

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

June 2, 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
12 Members of the public

A Motion by Trustee Cameron to approve the Village Board minutes for May 19, 2025, seconded by Trustee Flynn and carried with unanimous approval.

- Clerk Treasurer Jerackas read an email from a resident who wanted to clarify what he wanted to say at the last meeting, the meeting minutes from 5.19.25 will not be changed.
- I spoke at this meeting regarding my concerns with pickleball in the village. While my focus was on the concerns I individually had regarding the use of courts at Warren Park since that park abuts my property, I'd like to make it clear that I do not support courts in Hamlin Park, Warren Park, or any village park/property where the sound from the games directly and negatively impacts the use and enjoyment of neighboring residents and their properties. I request the meeting minutes be updated to reflect that I do not support pickleball courts in the village where the sound negatively affects residents.

Thank you.

Steve Chasey

771 Lawrence Avenue

Trustee Rabey moved to approve the payment of June 2, 2025 abstract 2024/2025 fiscal year for a total of \$100,809.68, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and carried with unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (I)

- Mark Warren-107 Center St- He and his wife are against the bait and shoot program. He finds it cruel.
- Leslie Wade-239 Sycamore- She is against pickleball in Hamlin Park and spoke about the noise.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Rabey, Approve Hamlin Park Temporary Use Permit for Kevin Beers of Revive Wesleyan Church for Church in the Park each Sunday in August (August 3, 10, 17, and 24th 2025) from 8 am-1 pm, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.
 - Applicants spoke about the event and are aware of the noise concerns.

- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to Approve Temporary Use Permit for Victoria Sturman of East Aurora Chamber of Commerce for Operation Kid Zone to accompany the Sidewalk sale on July 26th from 10 am -3 pm. the approval is contingent on the final safety plan being approved by Chief Welch and General Foreman Stoll, seconded by Trustee Flynn, and unanimously approved.
 - Applicants spoke about the event and the need to shut down the road because they are unable to use the parking lots. Police Chief Welch and General Foreman Stoll are to approve the final safety plan, they are looking at only closing from the Subway entrance to Main.
- A motion by Trustee Scheer, to appoint Seasonal Part-Time DPW Employee Rhett Krieger at a rate of \$17.00 per hour to work 10 weeks over the summer, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.
 - Clerk Treasurer Jerackas spoke about the hiring process, and that the applicant was an environmental studies major in college. General Foreman Stoll spoke about the training and what he will be doing with the DPW. Mayor Mercurio asked about the hours. 24 hours a week is the expectation.
- A motion by Trustee Viger, for permission to set a public hearing on July 2, 2025, to consider a local law to amend § 285-44 Sign Regulations, seconded by Trustee Cameron, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Viger, for permission to set a public hearing on July 2, 2025, to consider a local law regulating the use of Electric/motorized scooters and bikes, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to approve new members of the East Aurora Fire Department: Colleen Occhino, Menachem Katz, and Jillian Mumm, seconded by Trustee Cameron, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, for permission for the mayor to sign a Landlord authorization for a special event permit at Fireman's Field for a private event on July 17th 2025 applicant: 42 North Brewing Company, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

- Limit Planning Commission applications to 6 per meeting: Clerk Treasurer Jerackas said that she spoke to Randy West and they agreed that 6 was a good limit. Mayor Mercurio said that he was good with that, and the rest of the Board agreed. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas said that she would work with Village Attorney Trapp on this situation. Attorney Trapp noted it just will need to be part of the process.
- Playground Equipment- General Foreman Stoll talked about playground equipment that was originally being looked at and found it to be too expensive with the shipping cost. Trustee Lazickas and Trustee Scheer spoke about the residents wanting more of a toddler, sensory type of playground. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas asked Jeff if he wanted to check with the vendor that the town used. General Foreman Stoll said that he will keep looking into this. Trustee Lazickas said he will try to potentially help with shipping.

SPEAKERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (I)

- Holly Maciejewski- 218 Center St- She believes the pickleball courts should be moved.
- Rachel Francis- 225 Sycamore St- She is against Pickleball in Hamlin Park and believes that there should be no more discussion about it.

- Kurt Colopy- 365 South Grove- He believes the current playground equipment needs to be better maintained. He also spoke about how he is against the bait and shoot. Trustee Lazickas said that the larger play area was looked at as well as the new set, with the Hamlin Park Committee. The group is looking at raising funds to maintain the park equipment, but some parts are no longer made. Mr. Colopy offered to help with his engineering degree. Trustee Scheer stated that Parkdale is also raising funds for a new playground, and the group didn't want to fundraise for both at the same time.
- Holly Maciejewski- 218 Center St- She asked about Fisher Price helping with the playground upkeep. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas stated that they declined.

