

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Present:

Trustee Scheer
Trustee Flynn
Trustee Lazickas
Trustee Cameron
Trustee Viger
Trustee Rabey
Mayor Mercurio

Also Present:

Maureen Jerackas, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Shane Krieger, Village Administrator
Patrick Welch, Police Chief
Jeff Stoll, General Foreman
Chris Trapp, Village Attorney
Liz Cassidy, Code Enforcement Officer
25 Members of the public

A Motion by Trustee Cameron to approve the Village Board minutes for April 21, 2025, seconded by Trustee Rabey and carried with unanimous approval.

Trustee Cameron moved to approve the payment of May 5, 2025 abstract 2024/2025 fiscal year for a total of \$187,481.33, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and carried with unanimous approval.

- Trustee Lazickas asked about the comptroller AP, a 1,200 charge and a double fire department charge for electric in the packet. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas stated that she will look into this and review.

SPEAKERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (I)

- Jesse Griffis- He wanted to thank everyone who came to the Arbor Day celebration. He asked if the Village could do anything to protect the trees on Pine Street. Village Administrator Krieger will reach out to the County. Mr. Griffis said that at the next meeting they will be discussing a moratorium on non-emergency tree trimming; he will be bringing up tree box size and the healthiest way to trim. He said that GoNetSpeed hasn't been giving him the information that he has been requesting about the project. General Foreman Stoll stated that he received a new contact and received some of the information but not all, he will keep looking into it and that about 50% of the Village is complete. Mr. Griffis wants to start planting the trees but needs a schedule of completion.
- Bob Baird-219 Center St- He stated that Stan came to his property and they looked at the trees but would not give his last name. Mr. Baird stated that man was not civil and he doesn't want him on his property. Mayor Mercurio asked the Village Attorney if Mr. Baird has the right to tell them that they can't be on his property; he said that they are allowed on the easement but not on his property. General Foreman Stoll said that he will find out where the easement is for his property and also verified that Stan is an arborist. Village Administrator Krieger reviewed that NYSEG gave permission to Go Netspeed and O'Connell works for them. Village Attorney Trapp stated that Mr. Baird can sue if any damage is done to the trees on his property. Mayor Mercurio stated that General Foreman Stoll will come to Mr. Baird's house tomorrow to discuss.

- Lynn Chimera-170 Pine Street- She expressed her concerns over the construction on Pine affecting the trees. She stated the heavy equipment is compacting the soil and the dripline. She is asking the Village to contact the County about following best practice to protect the soil and trees. Mrs. Chimera handed in paperwork for the board to review. Mayor Mercurio let her know that Village Administrator is meeting with the County about the tree concerns and will pass along this information.
- Karen Allen-Corner of East Fillmore and Martin- She is concerned about the bridge not being complete yet and is looking for transparency on the project. Mayor Mercurio stated that the bridge is a town bridge, and they are responsible for this. Code Enforcement Cassidy stated that Dave Gunner, with the Town of Aurora DPW, is in charge of the replacement and stated that there is an issue with the contractor and the grant being finalized. She stated that it should be done this year.
- Chris Ferreira-109 Park Place- He wanted to thank the Village Board and General Foreman Stoll for the prioritizing Park Place and coming up with a solution for the road. He said the residents of the road have serious safety concerns. Mayor Mercurio stated that they are talking about the different options later in the meeting and asked General Foreman Stoll about a timeline, he stated that one option could be done by later this year, and the others would potentially be next year.
- Holly Maciejewski-218 Center Street- She expressed her hope that the Village Board will address concerns about the trees.
- Betsy Anderson-219 Center- She expressed concerns over the treatment of the residents by the utility company workers, and she feels that the residents deserve more information on the trees being trimmed on their property. Mayor Mercurio asked Village Administrator Krieger and General Foreman Stoll to address this with contacts.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to Approve a Peddler Solicitor Permit for Michael Yohe to operate a horse-drawn carriage, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to Approve a Temporary Use Application at Hamlin Park for Iroquois Intermediate School and ask for the application and permit fee waived for the 5th-grade field trip to East Aurora on June 11th, 2025, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Flynn, to Refer to the Planning Commission June 3rd, 2025 an application to consider the proposed rezoning of a portion of 192 Oakwood Avenue, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- 30 Day Liquor Notice for Chipotle Mexican Grill 168 Main Street- Clerk Treasurer Jerackas asked if any Village Board member or the Police Department had an issue with this, no one had an issue.
- Surplus Bikes- Patrick Shea said that he represents the Rotary Club in collecting used bikes at Parkdale Elementary for the Go Bike Buffalo Organization. He said that organization does a lot for community health and environmental sustainability. Mr. Shea is asking for the Village's surplus bikes to be donated. Mayor Mercurio spoke about what he believes to be available for this year. General Foreman Stoll will get a list of bikes to declare surplus for the next meeting.
- \$7,000 from Lindsey Lorigo- Playground Equipment- Clerk Treasurer Jerackas explained that Representative Lorigo was giving the Village \$7,000. She stated that with that amount of money, the suggestion is that the toddler playground equipment which has been requested. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas explained that General Foreman Stoll has found good deals on that type of playground equipment currently and she is looking for the Village Board's approval to use the money that way so she can start

