

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | March 9, 2026

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Monday, March 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 Raymond M. Wrazen Luke Wochensky Charles D. Snyder	Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Supervisor
Absent/Excused:	Jessica Armbrust Brigid Maloney	Councilmember Town Attorney
Others Present:	Rich Miga Paul Ernst Rod Simeone Douglas Crow Patrick Welch Christopher Musshafen	Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Zoning Board Chairman Zoning Board Member Planning Board Chairman Chief of Police Recreation/Aquatics Director

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 on the **2025 Comprehensive Plan**. Supervisor Snyder opened the hearing at 6:30 PM. and asked if anyone wished to comment on the plan.

Randy West, Village Planning Commission, Village Resident

- Thanked the Town Board for allowing the village to participate in the comprehensive plan process and in a comment session with the consultant, though later than desired
- Said he regrets the village was not involved earlier, but clarified that was not the Town Board’s fault and was their own decision

Jackie Hienrich, Town Resident

- Praised the committee for the time and effort put into adapting a boilerplate comprehensive plan to fit Aurora
- Said Snyder Road and Luther Road were left out of traffic calming discussions, despite heavy and growing traffic from early morning through evening, with cut-through traffic coming from multiple surrounding communities
- Said road conditions have changed over time with widening, tree removal, and repeated stoning, making the roads feel unsafe for walking
- Asked that Snyder and Luther be included alongside roads such as Mill, Center, and Davis in future traffic planning
- Questioned what she sees as an inconsistency in the plan: preserving rural character, farmland, and agriculture while also discussing hamlet overlays that could allow uses such as restaurants and office buildings
- Said additional development would strain existing infrastructure, including gas, water, electric, police, and fire services, and cited Boies Road and Underhill Road as examples of significant prior development

Ed Hutton, Town Resident

- Complimented the plan and noted that different parts of Aurora have different needs.
- Said Reed Hill is a well-developed part of town located very close to the village, but access to the village, Knox Park, and sidewalks is difficult because sidewalks end near Jewett Holmwood/Route 20A
- Called that area a safety and access problem and said it should be addressed sooner rather than in the 3 to 5 year timeframe mentioned in the plan
- Suggested improvements such as sidewalks, striping, or roadway reconfiguration to better connect Reed Hill residents to village amenities

Michele Bjella, Village Resident

- Expressed general support for the comprehensive plan
- Said comprehensive planning is a major undertaking and important given climate change, natural disasters, and future community needs
- Congratulated the board on the work and said she is especially interested in how the plan’s ideas will be implemented

Douglas Crow, Planning Board Chairman, Town Resident

- Said the Planning Board discussed the comprehensive plan extensively and unanimously supports adoption of the plan as written
- Said the Planning Board submitted, or would soon submit, a letter with more detailed implementation recommendations
- Highlighted priority implementation items:
 - expand Accessory Dwelling Units in appropriate parts of town through zoning changes

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- o complete the nearly finished battery energy storage plan
- o encourage micro-farming and farming, including possible review of rules on chickens, roosters, goats, and similar uses
- o review pro-housing designation requirements soon, and consider making a few quick code changes to open eligibility for grant funding before a full code overhaul
- o move FEMA community rating work earlier in the process because it is not dependent on other actions and could provide financial benefit to residents in or near flood zones
- Said these are the “quick hits” the Planning Board believes should be prioritized in the first six months, before a full zoning code audit and broader code revisions

Written submission: Bill Lesley, Town Resident

- Suggested adding the New York State Open Conservation Plan and the New York State Wildlife Action Plan to the list of relevant planning documents
- Asked whether outreach to flood-prone properties should also involve DEC Flood Plain Management staff in Buffalo
- Pointed out that the plan incorrectly states that the east and west branches of Cazenovia Creek join in the Village of East Aurora, and said they actually join in the Town of Aurora.
- Asked whether the plan should:
 - o include honey production by beekeepers
 - o encourage LEED certification for new town buildings
 - o expand the hamlet overlay to include portions of South Wales in the Town of Aurora, specifically parts of Emery Road, Willis Avenue, and Olean Road
- Suggested adding implementation partners including Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York Power Authority, particularly for Emery Park, flood mitigation, complete streets, neighborhood connectivity, and EV charging infrastructure

Written submission: Rachel Krajewski, Resident and Business Owner

- Wrote as a resident, business owner, and property owner in both the town and village.
- Said the plan does not provide enough detail on combining agricultural and rural residential uses, and worried that doing so could reduce flexibility needed to repurpose historic buildings no longer practical as single-family homes
- Noted that several large historic houses have struggled to sell in recent years and questioned whether single-family buyers will realistically purchase and rehabilitate them.
- Said the West Falls hamlet overlay appears to allow more flexibility than other areas and asked why that approach is not being applied more broadly
- Questioned the meaning of “preferred” versus “allowed” uses and whether “preferred” has any legal significance
- Urged the board to remember that Aurora's historic housing stock is part of what makes the community special and said a more rigid, cookie-cutter approach could make viable reuse of those properties difficult

Receiving no further feedback or questions from the audience, Supervisor Snyder closed the public hearing at 6:48.

At 6:49 PM, Supervisor Snyder opened the next public hearing on the **359 Quaker Road Site Plan**. Town resident and representative of GPI Engineers Jason Burford approached the board to discuss the East Aurora Family Dental proposed location. Jason stated the Planning Board recommended the Town Board approve the site plan and that they have implemented some changes to the plan that would align with the Town Code changes currently in the local law development stage. Supervisor Snyder asked if anyone in the room had questions, hearing no one, he closed the public hearing at 6:51 PM.

Supervisor Snyder opened the next public hearing about **Local Law 1-2026** relating to **Dog Control** at 6:52 PM and asked if anyone wished to comment on the proposed law. Audience member Paula Anzalone asked what it was and Supervisor provided a quick overview. With no further questions, Supervisor Snyder closed the hearing at 6:54 PM.

The final public hearing was opened at 6:54 PM by Supervisor Snyder about **600 Olean Road Site Plan**. Hearing no questions or comments, the hearing was closed at 6:55 PM.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the February 17, 2026 working session and February 23 Town Board meeting minutes as well as the March 9, 2026 Abstract of Claims, consisting of vouchers 178-256, to be paid from the following funds:

Action #70
2/17/26 working
sess & 2/23/26 TB
min, 3/9/26
abstracts aprvd

General Fund	\$	43,533.84
Part Town Fund	\$	197.00
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	66,992.41
Trust & Agency	\$	713.06
Grand Total Abstract	\$	111,436.31

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

AUDIENCE I: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 2-2026 Town Code, Chapter 35: Alarm Systems. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #71
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL2-2026:
Alarm Systems
apvd

Councilmember Wochensky moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 3-2026 Town Code, Chapter 87: Ponds. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #72
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL3-2026:
Ponds apvd

Councilmember McCann moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 4-2026 Town Code, Chapter 93: Sewers. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #73
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL4-2026:
Alarm Systems
apvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 5-2026 Town Code, Chapter 95: Site Plan Review. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #74
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL5-2026:
Site Plan Review
apvd

Councilmember Wochensky moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 6-2026 Town Code, Chapter 95A: Solar Energy Systems. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #75
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL6-2026:
Solar Energy
Systems apvd

Councilmember McCann moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 7-2026 Town Code, Chapter 99: Subdivision of Land and Open Development Areas. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #76
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL7-2026:
Subdivision of Land
& ODA apvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to proposed Local Law 8-2026 Town Code, Chapter 116: Zoning. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #77
Public Hearing
date 3/23 LL8-2026:
Zoning apvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing related to Site Plan for EA Baseball shed at 690 South Street. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #78
Public Hearing
date 3/23 EA
Baseball shed SP
apvd

Councilmember Wochensky moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Boys & Girls Club Agreement. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #79
Supv auth'd to sign
B&G Club agrmt

Councilmember Wochensky moved to approve a budget amendment to record the receipt of CDBG funds for the Senior Center moveable door:

- Increase revenue line A 4910 Community Development Act by \$96,125
- Increase appropriation line A 6772.200 Senior Center Folding Door replacement by \$96,125

Action #80
Budget
amendment for Sr
Ctr door aprvd

Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried. Councilmember thanked all those involved in the process and noted this new door will serve us for many years to come.

