

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | May 26, 2026

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Aurora took place on Tuesday, May 26, 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 Raymond Wrazen Jessica Armbrust Joseph McCann Charles D. Snyder	Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Deputy Supervisor Supervisor
Excused:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
Others Present:	Richard Miga Douglas Crow Patrick Welch David Gunner	Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Planning Board Chairman Chief of Police Highway Superintendent

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.

Councilmember McCann moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the May 11, 2026 Town Board and May 19, 2026 Work Session meeting minutes and the May 26, 2026 Abstract of Claims, consisting of vouchers 546 through 589 Purchasing Card voucher 591 to be paid from the following funds:

Action #187
5/11 Town Board,
5/19 Work
Session mins &
5/26/26 abstract
approved

General Fund	\$	51,866.29
Part Town Fund	\$	15.40
Highway Town Wide Fund	\$	1,632.40
Highway Part Town Fund	\$	159,425.79
Special Districts	\$	76,252.31
Trust & Agency	\$	634.46
Water	\$	523.83
Grand Total Abstract	\$	290,350.48

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

AUDIENCE I: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Armbrust moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, June 8, 2026 at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, as the time, date and place for a public hearing on a Special Use Permit (SUP) for 298 Ellicott Road. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #188
Public Hearing
set for 298 Ellicott
Rd SUP

Councilmember Garvey moved to set 6:30 PM on Monday, June 8, 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 Review (SPR) for 1627 Bailey Road. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #189
Public Hearing
set for 298 Ellicott
Rd SUP

With no objection, this Local Law was approved unanimously:

ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 8-2026
(HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT SALARY INCREASE)

Action #190
Local Law 8-
2026: Dog
Control /
Superintendent
Salary Increase
adopted

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Aurora (the “Town Board”) has proposed Local Law No. 8-2026 to increase the annual salary of the Highway Superintendent during the current term of office; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law includes a severability clause and takes effect upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State under Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held on April 27, 2026, and the Town Board, acting as SEQRA Lead Agency, issued a Negative Declaration finding no significant adverse environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed Local Law, public hearing comments, and all relevant materials;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 24, this local law is subject to a referendum on petition (permissive referendum). This local law shall not take effect until (i) forty-five (45) days have elapsed after its adoption without the filing of a valid

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | May 26, 2026

petition requesting that the local law be submitted to the electors for approval, or (ii) if a valid petition is filed within such period, until approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at a duly held referendum; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopts Local Law No. 8-2026, the "A Local Law to Increase the Salary of the Highway Superintendent During the Current Term of Office" and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized to file the Local Law with the Secretary of State and take all actions necessary to effectuate this Resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

LOCAL LAW NO. 8 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW TO INCREASE THE SALARY OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT DURING THE
CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Aurora, County of Erie, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as "A Local Law to Increase the Salary of the Highway Superintendent During the Current Term of Office."

Section 2. Legislative Intent and Authority

The Town Board of the Town of Aurora finds that it is in the best interest of the Town to increase the annual salary of the Highway Superintendent during the current term of office. This local law is adopted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, § 10(1)(ii)(a), which authorizes towns to adopt local laws relating to the compensation of their officers, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of the New York State Constitution, Article 13, § 7, or of any general, special, or local law.

Section 3. Salary Increase

The annual salary of the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Aurora shall be increased from \$110,331.00 to \$115,331.00, effective January 1, 2026, and continuing through the remainder of the current term of office.

Section 4. Supersession

This local law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(ii)(a) and is intended to supersede the provisions of New York State Constitution, Article 13, § 7, to the extent that said provision would otherwise prohibit the increase of the salary of the Highway Superintendent during the current term of office.

Section 5. Severability

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase, or other portion of this local law is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with § 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Upon a roll call vote being taken:

Councilmember Wrazen: Aye
Councilmember Armbrust: Aye
Supervisor Snyder: Aye
Councilmember Garvey: Aye
Deputy Supervisor McCann: Aye

Ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve adding an item to the agenda to Appoint Clerk Viger as Webmaster; seconded by Councilmember Armbrust. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #191
Adding Clerk
Viger Webmaster
appointment

Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to approve adding an Executive Session for a discussion about an ongoing personnel matter in which no action will be taken; seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.

Action #192
Adding
Executive Session
to agenda
approved

2025 Audit Presentation Summary by Drescher & Malecki, LLP:

Erica Handley, audit director, introduced herself and Kyle Patronik, the audit manager, and presented the results of the December 31 2025 fiscal year audit. The auditors expect to issue an unmodified opinion, or clean opinion, which is the best audit result. The financial statements will be issued by June 30 for Government Finance Officers Association compliance. Handley reported no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and no compliance findings.

Handley reviewed the audit deliverables, including the basic financial statements, departmental reports, Annual Financial Report compilation for New York State, management letter, and auditor communication letter. Departmental reports included review of cash receipts, cash disbursements, and bank reconciliations for departments including the Tax Receiver, Town Clerk, and Justice departments.

