$	300.00
Cemeteries	\$	113.00
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	120,622.87
Special Districts	\$	77,261.66
Trust & Agency	\$	561.44
Grand Total Abstract	\$	328,338.67

Councilmember Garvey seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE I:

Jerry Thompson, Village resident, addressed the Board regarding the TE-9 traffic study request for Porterville Road. He asked the Town to request that Erie County study traffic speeds approaching the Village from Porterville Road toward Pine Street. He said residents have raised concerns about vehicles traveling too quickly through the area, particularly near the Pine Street and Porterville Road intersection and Pine Street Extension. He also cited difficulty for pedestrians crossing the roadway, winter accidents, and confusing speed and curve signage approaching the Village. Mr. Thompson suggested that reducing traffic speeds before vehicles reach the Village could help address concerns experienced by residents on both Porterville Road and Pine Street.

Joshua Best, Village resident, spoke in support of Mr. Thompson's request. He said his property straddles the Town and Village boundary and that residents have repeatedly raised traffic concerns in the area. He encouraged the Town to pursue the traffic study, stating that a speed reduction could help address concerns affecting both Town and Village residents.

Supervisor Snyder noted that the request would be addressed later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Garvey moved to receive the 2027 Tentative Budget from the Town Clerk. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #335
Board receives
2027 Tentative
Budget from
Town Clerk

Councilmember McCann moved to adopt Local Law 9-2026 as follows; seconded by Councilmember Wrazen:

TOWN OF AURORA
LOCAL LAW INTRO 10 - 2026
LOCAL LAW 9 - 2026

A LOCAL LAW, TO AMEND LOCAL LAW 1-1990 KNOWN AS "THE CODES OF THE TOWN OF AURORA", ADOPTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF AURORA ON JANUARY 22, 1990, TO PROVIDE THE TOWN BOARD WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-c.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF AURORA AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this Local Law to allow the Town of Aurora to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of "the tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a Local Law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

SECTION 3. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE

The Town Board of the Town of Aurora, County of Erie, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2027 that requires a property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If a Court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the Court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Local Law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Upon roll call vote being taken:
Councilmember Garvey – Aye
Councilmember McCann – Aye
Supervisor Snyder – Aye
Councilmember Wrazen – Aye

Action #336
Local Law 9-2026
Tax cap override

Ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve overnight accommodations and registration costs for Highway employees Michael Evens and Nick Ingelfinger to attend the Cornell University Category Six Right-of-Way Pesticide Recertification Program October 8 & 9 in Auburn, NY paid out of A7110.444 Parks Landscaping & Supplies:

Action #337
Pesticide training
approved

- Registration: \$85/person
- Hotel: \$71.25/per room & person
- Total cost: \$312.50 plus meals

Councilmember Garvey seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the repair of the highway department bucket truck by Custom Truck One Source to replace the large lift cylinder on the boom truck for \$8,671.62. Other quotes included Altec Service (\$13,103.30) and Stephenson Equipment, Inc. (\$13,704.49). Funds will be used from DB5140.401. Councilmember Garvey seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #338
Bucket Truck
repair approved

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve overnight accommodations and registration costs for Highway Superintendent David Gunner to attend the 2026 Department of Transportation (DOT) Statewide Conference on Local Bridges October 21 & 22 in Saratoga Springs, NY paid out of DA5120.433 Maintenance of Bridges:

Action #339
DOT Bridge
Conference
approved

- Registration: \$140/person

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• Hotel: \$274
Councilmember Wrazen seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve hiring Jacqueline Scheck, a non-resident, as a part-time court employee at an hourly rate of \$33.85. Orientation planned for on or after September 29, 2026 will be considered first day worked. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none.
Motion carried.

Action #340
Hire non-resident
J. Scheck Court
Officer
approved

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve the revised budget transfer to correct overdrawn Recreation budget appropriation line which was submitted as Agenda item 6N during the September 14, 2026 Board meeting:

- From: A7185.400 Golf Vendors \$17,511.50
- To: A7130.400 Educational Vendors \$17,511.50

Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #341
Recreation
budget transfer
correction
approved

Councilmember Wrazen moved to authorize the Supv. to sign the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Review (SWPPP) for National Fuel to complete the Colden Storage Well #1546l Coiled Tubing Fishing Project from GHD, 285 Delaware Avenue Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14202, not to exceed \$800. Councilmember McCann seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #342
Supv. authorized
to sign Colden
Storage Well
SWPPP

Councilmember McCann moved to approve a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to Campus Cycling Collective/Adam Zawadski of Maple Rd, East Aurora, NY 14052 to host a bicycle race at JP Nicely West Falls Park using a temporary grass and trail course on November 8, 2026 from 7 AM to 7 PM. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #343
TUP for Campus
Cycling
Collective event
at JP Nicely Park
approved

Councilmember Garvey moved to approve sending a TE-9 traffic safety study request to Erie County Department of Transportation based on two residents request for Porterville Road from Girdle Road leading into the village/Pine Street. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes - four, noes - none. Motion carried.

