

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | June 8, 2026 | DRAFT

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Monday, June 8, 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
	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Charles D. Snyder	Supervisor
	Jessica Armbrust	Councilmember
	Joseph McCann	Deputy Supervisor
	Raymond Wrazen	Councilmember
Others Present:	Chris Musshafen	Recreation Director
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Douglas Crow	Planning Board Chairperson
	Patrick Welch	Chief of Police
	Paul Ernst	Zoning Board Chairperson
	Richard Miga	Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

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

Before moving into the Consent Agenda, Supervisor Snyder took a moment to review the process for referring to Town officials and staff with their title versus their first name so that anyone attending or accessing the YouTube stream understands who is being addressed.

The first item on the agenda was a public hearing on a Special Use Permit (SUP) from Neil Hopkins for 295 Ellicott Road to act as a camp site, including during the 2026 Borderland Music Festival. Supervisor Snyder opened the hearing at 6:32 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment on this request. Seeing no one, the Supervisor closed the hearing at 6:33 PM.

Second on the agenda was a public hearing on a Site Plan Review (SPR) Application from Damion Parker for the Solar Project at 1627 Bailey Road to change from a Roof Mounted permit to a Ground Mounted permit. Supervisor Snyder opened the hearing at 6:33 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment on this request. Seeing no one, the Supervisor closed the hearing at 6:34 PM.

Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of May 26, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes and June 8, 2026 Abstract of Claims, consisting of vouchers 591 through 629 to be paid from the following funds:

Action #207
5/26 Town Board
minutes & 6/8/26
abstract approved

General Fund	\$	8,572.09
Highway Town Wide Fund	\$	110.86
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	6,373.41
Town Court Renovations	\$	2,820.00
Trust & Agency	\$	364.46
Special Districts	\$	44,940.63
Water	\$	781.35
Grand Total Abstract	\$	63,962.80

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

AUDIENCE I:

Town Resident, Deb Seeber, who also works as a driver of the Senior Citizen Van, had comments on the Senior Center acquiring a new wheelchair accessible van. She is concerned that the current drivers would not be able to physically take on the demands that being able to transport residents in wheelchairs may incur. Deb explained that not only will there need to be training on the usage of the van, but weather will cause an issue when needing to push the wheelchairs themselves once they arrive at their destination. She asked that the board reconsider authorizing the Supervisor to sign the agreement and that more research about the physical limitations acquiring a new van may bring along with it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Armbrust moved to set a Public Hearing on June 22, 2026, for the public to comment on the SUP at 1196 Big Tree Road to operate a campground, construct seasonal lodging, and convert the existing residences into sleeping quarters and an administration building.

Action #208
Public Hearing set
for 1196 Big Tree
Rd. SUP

Supervisor Snyder asked for comments from Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga who noted that while the application had been

accepted, there was still a conflict with regard to the interpretation of where the Right of Way (ROW) is on the property. The applicant, Carner Development, requested an interpretation from the Building Department¹¹, and one was sent out May 28, 2026. Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga did not feel that this outstanding item would hinder the process of the application and that a Public Hearing could be set.

Deputy Supervisor McCann expressed concern that if a Public Hearing were to be scheduled, the public would not have all the information as the application is incomplete and may be premature. Peter Sorgi, the attorney representing the applicant, stated they had received the Building Department's letter and interpretation of the ROW and that there are no appeals pending, therefore a Public Hearing could be held. Supervisor Snyder mentioned that the application may be invalid until the outstanding issue of the ROW is resolved and the number of sleeping quarters in the mansion is settled. Councilmember Armbrust noted that the Planning Board also recommended they reduce the number of parking spaces.

Per the recommendation of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga, Mr. Sorgi agreed to respond to the Planning Board's May 28, 2026 letter with a letter of intent and provide an interpretation of the ROW line to be done by a licensed surveyor. Supervisor Snyder then added to the original motion that the Public Hearing could be set, contingent on the Building Department and Town Board's receipt of these documents. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry Sentz, the Senior Vice President of Engineering from Azar Design, Co. was in attendance to give a presentation about the Town of Aurora's water interconnectivity with the Village of East Aurora and other surrounding municipalities. The presentation showed extensive research on where Azar Design recommends the Town of Aurora, as well as the Village of East Aurora, reach out to the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) to get some of the identified issues resolved. They feel there are several spots where the Town and the Village should connect, and expressed that the more connections, the better.

The presentation also covered what course of action be taken should anything happen to the Town's water supply. The first call should always be to the ECWA and then calls can be made to local dispatch and Emergency Managers.

Councilmember Garvey moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with The Law Offices of Heather Giambra to represent the Town of Aurora in General Labor and Employment Advice and Counsel and Compliance; Collective Bargaining; and Grievance and Arbitration Proceedings. The motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McCann. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #209
Supervisor (Supv)
auth to sign
agreement with
law offices of H.
Giambra

A motion was made by Councilmember Wrazen and seconded by Councilmember Armbrust to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Erie County regarding the Senior Citizens Center acquiring the use of a wheelchair accessible van for transporting residents. Deputy Supervisor McCann acknowledged Deb Seeber's concerns but feels the Senior Center having an accessible van can only benefit the residents. Councilmember Armbrust said she will review all the documents provided regarding the van, and Supervisor Snyder mentioned he had seen it in person and it is very well designed. He does; however, agree that the matter of weather causing issues for the drivers will need to be addressed. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #210
Supv auth to sign
Sr. Ctr Wheelchair
Accessible Van
agreement

Deputy Supervisor McCann approved the Budget Transfer for the Aurora Municipal Center Landscaping project; seconded by Councilmember Garvey. The amount of \$30,000.00 will be taken from the General Fund balance, budget line A599, and transferred to budget line A 1620.202 – Town Hall Landscaping. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #211
Budget transfer
approved for
Landscaping