Department Head and Trustee Reports

Police Chief – He stated that they are preparing for the Heart of Music Festival and the Hallmark Movie being filmed in the Village.

General Foreman – He stated that the construction started on the Hamlin Park bathrooms and put all the facilities underground. He said that the DPW is preparing for the Hallmark movie shoot. He said they are milling on the 16th and 17th. He is working on getting the last details finished on the Park Place project. Mayor Mercurio asked about the High School banners coming down. General Foreman Stoll stated that it would only be for about 2 days. Trustee Viger asked if the movie was paying for overtime. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas said that they were. General Foreman Stoll stated that the drawings by the architects were wrong for the sewer, so they are working to figure out a solution, maybe a grinder pump.

Code Enforcement – She stated that May was a busy month. Fire inspections went out for multifamily buildings, all the fire inspections were done for the Heart of Music Festival, and they are doing a sweep, picking up temporary signage in the Village.

Village Administrator- He spoke about the RFP for trash collection. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas said that the law will have to be changed. She said that all the vendors are saying that you must go totes or the cost will be more than double, which will raise taxes significantly. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas went over what was discussed in the specifications for garbage, which included each resident having a 95-gallon garbage and one 95-gallon recycling tote. Same for the businesses, and if they had more than that, they would need to get dumpster services. Also, the various ways to do large garbage pickup were talked about. Village Administrator Krieger stated that in the version we are looking at, the garbage company will maintain the garbage totes and repair them.

Clerk Treasurer- She said we are currently in the new fiscal year. She stated that taxes have gone out and are due July 1st. We are also preparing for the Hallmark movie.

Trustee Viger- She spoke about being a part of the mass casualty incident training with the fire company. She asked that the other Village Board members carefully review the local laws that will be coming in front of the Board soon. She stated that she has received complaints about the permitting process being difficult. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas explained what happened with a specific application. The application was taken, although she did not believe that it was the appropriate way to accomplish what they wanted.

Trustee Flynn- She wants to reintroduce the idea of solar-powered signs at intersections and safety measures; she would like to refer it to the safety committee. She named various intersections that are a problem, maybe a brighter colored paint at the intersection. She will send the information to the rest of the Village Board. Mayor Mercurio stated that he is aware that there is a safety issue. Village Administrator Krieger said that the state DOT will have to give permission for anything on a state road. Trustee Flynn asked Clerk Treasurer Jerackas about the CFA grant. She said that she would look into it.

Trustee Rabey- He would like a post-event debrief on old business at the next meeting for the Heart of Music Fest, he doesn't believe the code of conduct was acknowledged. He said that he would like a list of the actual beneficiaries and the cost to the Village needs to be reviewed. Mayor Mercurio agreed.

Trustee Scheer– He agrees with Trustee Rabey that this needs to be reviewed at the next meeting. Trustee Rabey feels mislead and Trustee Sheer agrees. The Mayor expects transparency on where the money is going.

Trustee Cameron- She asked about safety concerns. Mayor Mercurio stated that he called the applicant about part 18, the applicant states that he has it and will be giving it to Clerk Treasurer Jerackas tomorrow. The Village Board asked what happens if it isn't turned in. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas stated that she will let everyone know

immediately if she doesn't have it in her hands by 4 PM Friday. Village Administrator Krieger said there was an issue understanding the responsibility of the ambulance service and the footprint of the event. Trustee Cameron asked about the first aid tent. Village Administrator Krieger stated that they have a doctor's response within 15 minutes. Police Chief Welch stated that they will have a meeting with all of the safety personnel involved about the event tomorrow.

Trustee Lazickas- He stated that he agrees with everything that has already been said and has concerns about how the event organizer and his self-promotion. The Mayor spoke about the changes to the event this year. Trustee Lazickas agreed the changes are the most thorough they have ever been; his concern is mostly about the leadership.

Mayor Mercurio- He asked Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy about the sign law and asked her opinion on whether or not she finds it enforceable. She said that she will review it. He said that he went to the Rotary Vision of EA Awards and stated that a lot of the essays were great. The kids spoke about litter and the playground most frequently.

A motion by Trustee Lazickas to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. was seconded by Trustee Rabey and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Clerk-Treasurer