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Supervisor added another thanks to Paul Ernst for providing integral guidance for structural support of the door.

Councilmember Wrazen moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the commercial and cyber security insurance documents for March 16, 2026 and April 9, 2026 renewals, respectively. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #81
Supv auth'd to sign commercial/cyber security contracts

Councilmember Wrazen moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) indicating we have no comments. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #82
Supv auth'd to sign E2CCB SEQR as no comments

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember McCann moved to deny a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) requested by Soccer Shots of Buffalo for the use of Warren Park on Tuesdays April 14 through November 3, 2026 primarily due to unlevel fields rendering them unsuitable for this type of event. Several members of the board voiced concerns about a for-profit organization using a public park and the strain on the limited parking and restrooms. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #83
TUP for Warren Park Soccer Shots Bflo denied

Councilmember McCann moved to approve hiring Recreation Department life guard Kim Groff, a non-resident, as a part-time lifeguard at an hourly rate of \$20.50. Orientation will be considered first day worked. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #84
Hire non-resident K. Groff Lifeguard apvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Academy for Recreation Director Chris Musshafen with expenses paid from budget line A7020.404. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #85
Red Cross Training for C. Musshafen apvd

Councilmember McCann moved to approve a new Adaptive Swim Class on Saturdays from April 18 to May 23, 2026. Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #86
Adaptive Swim Class aprvd

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve the following new water rates for Town of Aurora private line water customers. They will be effective for the first quarter water use billing of 2026 based on rate increases by the Erie County Water Authority. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #87
2026 water rates for private line customers aprvd

Private Road/Line	O&A New Rate	Infrastructure New Rate	R&M (no increase)	Min. Use New Rate	Min. Total New Rate
Center/West Gate	\$20.86	\$21.75	\$25.00	\$28.41	\$96.02
Mitchell	\$20.86	\$18.98	\$25.00	\$25.34	\$90.18
Hickory (Sanford)	\$20.86	\$34.79	\$25.00	\$45.89	\$126.54
Mary Jane Ln	\$20.86	\$34.79	\$25.00	\$45.89	\$126.54
South Herrick	\$20.86	\$93.19	\$25.00	\$123.67	\$262.72

Councilmember Wochensky moved to approve revisions to the Social Media Policy. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #88
Social Media Policy revisions apvd

Councilmember McCann moved to authorize Justice Court action for Chris Rudolph, West Falls, for an expired building permit at 1916 Reading Road, West Falls, (Town Code Chapter 65-4(I)). Councilmember Wochensky seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five; noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #89
Justice court for Chris Rudolph, 1916 Reading Rd authorized

COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

- A. Town Clerk – Water Fee Collection Feb ‘26
- B. Town Clerk – Tax Collection Feb ‘26
- C. Town Clerk – New Garbage Feb ‘26
- D. Town Clerk – Monthly Report Feb ‘26
- E. Calls & Complaints Report – Feb ‘26
- F. Dog Control Report – Feb ‘26
- G. Sr. Center Report – Feb ‘26

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BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Councilmember Wrazen shared that he is making progress on a natural resource inventory. There is an interest in working with the Climate Smart Committee to ensure there is alignment to help add points for Climate Smart silver status. He's also making progress on town signage and standardization with more updates to come.

Councilmember Wochensky said that the Climate Smart Committee has completed a fleet inventory and is looking toward further modernization. He thanked Highway Superintendent David Gunner and Code Enforcement Officer Liz Cassidy for providing information to complete the task. Councilmember Wochensky indicated the findings would be shared. The committee was able to use the help of a consultant from a state program at no cost because we are an active Climate Smart community. This helps us understand where we can make further improvement in the fleet vehicles but probably won't do this for a few years. The current electric vehicles give us points in the Community Smart program.