Action #344
TE-9 Traffic Study
approved for
Porterville Rd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to authorize the Supv. to sign a letter of support for West Falls Conservation Society (WFCS) as they apply for grants that will fund the second phase of its universally accessible outdoor archery course. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action#345
Supv. authorized
to sign letter of
support for WFCS

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the meeting time change for the October 15, 2026 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting from 7 PM to 6 PM due to the heavy case load. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #346
ZBA Meeting
time change
approved

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

- A. Recreation – Aug '26 Report
- B. Supervisor – Aug '26 Report
- C. EA Police Department – Aug '26 Report
- D. Energy Affordability Program

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Councilmember Wrazen reported that the Open Space Committee met after a brief hiatus and discussed several new ideas. He plans to review the proposals with the committee chair and bring appropriate recommendations to the Town Board at a future meeting. He also reported on the Town and Village composting program. Material is collected at the East Aurora DPW and transported by Town Highway staff to the correctional facility. Nearly three tons of material had been collected to date. The Town and Village will continue gathering data, particularly through the winter months, to determine the long-term viability of the program.

Councilmember Garvey reported on a volunteer effort at Parkdale Elementary School, where approximately 35 volunteers helped construct a new playground. He announced a paint recycling event scheduled for October 24, 2026 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Parkdale Elementary School. Residents will be able to make appointments to dispose of eligible paints, stains, lacquers, varnishes, primers and similar materials. He also reported that high school students would participate in a community volunteer day and assist with cleanup at the Route 400 roundabout. The work will prepare the area for its planned conversion to a water-smart pollinator garden.

Councilmember McCann reported that the Town continues to receive feedback regarding its deer mitigation efforts. He said he planned to visit a property in Angola where approximately 20 acres had been fenced to keep deer out. While he did not believe the approach was likely practical on a Town-wide basis, he said the Town would continue evaluating possible options. He also reported continued work on the Town's emergency notification plan. He discussed concerns about declining landfill capacity in New York and the potential for higher disposal costs, reinforcing the value of diverting organic waste. He also noted the growing need for safe disposal options for rechargeable and other batteries as battery-powered household equipment becomes more common.

Supv. Snyder reported that the New York Forward projects continue to advance. Preliminary cost estimates have been developed for West Falls projects involving Veterans Park, the library, and the community playground. A public informational meeting was being planned for the end of October, subject to

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confirmation of the availability of the West Falls Fire Hall. Construction work was anticipated to begin in the spring.

AUDIENCE II:

Jerry Thompson, Village resident, Mr. Thompson raised concerns regarding notification of Town residents when development projects within the Village are located near the Town boundary. He referenced a proposed 118-unit apartment development and other projects near the Village-Town line. He said nearby Town residents may be directly affected by traffic, lighting, land use changes or other impacts without receiving mailed notification of Village public hearings. Mr. Thompson stated that he was not speaking for or against the development project. His concern was that residents living near large projects should receive direct notice regardless of which municipality has jurisdiction. He encouraged the Town and Village to explore a coordinated notification process for significant projects located near their shared boundary.

STAFF REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent David Gunner reported that Borderland Festival operations went well and thanked the Police Department and Parks Police for their coordination. A cost analysis showed Town costs were approximately offset by the amount collected for services. He reported that work at Castle Hill had been completed and discussed the possibility of similar work at Glen Ridge. Superintendent Gunner said Highway staff would assist high school students with cleanup of the Route 400 roundabout and would begin installing snowplows on Town vehicles the following week. He also reported that repairs to the library handicapped ramp were completed in-house.

Police Chief Patrick also reported that traffic management and ingress and egress for the Borderland Festival went well. Additional DWI patrols were in place, and there were no DWI arrests associated with the event weekend. He advised residents of an upcoming charity bicycle ride beginning at 42 North and traveling through the Village and surrounding roads toward Ellicottville. Police officers would escort cyclists through portions of the route. Chief Welch discussed an incident on Boies Road that required a limited shelter-in-place advisory for several nearby homes. The incident ended peacefully, and he thanked affected residents for their cooperation. He also reported that the Police Department was working with the Senior Center to provide regular opportunities for residents to speak with officers. One focus will be educating seniors about scams and fraud schemes targeting older residents.

Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy had nothing to report.

Zoning Board Chairman Paul Ernst thanked the board for approving the earlier start time for the October 15 meeting.

Douglas Crow, Planning Board Chair reported that the first day of collection under the Town's new garbage tote system had gone smoothly in his neighborhood. He also announced that the Planning Board would review the Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review sections of the Town Code at its October 7 meeting, following the Town Board's referral of those sections.

Councilmember McCann moved to adjourn at 7:02 PM, seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – four, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #347
Meeting
adjourned

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk