

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Trustee Lazickas
Trustee Cameron
Trustee Bojanowski
Trustee Kamp
Trustee Viger
Trustee Root
Mayor Wochensky

Also Present:

Maureen Jerackas, Clerk-Treasurer
Jessica Tufte- Village Administrator
Kevin Rautenstrauch- Village Attorney
Patrick Welch, Police Chief
Jeff Stoll- General Foreman
Liz Cassidy, Code Enforcement Officer
33 Members of the public

PROCLAMATIONS

- Police Chief Welch spoke about two members of the East Aurora Police Department retiring: Police Officer Richard Gottstine, with his 27 years of service, and Detective Paul O'Brien, with his 20 years of service with the East Aurora Police Department. Mayor Wochensky presented both with proclamations.

SPEAKERS & COMMUNICATIONS (I) – Agenda Items Only

- No public comment

CONSENT CONSIDERATIONS

- A Motion by Trustee Cameron to approve all consent agenda items,
 - Approval of Minutes of Village Board Meeting for August 17, 2026
 - Approval of Payment for September 8, 2026, Abstract 2026/2027 fiscal year for a total of \$230,499.55
 - Approve the Demo/Substantial Modification to the residence at 177 Elmwood, demolition for an addition.
 - Approve the Demo/Substantial Modification to the residence at 158 West Fillmore, demolition for an addition.
 - Approve the Demo/Substantial Modification to the residence at 192 Center, demolition for a new structure.
 - Approve a Temporary Use Permit for Erie Cattaraugus Trail Association – Doug Bush, October 3, 2026, 8:00-10:30 am for the EA2EVL Fondo charity bike ride.
 - Permission for the Mayor to sign the STOP DWI contract with Erie County for 2026

○ **Pro-Housing Communities Resolution**

RESOLUTION No: 202709012026

Trustee Cameron moved and Trustee Lazickas seconded that

WHEREAS, the Village of East Aurora believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State's economic growth and community well-being;

WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

WHEREAS, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Village of East Aurora, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

- Set a public hearing on October 5, 2026 to consider project ideas for CDBG funding.

- Approve budget adjustments for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year

Budget Transfers	2026-2027				
FROM			TO		
A.5.1210.0440	Mayor- Training, Travel, Dues	\$ 500.00	A.5.1210.0434	Mayor- Telephone	\$ 500.00
A.5.1990.0400	Contingency	\$25,000.00	A.5.1325.0420	Village Admin- Maint Contract & Repairs	\$ 25,000.00
A.5.1990.0400	Contingency	\$20,000.00	A.5.1420.0411	Village Atty- Other Legal Council	\$ 20,000.00
A.5.1420.0110	Village Atty- Salaries & Wage	\$21,500.00	A.5.1420.0410	Village Atty- Contract Svcs	\$ 21,500.00

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MODIFY 2025/2026 BUDGET

Trustee Cameron, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to modify the 2026/2027 Budget in the following manner:

Revenue – 4.2702 DEA Reimbursement - \$ 3479.53

Expenditures – 5.3120.0140 Police Overtime - \$3,479.53

DEA OT Reimbursement

Revenue – 4.2702 DEA Reimbursement - \$ 6084.45

Expenditures – 5.3120.0140 Police Overtime - \$ 6084.45

DEA OT Reimbursement

Revenue – 4.2702 DEA Reimbursement - \$ 1,365.12

Expenditures – 5.3120.0140 Police Overtime - \$ 1365.12

DEA OT Reimbursement

Revenue – 4.2680 Insurance recoveries - \$ 3,550.00

Expenditures – 5.9060.0805 Insurance - \$ 3,550.00

Reimbursement

Revenue – 4.2665 Sale of excess equipment - \$ 14,450.00

Expenditures – 5.5142.0470 Snow removal supplies - \$ 14,450.00

Reimbursement

The following resolution was seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously approved

- Approve Village Administrator Jessica Tufte to participate in the Climate Education & Community Engagement Civic Ecology Lab, September 8--October 4th, the cost of the lab is \$90.
- Approve the promotion of Peter Calleri of the DPW to MEO Position effective September 9th, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Police Detective Paul O'Brien effective September 5, 2026