Fund Review

Erica Handley reported that the Water District funds remained steady, with fund balance increasing by about \$38,000 due mainly to interest earnings. Total fund balance ended just under \$1.5 million, with about \$1.1 million available for water district operations.

For the Highway Part-Town fund, Handley reported a decrease in fund balance of about \$300,000. Revenues increased to about \$2.8 million, driven by sales tax, interest earnings, and state aid. Expenditures rose due to equipment purchases, materials, plow repairs, salt purchases, and paving-related costs. Ending fund balance was just over \$1.3 million.

For the General Part-Town fund, or police fund, expenditures increased about \$125,000 due to the Village police services invoice. Revenues stayed nearly flat. Fund balance increased by about \$132,000, ending just over \$3 million, with about \$1.9 million assigned for the anticipated police services invoice.

For the General Fund, revenues and transfers totaled about \$4.3 million, up \$358,000, helped by mortgage tax, interest earnings, and real property taxes. Expenditures rose to about \$3.8 million, mainly due to the Senior Center doors project and higher employee benefits. Fund balance increased by just over \$500,000, ending at \$5.9 million. The unassigned fund balance was about \$1.868 million, or 46.3% of the next year's budget, which is within the town's fund balance policy.

Board Questions & Discussion

Deputy Supervisor McCann asked whether the audit reviewed only financial numbers or also procedures and internal controls. Erica Handley explained that this was not a full internal control audit, but the auditors do review controls tied to financial reporting, including samples of receipts, disbursements, bank reconciliations, invoice approvals, numbered receipts, and timely reconciliations.

Councilmember Wrazen asked whether the auditors compare year-to-year activity and look for discrepancies, especially with cash. Handley confirmed that they perform analytic procedures, compare results to expectations, and review significant changes.

Highway Superintendent Gunner clarified that the Highway fund decrease was tied to equipment arriving earlier than expected, which moved spending from the 2026 budget into 2025.

Board members thanked the auditors for the clean report and for keeping the board informed throughout the process. Handley said the next step is submission to the Government Finance Officers Association, with final hard copies to follow.

Councilmember Armbrust moved to accept Rob Goller's resignation as the Town Webmaster effective May 22, 2026; Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #193 R. Goller resignation as Town Webmaster accepted
Councilmember Garvey moved to accept Rob Goller's resignation as the Town Webmaster effective May 22, 2026; Deputy Supervisor McCann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #194 R. Goller resignation as Town Webmaster accepted
A motion was made by Councilmember Wrazen and seconded by Councilmember Armbrust to approve a temporary use permit (TUP) for Holland Central School District (HCSD) to use hold Day of Play event on June 22, 2026. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #195 TUP for HCSD at Community Pool approved
Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to accept the following donation for the Aurora Senior Center with funds being deposited to TA1000.0090 Senior Center donations: \$270.00 from Aktion Club for a replacement microphone Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #196 monetary donation from Aktion Club to Sr. Center accepted
Councilmember Armbrust moved to accept the following donation for the Aurora Senior Center with funds being deposited to TA1000.0090 Senior Center donations with the contract to be signed by Supervisor Snyder: \$5,000.00 from Erie County Legislator Lindsay Lorigo for a podium, skylight blinds, and acrylic sign holders Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #197 monetary donation from Legislator L. Lorigo to Sr. Center Accepted

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | May 26, 2026

Councilmember Garvey moved to authorize Azar to perform a town water systems interconnections analysis at the cost of \$3,000.00 with funds coming from ZP Fund Balance; seconded by Deputy Supervisor McCann. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #198 Water system interconnections analysis by Azar authorized
Councilmember Armbrust moved to approve switching the phones at the Community Pool and at Hamlin Park from Verizon to Vaspian that will result in long term savings for the town. Councilmember Wrazen seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #199 Switch phones at Community Pool & Hamlin Park approved
Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to accept the resignation of Chelesa Root from the Planning Board effective May 5, 2026; seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #200 Chelsea Root resignation accepted
Deputy Supervisor McCann thanked Ms. Root for her service to the board.	
Councilmember Armbrust moved to appoint current Planning Board Alternate, William Heidt, as a Planning Board Member effective immediately with a term end date of December 31, 2028. Seconded by Councilmember Wrazen. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #201 William Heidt appointed to Planning Board
Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to authorize Supervisor Snyder to sign the Great Lakes Buildings Systems agreement which will support building access management. Motion seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #202 Supervisor authorized to sign Great Lakes contract
Councilmember Wrazen moved to approve Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in which no decisions will be made; seconded by Councilmember Armbrust. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #203 Executive Session Approved

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

- A. Sr. Center – Apr '26 Report

B. Police Department – Apr '25 Report

C. UDIG Reminder – NYSEG & RG&E

D. Member Loyalty Award – Comp Alliance
- E. Flashing Beacon Denial – Department of Transportation

F. 4-Way Stop Denial – Department of Transportation

G. Tree Survey Submission – Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/LIAISONS:

Deputy Supervisor McCann reported that he attended a meeting with Ryan Rockefeller from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to discuss deer mitigation. Representatives from both the village and town attended, along with an interested community member. The next step is to form an informal task force with village participation, conduct public outreach, and gather feedback before making any decisions.