Councilmember Armbrust approved the Budget Transfer for the Town Clerk to cover training classes attended; seconded by Councilmember Wrazen. The amount of \$200 will be taken from the Town Clerk – PT Contractual account, budget line A1410.413, and transferred to budget line A1410.405, Town Clerk – Mileage. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #212
Budget transfer
approved for Town
Clerk

Councilmember Garvey motioned to approve the recycling of three Dell Optiplex computers that were formally used for research in the Historian's office, but have been replaced with newer, refurbished computers. Deputy Supervisor McCann seconded. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #213
Recycling old computers from Historian's office approved

A motion by Councilmember Wrazen to approve the hiring of Town resident Christopher Rhoades at a pay rate of \$21.60/hour to the Highway & Parks Departments starting on or after June 9, 2026, was seconded by Councilmember Armbrust. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #214
New hire C. Rhoades – HWY & Parks Depts.

Deputy Supervisor McCann motioned to approve the hiring of Town resident Christopher Cowfer as a seasonal employee to the Highway Department. Councilmember Garvey seconded. He will start on or after June 9, 2026, at a rate of \$18/hour. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #215
New seasonal hire C. Cowfer – HWY Dept.

A motion by Councilmember Armbrust to change the status of Parks Department employee Karen Lazickas from Clerk Typist PT to Clerk Typist PT Seasonal for five months was seconded by Councilmember Wrazen. This change complies with Erie County Personnel regulations and does not impact the budget. This will go into effect beginning June 20, 2026 through November 20, 2026. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #216
K. Lazickas status changed to seasonal employee

The Town of Aurora was awarded \$758,000.00 as part of the NY Forward Grant. A motion by Councilmember Garvey and seconded by Deputy Supervisor McCann was carried to appoint Code Enforcement Officer Liz Cassidy to oversee and manage the funds. Supervisor Snyder commented that with the grant comes a considerable amount of paperwork and coordination with each phase and project. A stipend of \$5,000 to perform these duties will be paid out in two lump sums; \$2,500 to be paid out in the first payroll of August 2026, and the second \$2,500 to be paid out upon completion of all NY Forward projects and duties. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #217
L. Cassidy appointed to oversee NY Forward Grant

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

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| A. Continuation – Agreement with Erie County Comm. Development Block Grant Consortium | D. Dog Control Report – Apr '26 |
| B. Parks & Recreation Report – Mar '26 | E. Calls & Complaints Report – Building Dept. |
| C. Parks & Recreation Report – Apr '26 | F. Calls & Complaints Report – Parks & Recreation |

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Deputy Supervisor McCann expressed his gratitude for everyone who attended and made the 2026 Pride event at Town Hall on June 6, 2026 a successful one. He thanked the East Aurora Police Department and Highway Department for helping with the event as well. He was also able to procure two new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) machines. One of them is for use at Town Hall, the other will be at the West Falls Library.

Councilmember Garvey thanked Deputy Supervisor McCann for putting together the June 6 Pride event. He also commented on his excitement about the Scoot Around June Challenge that is happening around the Town and Village. There are currently about 100 people signed up for the challenge, which encourages residents to bike to local businesses rather than drive. Councilmember Garvey also noted that there are currently 10 businesses participating in offering prizes to people who bike to their establishments, but notes that enrollment for business and participants is ongoing throughout the whole month of the challenge.

Councilmember Armbrust attended the most recent Library Board meeting and was happy to report that the library was awarded a \$20,000.00 grant for a Study Pod. This Pod will encourage the growth of out-of-school learning and is a big win for students in the area.

Councilmember Wrazen commented on the successful Composting Summit that was held at Town Hall on June 2. Mayor Wochensky, General Foreman of Village Department of Public Works (DPW) Jeffrey Stoll, Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner as well as Deputy Supervisor McCann and Councilmember Garvey were in attendance. A presentation from Erie County was given regarding their Joint Organics Management pilot program. The Village DPW garage was discussed as a possible collection site for East Aurora, and Highway Superintendent Gunner has agreed to transport the materials to their final destination, although that is unknown at this time. Erie County would be responsible for any educational material for residents, as well as supplying tabletop

compost receptacles. There was also a presentation by Farmer Pirates, which is a local commercial composting company.

Supervisor Snyder reminded everyone that the Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora are holding a friendly back and forth that is to be settled with a Cornhole Tournament. The tournament will be held at Hamlin Park on Saturday, June 20 and all are encouraged to attend!

AUDIENCE II: none

STAFF REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner had no report.

Police Chief Pat Welch reported on the upcoming Heart of Music Festival happening on June 13. They will once again be receiving assistance from New York State Police as well as the Orchard Park Police Department so that all the residents, whether they are attending the festival or not, receive the same level of service that day. He also reports they are currently interviewing for an open Officer position, as well as a part time Dispatcher position. The Department will be attending firearms training at the East Aurora Fish & Game Club in the coming months, and recent transfer from Rochester Alex Pierce is being appointed as the department's in-house Firearms Instructor.

Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Rich Miga had no report.

Recreation Director Chris Musshafen reported that the Community Pool is now open and has about 700 members signed up. There have been 15 lifeguards certified for the season. Summer Camp employees have also been CPR certified. He also mentioned he is now certified as a Water Safety Instructor Trainer. He also commented that the new Senior Van will be positive in helping our residents age with dignity.

Zoning Board Chair Paul Ernst had no report.

Planning Board Chairman Doug Crow reported on an upcoming meeting with Erie County regarding the expansion of the Composting program.

Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to adjourn at 7:56 PM. Seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #218
Meeting
adjourned

Stephanie Meyer
Deputy Town Clerk