the paperwork. Mayor Mercurio said that some of the equipment was starting to look old and in need of updating and since Fisher Price no longer supports the playground, the responsibility falls to the Village. Trustee Lazickas stated that they have been looking for funding to help with the playground and many residents have been expressing a need for better toddler equipment. He agrees that this is a good time to get this project done. Trustee Scheer stated that he has been concerned about the toddler equipment and believes that this is very good news. Trustee Flynn asked if there were any other more important issues that needed to be addressed with that dollar amount. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas stated not at that dollar amount. Trustee Lazickas asked if there were any conditions. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas said that she wasn't given anything specific but that type of funding is normally for public use items. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas asked Trustee Scheer and Trustee Lazickas if they wanted to have a Hamlin Park Committee meeting before the next Village Board meeting to discuss the playground. Trustee Scheer and Trustee Lazickas agreed to try to set up a meeting for next week. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas asked Trustee Scheer and Trustee Lazickas to discuss future projects at the Hamlin Park Meeting in June, so she knows what we are looking to do when reviewing grant options.

OLD BUSINESS

- Park Place- General Foreman Stoll reviewed three options available for the repair of Park Place. Option 1 and 2 require Bidding and Option 3 would be done by the DPW. Trustee Lazickas confirmed with General Foreman Stoll that the difference between options one and two and option three are that they will be done in house. Mayor Mercurio asked about bidding out water and if that would cause a delay for option three. Clerk- Treasurer Jerackas stated that the bidding process normally takes about two months to get the bid would be awarded. Trustee Lazickas asked about project duration for option three, General Foreman Stoll stated about a week with an additional two to three days for water. Trustee Rabey asked if the third option is the same as option one plus the water, General Foreman said yes. Mayor Mercurio would like the water done as well. Trustee Flynn asked General Foreman Stoll what we are missing out of option three that is in option two. General Foreman Stoll stated that it's the curbs, aprons and sidewalks. He stated that Robinson can do blacktop curbs but they do not last long. The residents stated that parking is always a problem on Park Place
 - Gretchen Haden- 132 Park Place- She has concerns about curbs and would like to see more curbs.
 - Margaret Beavers- 122 Park Place- She has concerns about local traffic and buses coming through during the repairs.
 - Mary Hayes- 123 Park Place- She asked about the sewer being the problem. General Foreman Stoll stated that the sewer was checked, and the sewer was not the issue. She stated that it's awful to live on that road right now and it's very loud.
 - Margaret Potter- 114 Park Place- She thanked General Foreman Stoll for speaking with the residents. She asked the Village Board what the timeline for a decision on this project is currently. General Foreman Stoll stated that they are looking to start after July depending on the bids. She stated that all the residents want curbs and would like to know what the Village can do about a temporary fix because the road is getting worse. General Foreman Stoll stated that he is looking into borrowing a drag paver from Orchard Park. She said that the barriers are only kind of discouraging people from driving down the road. She asked about the diagrams of what will be done. Clerk-Treasurer Jerackas stated that once the bids are out and brought in front of the Village Board to accept, documents will be available at the clerk's office to look at and on the website if the size allows.
 - MaryAnne MacDonald- 131 Park Place- She expressed concerns over having accessibility for disabled people and safety. Trustee Flynn and Mayor Mercurio agreed on the importance of safety and Mayor Mercurio confirmed with General Foreman Stoll that all the work will be ADA compliant.
 - Amanda Jenny- 119 Park Place- She stated that the gas company came and dug up their yards and she has many health concerns. She asked about the difference between choice two and three