McCann also reported that he has been working with the Supervisor on getting an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Town Hall and has spoken with the county legislature about possible funding.

Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner said the Highway Department is also looking into purchasing an AED, including one for the Highway Department. He noted that AEDs require ongoing maintenance, including battery checks, and that the town now has a three-month review schedule after finding some units with battery issues.

Deputy Supervisor McCann also reported that Dan Dytchkowskij, the new deputy for emergency management, raised concerns about whether hydrants were being tested. McCann contacted the Erie County Water Authority and was assured that hydrants are tested twice a year, emptied, maintained, and owned by the Water Authority. Gunner agreed that the Water Authority does an excellent job maintaining hydrants.

Councilmember Garvey shared updates from the Climate Smart Task Force. The "Scoot Around June" challenge will encourage residents to walk, bike, or scoot instead of driving. Participants will log miles and may be recognized before the July 3 fireworks display. Since the program began in 2023, participants have logged 1,682 miles, saved 1,446 pounds of CO2, and saved 73.78 gallons of gasoline. Registration is available at cleangreenaurora.com.

Garvey also reported that the Climate Smart Task Force will meet with the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI) in June to discuss a path toward achieving Silver status as a Climate Smart Community.

Councilmember Armbrust reported that she attended her first Library Board meeting stating the library continues to perform strongly within the library system, including ranking highly in circulation. The library expressed appreciation for the town's support with storage space, but Armbrust noted that the library is running out of room. Books, fundraising materials, the "Library of Things," teen space needs, and possible

Town of Aurora | Town Board Meeting | May 26, 2026

coworking space all create growing demand for space. She said the library will likely begin looking to stakeholders for another review of its space needs.

Councilmember Wrazen announced a composting summit scheduled for June 4 at 6:00 PM. The event will include representatives from the village, Open Space Committee, Climate Smart Committee, Farmer Pirates, and Tyler Hamilton from Erie County's Environment and Planning team. The discussion will focus on composting opportunities and possible pilot programs. The public is invited.

Supervisor Snyder reported that he had the honor of placing a wreath at Oakwood Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day. He described the ceremony as especially touching and noted that it included a strong speaker and meaningful program.

AUDIENCE II: none

STAFF REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent Dave Gunner reported several updates:

- The Highway Department planned to patch the Municipal Center parking lot to extend its life.
- Crews oiled and chipped more than four miles of Town roads. Oil is currently \$4.19 per gallon, which is creating budget challenges. Another oiling project is scheduled for June 29, covering about three more miles. Crews will sweep loose stone as soon as possible.
- Hogweed was reported at Majors Park on the north side off Olean Road near the creek. The DEC representative will survey the area, and the town will cordon it off for safety.
- The state budget has not yet passed, which affects the town's road plan. Gunner may need to bring forward an amended 284 Agreement.
- The kayak launch in Majors Park may be installed soon, depending on conditions.
- Park development discussions are planned for the coming week, including West Falls parks.
- The senior van had a serious overheating issue and was towed for review. The Highway Department will provide a pickup and support the Senior Department so residents can still get to appointments.
- Gunner said he will support Pride Day on June 7 and help ensure the event runs smoothly.
- The Town of Colden has asked about dog control consolidation. Colden would prefer to wait until the start of the year unless emergency coverage is needed sooner. Gunner clarified that Aurora previously consolidated dog control with Holland and Sardinia, and Colden has now approached the town about joining.

Police Chief Welch reported that he attended the New York State Chiefs of Police conference and was appointed to the board of directors, which will require quarterly meetings in Albany. He said the department is preparing for special events and, with Dan Dytchkowskij on board, is updating emergency and incident management plans.

Welch also reported that the department is monitoring speeding concerns and trouble spots. The reports have been favorable overall, with speeding present at times but generally not as severe as reported. He also announced that Lieutenant Brennan O'Hara has been named the next Orchard Park Police Chief. Welch expects to replace three police officers and one clerk before Halloween due to retirements and O'Hara's departure.

Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Miga reported that the office remains extremely busy and is working to keep up. Over the long weekend, the office received two emergency calls from the police department. There were no injuries, but some homes sustained damage.

Planning Board Chairman Crow thanked the board for supporting William Heidt's move from alternate to voting Planning Board member. He said Mr. Heidt has done a strong job and will continue to do so. Crow noted that the Planning Board now has two open alternate positions and encouraged referrals. Several resumes have already been received, and interviews are expected to be scheduled soon.

Zoning Board Chair Ernst and Member Simione had no report.

Deputy Supervisor McCann made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:25 PM and it was seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #204 Enter Exec Session
At 8:01 PM, Councilmember Armbrust moved to exit Executive Session and return to the general session; seconded by Councilmember Wrazen. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #205 Exit Exec Session
Deputy Supervisor McCann moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM and was seconded by Councilmember Garvey. Upon a vote being taken: ayes – five, noes – none. Motion carried.	Action #206 Meeting adjourned
Jeanne H. Viger Town Clerk	