The foregoing motions and resolutions were seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously approved.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Kamp to give Permission for the Mayor or designee to sign a contract with Barton and Loguidice for a study on an all-way stop at the corner of Pine and Girard, seconded by Trustee Root and unanimously approved.
 - Mayor Wochensky spoke about the current status of the stop sign. Trustee Kamp noted that the concerns of the residents were not considered when the study was done by the county but that the engineers will look into those concerns. The Village Board discussed what needs to be reviewed to make a safe decision. The engineer reviewed what the almost \$6,000 scope would cover and that the higher amount proposal of \$15,000 would have overlap with the county work. Trustee Lazickas asked if software would be used, and the engineer said yes that a form of software would be used in their evaluation.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas to give Permission for the Mayor or designee to sign the Climate Smart Communities Pledge;
WHEREAS, the Village of East Aurora (hereinafter “local government”) believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and
WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy, and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and
WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and
WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Village of East Aurora , in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

- 1) Build a climate-smart community.
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3) Decrease energy use.
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use.
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8) Support a green innovation economy.
- 9) Inform and inspire the public.
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

Seconded by Trustee Bojanowski and unanimously approved.

- Mayor Wochensky reviewed that the Village passed this in 2010 but that the Village is going to work toward achieving a bronze status certification.
- A motion by Trustee Viger to give Permission for the Mayor to sign a Master Service Agreement with Barton Loguidice for the Police Station Building evaluation for \$28,400, including hazardous materials and testing fees, seconded by Trustee Kamp and unanimously approved.
 - Mayor Wochensky reviewed the status of the project to be a road map of all we need to do to get this building up to date.
- A motion by Trustee Cameron to approve the Bylaws of the Parks and Open Space Committee, seconded by Trustee Root and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Root to Appoint Parks and Open Space Committee Members:
 - Rachelle Francis, 225 Sycamore Street, 1-year term to expire April 5, 2027
 - Tim Glaudemans, 729 Warren Drive, 2-year term to expire April 3, 2028
 - Zach Goodrich, 533 Prospect Avenue, 3-year term to expire April 2, 2029
 - Andrea O Súilleabháin, 503 Griggs Place, 3-year term to expire April 2, 2029
 - Colleen Raleigh, 181 Sycamore Street, 2-year term to expire April 3, 2028
 - Nancy Smith, 176 Sycamore Street, 1-year term to expire April 2, 2027
 - The Village Board discussed the terms. Trustee Cameron said that the bylaws required a staggered start and then 3-year terms after.

Seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- NYSEG Collaboration- Mayor Wochensky spoke about the agreement with NYSEG. James Cerroni, the municipal and community relations manager, spoke about this presentation and agreement. Ashley Wein, manager of vegetation management, said that she is meeting with the tree crews to go over this agreement, ensuring that they understand, and then will begin doing some of the tree trimming that was discussed. She said that she will be working with the Village to do tree plantings and potentially Arbor Day and Earth Day events. Any resident concerns will be directed to NYSEG and their arborist. Mayor Wochensky spoke about the collaboration with NYSEG and working through issues. Trustee Root said that this is an agreement that the Village can be proud of.

NEW BUSINESS

- Erie County Notice of Agricultural Districts- Mayor Wochensky read the document from the county:
30-DAY PERIOD FOR INCLUSION OF PREDOMINANTLY VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS INTO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Per New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, the Erie County Legislature designated September 1 through September 30 as the annual thirty-day period during which landowners may submit requests to include predominantly viable agricultural land into an existing certified agricultural district.

Copies of the application form have been provided to Municipal Clerks, Assessors, and Chief Elected Officials for distribution to interested landowners. The application is also available online at www.erie.gov/agenrollment.

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning will accept applications from September 1 through September 30. Any questions on this process should be directed to the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

A public hearing will be scheduled at a later date to consider all requests and recommendations of the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

CONTACT:

Sarah Gatti, Principal Planner
Erie County Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 858-6014
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Email: agriculture@erie.gov

- Community Solar Presentation- Brad Tito made a presentation about the community solar program. Mayor Wochensky spoke about his own experiences with his home and with the town. Village Board decided to put this on the next agenda.
- Panhandling Law- Mayor Wochensky noted that this is more of an aggressive panhandling law. Police Chief Welch reviewed the status of the issues in the Village that are beyond basic panhandling and are aggressive. He spoke about the rural outreach center and ways to curb aggressive panhandling. Trustee Kamp asked about other municipalities' policies. Police Chief Welch spoke about areas across the state that have these laws. Mayor Wochensky said that Village Administrator Tufte and Village Attorney Rautenstrauch were currently working on the wording. Mayor Wochensky would like to schedule a public hearing at the next meeting.
- Memorial Tree Bench Policy- Mayor Wochensky said that he is working with Village Administrator Tufte to make this policy for memorial trees, benches, and bike racks. He said that he would like that on the next meeting.