Councilmember McCann expressed his appreciation for the work done to raise money at the Aurora Historical Society and that it was an enjoyable event.

AUDIENCE II:

Rod Simeone, a town resident approached the board to ask about the use of CodeRed for notifying the public about the traffic issues related to a trailer towing a tractor getting stuck under the Main Street bridge near Riley and Elm Streets. Councilmember Wochensky said there is a contract with the village for the use of CodeRed and defer notifications to them for village incidents. He said the village clerk and police chief have had training. He isn't clear on the village policy but the town is not authorized to send village content as the town. There was further discussion where examples of town use were cited, how the tool works and some research to confirm Rod is receiving notifications.

Jackie Hienrich stepped up with questions about plans for stone and oil for Snyder Road this year. Highway Superintendent David Gunner wasn't sure if Snyder Road was on the list for that work. Ms. Hienrich requested water to hose down for dust to which Highway Superintendent replied that the town does not have a water truck but they do use the sweeper to sweep up stones. This is something they do after the stone and oil sits for a few days but that his team will get to it as soon as they can.

STAFF REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent David Gunner said that Highway has been busy repairing a lot of mailboxes due to snowplow damage. Sweeping is underway and will take some time stating there are 200 miles of road to cover. There is a brush pick up coming soon.

Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga said the Building department is wrapping up the yearly report for the state and have a renewed focus on fire inspections in the coming year. Notices will be going out to commercial properties that they didn't get to last year or that have not been done in the last three years. With a greater impact on those in the village versus those in the town, they'll also be looking at multi-family, bed and breakfasts in addition to commercial spaces this year. Supervisor Snyder asked about how many bed and breakfasts they are planning to touch, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga replied many were completed when they did the code changes but will be looking at Airbnb type sites to identify new locations and send notices.

Police Chief Welch said patrols in parks have been increased with the warmer weather. There's an uptick of radar enforcement in response to complaints in the West Falls area. They are working through Heart of Music festival planning. Two officers have been designated as Officer Wellness Program Coordinators and the officer transfer from Rochester, who grew up here, will start next week. Chief Welch addressed Rod Simeone about his CodeRed question saying it was on him that CodeRed wasn't used. They kept traffic moving with two lanes, and CodeRed was down for a little while that day but the road was open going east and west with the delay less than a minute. Councilmember Wochensky asked if the wellness training was in response to having fewer officers than before or is that an issue? The same officers are doing the same jobs with extra responsibility, Chief Welch replied. The wellness program is to help them, and indirectly their families, deal with traumatic events in a more structured way vs "debriefing at the bar". The Police Department was refused a grant from the state he believes due to the size of the department in comparison to some of the larger and smaller local police departments. He hopes to focus on ways to win that grant next year.

Recreation Director Chris Musshafen said there are lots of things in the works for summer. They will be fully staffed with 25 lifeguards returning to the pool and has accepted a few more applications. Meaghan Tent is working on day camp and sports staffing. Continual planning for the 250th July 3rd activities is in progress. We're also collecting information from interested parties who would benefit from the use of a wheelchair van in partnership with Donna Bodecker at the Senior Center.

Planning Board Chairman Crow said the Planning Board met last week to talk about the Site Plan and Special Use Permit for 1196 Big Tree Road reminding the board that this property has come up in several other cases previously. The board was a split vote so they are awaiting some clarification from the town attorney for clarification on the bylaws whether three to two in favor should be considered an approval.

Town resident Paula Anzalone stepped up to express concern about the volume of traffic tripling and the high speeds on Snyder Road. She requested more patrols and that the posted speed limit of 45 MPH be reduced because there are walkers, children, and people walking their dogs. She said that she knows this has been brought up in the past and stated the board says there was nothing they could do. Ms. Anzalone asked if the board and residents could work as a team to address this issue.

Councilmember McCann moved to adjourn at 7:33 PM and it was seconded by Councilmember Wrazen. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #90
Meeting
adjourned

Jeanne H. Viger
Town Clerk