with the cost. General Foreman Stoll stated that they would be doing most of the work except curbs and water.

The Village Board will move forward with the process with option three and add water and curbs.

- Local Laws set 2: Sign Electric Scooter updated- Clerk Treasurer Jerackas asked the Village Board to review. Mayor Mercurio would like to set a public hearing at the June 2nd meeting for a public hearing on a future date.
- Local Laws set 1: Short Term Rentals, ADU's (still with planning)- Village Attorney Trapp stated that both of these items are with the Village Planning Commission.

Department Head and Trustee Reports

Police Chief – He stated that he is working with the other agencies about the Heart of Music Festival and that he has went to look at the fencing with General Foreman Stoll in regard to that event. He stated that the police department signed an agreement with the health department to put a sharps dispenser in the police station, so people can drop off needles. He said that he co-signed a letter with Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy informing the venues of the Heart of Music Festival that they will be watching and enforcing the fire and occupancy codes on that day. He stated that they have always had a bike registration program, he is encouraging people to register bikes, so they are easier to identify if they are lost or stolen.

General Foreman – He stated that the electronics recycling went well, and they had 12 pallets worth. He said that the DPW is working on planting trees. Trustee Viger asked when the DPW will be putting up no parking signs on North Street, he stated that the signs just came in so they will be starting to work on that.

Code Enforcement – She asked if the Village Board would like to participate in No Mow May. A motion by Trustee Flynn, to Approve the Village of East Aurora participating in No Mow May, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved. She stated that all venues had to have fire inspections done prior to the event or they would not be able to participate in the Heart of Music Festival. Trustee Lazickas asked if it was annual, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy stated that it was.

Village Administrator- none

Fire Chief- Absent

Clerk Treasurer- She said that she plans on filling out a planning grant application to do a feasibility study for the Fisher Price land and spoke to the engineers about a quote. The Village Board agreed to move forward with that grant application. She said that she is working on a phased water improvement plan with the budget and is checking for any possibility of finding grants to help. She said that she is working with Tyler on fixed assets and the new credit card payment system.

Trustee Lazickas- none

Trustee Cameron- none

Trustee Scheer- none

Trustee Rabey– none

Trustee Flynn- none

Trustee Viger- She stated that the farmers market had a great set up at the new place but that many people were parking in no parking areas. She stated that they may need additional signage. Mayor Mercurio spoke about sidewalks the people from the rink are looking to add. Mayor Mercurio asked Village Administrator Krieger to look into if they can do more signage. Police Chief Welch noted that this is better than before and he will work with the farmers market on safety concerns.

Mayor Mercurio- He stated that he attended the Arbor Day Celebration along with the Village Tree Board and enjoyed seeing kids getting involved. The mayor stated that after talking with the Fire Chief, he wanted to get another ambulance to be available on the night of the Heart of Music Festival. Village Administrator Krieger got an ambulance for 5-6 hours, for free to respond to resident calls during that time if needed. Trustee Viger stated that the Heart of Music Festival must have the extra lighting like last year, Police Chief Welch said that they said they would do it. He noted that the FDA said to flush opioids is better than having them out on the road and that all pharmacies have a drug drop. He spoke about having an ERT officer from the Village join Orchard Park for training and response. A motion by Trustee Rabey, that once the contract is ready for one person to be an

ERT officer, that the Mayor has permission to sign it, seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously approved. Police Chief Welch believes that the training will help the police department.

A motion by Trustee Flynn to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. seconded by Trustee Viger and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Clerk-Treasurer