SPEAKERS & COMMUNICATIONS

- Karen Spencer- 31 Hamlin Ave- She said that she did not receive a mailing about the public hearing for 206 Main and went to the Village Clerk's office today for a FOIL. She spoke about the SUP Memo and about her concerns about noise and parking at 206 Main Street.
- Holly Schintzius- 31 North Willow- She sent an email requesting a zoning change. The concerns are that she believes 206 Main Street should be considered a high-intensity use and entertainment use, not just a restaurant. She believes the noise and parking situation are a big problem.
- Alaina Smith- 54 Hamlin- She has concerns about pedestrians walking in the area of 206 Main Street. When she called the state, they said that the Village had to request pedestrian crossing devices in that area. She also would not like a concert venue there either.
- Jim Suttell- 69 Hamlin- He noted that 206 Main Street has become a problem and is worried it will get worse. He thanked the Village DPW, the EAPD, and the Village support at the Toytown Car Show; without the Village's cooperation, it would not happen.
- Mary Ann Colopy- HPC Chairwoman- She reviewed the current status of the National Historic District on Main Street and said that the vote was being held on Wednesday. The district goes from Olean Street up to Riley.

- Gary Wiest- 170 West Fillmore- He is concerned about the mess left over after the events that have been held at 206 Main Street and the noise if the garage doors are opened.
- Ryan Kanowski- 206 Main Owner- He said that his intentions are to make 206 Main Street better and more beautiful. He said that they are not trying to keep Misters alive and said that the doors will be closed when they have music. They want to do bridal showers, fundraisers, and community events. Mayor Wochensky spoke about the process and hearing the public's comments. He spoke about road crossing concerns, said that was part of the Blue Zone plan, and talked about a Z crossing.

Department Head and Trustee Reports

General Foreman- He said that they are working on storm drainage and working on a storm line on Girard that is starting to collapse. The DPW spread about 80 yards of certified cushion compost a couple of weeks back, and it turned out really nice. The stop signs were installed, and he thanked Trustee Lazickas for letting them put a giant sign in his front yard for two weeks. He has been working on our tree inventory for that grant. The price for salt this year rose about 40%, and it is going to be a tough year for that. He also said that gasoline in the past two months rose 40 cents, and their last bill was almost \$1,200 more.

Police Chief- He spoke about Patrol Officer Foster being promoted to detective and being the first woman in East Aurora to be a police detective. She is great with kids and will also be a juvenile detective as well. He said that one of the new officers has been trained in car seat safety and installation; there is an event at the East Aurora Fire Department from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. for car seat safety checks. The Police Department is planning for the Borderlands Festival that is coming up and working with other agencies to be prepared. He said that he has been working with Robyn Drake over the past month and has successfully filed for a grant for \$125,000 for new body cameras and car cameras. The police department has been working with the Pedestrian Bike Board to make a trick-or-treating plan in the Village. He said that the HPC is looking into public government buildings and historic preservation grants for the police station building.

Code Enforcement- None

Village Administrator- She said that she is still getting used to everything and thanked Maureen for teaching her the process of things.

Clerk- Treasurer- She said that she has been training the new Village Administrator.

Trustee Lazickas- none

Trustee Cameron- She asked if the HPC has had any updates on the Stonegate Mansion. Chairwoman Colopy said that Lisa, whom she was dealing with over at Stonegate, said that there has been no communication from the board of directors on the future of the mansion and is very frustrated. She said that if they try to landmark it again, people will come out against it like last time. Chairwoman Colopy said that the former Village Attorney never got a determination on having 87 people own that building and that they are not any further along or have any more information than they did 6 months ago. Trustee Cameron said that she is concerned over the growing use of AI for public-facing communication.

Trustee Root- She said that she gave out the awards at the car show and that it was wonderful to be a part of the event. She went with Village Administrator Tufte to meet small business owners and get input on the community.

Trustee Viger- She asked if the police department can do more monitoring of the crosswalks because of kids going back to school. Police Chief Welch spoke about social media education.

Trustee Kamp- He spoke about the bait and shoot program and gave out the email for residents to contact, deer@townofaurora.gov. Trustee Root asked about automatic responses to emails.

Trustee Bojanowski- none

Mayor Wochensky- He said that he sent out the structure of the comprehensive plan and is working on the RFP. It will be sent out to the Village Board and the Planning Board for feedback. He said that the Taste of EA is taking place this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Kamp to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm, seconded by Trustee Bojanowski and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Clerk-Treasurer