

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING November 3, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

A Motion by Trustee Viger to approve the Village Board minutes for October 6, 2025 with amendments, seconded by Trustee Flynn and carried with unanimous approval, with Trustee Viger and Trustee Cameron abstaining.

- Trustee Viger said that the minutes had present for both present and absent, and Trustee Viger and Trustee Cameron should be changed to absent.

A Motion by Trustee Cameron to approve the Village Board minutes for October 20, 2025, seconded by Trustee Viger and carried with unanimous approval.

Trustee Rabey moved to approve the payment of Abstract for November 3, 2025, with a total of \$183,037.61, seconded by Trustee Scheer and carried by unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (I)

- Mary Ann Colopy- 365 South Grove- She asked the Village Board to do a 90-day moratorium on demolition and significant renovations until the village code regarding the same can be reviewed and amended. Attorney Trapp noted that 6 Months is better than 90 days. Mayor Mercurio asked if the moratorium would be for anything internal on a historic building. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that they were trying to make code changes specifically about properties in which the entire residence would be requested to be demolished, a significant portion of it demolished with an addition, or significant changes to that structure. Cassidy said that she would need time to get the verbiage right. Mayor Mercurio asked Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy about what percentage of demolition would be in the moratorium. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that 50% of the footprint of the building or the square footage. Trustee Viger asked if the wording of the moratorium had to be done immediately. Trustee Flynn asked if people could sneak in demolition before the moratorium is passed. Village Attorney Trapp said that you're just setting a public hearing to determine if there will be a moratorium. Mayor Mercurio said that they will add that as an official business item. Mary Ann would also like to speak about the National Register

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public Hearing to Consider a request for a local law rezoning of a portion of the property at 192 Oakwood Avenue by Marget J. Drzewiecki, Esq., of Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, for the property owner Dimitie O'Connor. (dated May 2, 2025)
 - Mayor Mercurio asked Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy if the applicant was going to change their request. She responded that the applicant was changing their application.A Motion by Trustee Lazickas to close the public hearing at 7:11pm, seconded by Trustee Cameron and carried with unanimous approval.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Rabey to Refer to the Planning Commission, December 2, 2025, an application (dated October 28, 2025) for the rezoning of a portion of the property at 192 Oakwood Avenue by Marget J. Drzewiecki, Esq., of Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, for the property owner Dimitie O'Connor, seconded by Trustee Flynn and unanimously approved.
 - Applicant is looking to do a full rezoning versus a partial rezoning. He believes that it is unnecessary and a waste of time to send the revised application back to Planning. Mayor Mercurio said that since the application changed, he believes that the Planning Commission should review the revised application. Trustee Lazickas, Trustee Viger, and Trustee Cameron all said that they agree that the new application should be reviewed.
- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to Set a Public Hearing on November 17, 2025, for a Site Plan amended application from Michael Anderson of Abstract Architecture of 203 Main Street, for a natural gas stand-by generator to be located in the rear of the property to serve the first-floor tenant (East Leaf) for the security requirements, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.
 - Mayor Mercurio said that he doesn't believe that this application needs to go to the Planning Commission for a generator. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy agrees that this is a minor change and verified that the tank would not be buried.
- Trustee Viger, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:
BE IT RESOLVED, the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to modify the 2025/2026 Budget in the following manner:
Revenue – Appropriated Fund balance - \$ 28,509.00
Expenditures – Capital Recreation Bathroom H0909.0019 - \$28,509.00
Recreation Bathroom change order Sewer line
Revenue – Appropriated Fund balance - \$ 100,000.00
Expenditures – Capital DPW Roof H0909.0042 - \$100,000.00
DPW Roof
The following resolution was seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously approved.
- Trustee Cameron, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:
WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of East Aurora desires to enter into a contract to participate in the Erie County Community Development Block Grant (ECCDBG) program for the following projects, listed in order of their ranking of priority by the East Aurora Village Board:
 1. Sidewalks for ADA access in Hamlin Park up to \$114,166.12 ;
 - 2.

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of East Aurora deems it in the public interest to authorize the Mayor of the Village of East Aurora to sign, submit and execute contracts for ECCDBG-funded projects, upon approval of the ECCDBG program for the aforementioned projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of East Aurora hereby authorizes the Mayor of the Village of East Aurora to sign, submit and execute contracts for ECCDBG-funded projects, upon approval of ECCDBG program for the following projects, listed in order of their ranking priority:

1. Sidewalks for ADA access in Hamlin Park up to \$114,166.12 ;

2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk–Treasurer forward a certified copy of this resolution to the ECCDBG Erie County Consortium. The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and was unanimously approved

- Clerk-Treasurer Jerackas noted that the grant is for \$114,166.12 which changed from what was on the agenda. She explained that this grant is for an ADA sidewalk path along the northwest parking lot in Hamlin Park and then a walkway that will lead somebody to any part of the park through a path of some kind that is ADA accessible, which includes the new bathroom being built. General Foreman Stoll said that they are looking to improve ADA access without taking away the natural feel of the park and they are staying away from trees and greenspace. He reviewed the materials that will be used, the size and location for the path.

- Trustee Viger offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees of the Village of East Aurora levied real property taxes against all assessable real property in the Village to meet local government requirements for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS the Village Clerk Treasurer of the Village of East Aurora has submitted a list of unpaid Village taxes for said year after servicing actions, and

WHEREAS the Village of East Aurora desires the Erie County Department of Real Property Tax Services to enforce the collection of delinquent Village taxes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the attached list of delinquent real property taxes, representing Forty-six (46) parcels and totaling \$83,649.45 without penalties (\$93,541.24 with penalties), be submitted to the Erie County Department of Real Property Tax Services for relevy and subsequent reimbursement to the Village of East Aurora.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously carried.

- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to give permission for the Village to apply for the DHSES Critical Infrastructure Grant Program for \$50,000 and permission for the Mayor to sign all the documents for the grant and corresponding project, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.
 - Police Chief Welch described how he is looking to put cameras on Main Street and in Hamlin Park and enhance the system at the police station.
- A motion by Trustee Viger, to set a Public Hearing on December 1, 2025, for purposes of determining a local law to set a moratorium with regard to the demolition or partial demolition of structures within the Village of East Aurora, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved
- A motion by Trustee Scheer, to set a Public Hearing on November 17, 2025, for a local law to extend the moratorium on tree trimming in the Village of East Aurora, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Village Board agreed to wait to schedule a work session to review open tree local law with the Village Attorney until after the NYSEG meeting on November 6th.

- Police Chief Welch said that he assigned Lieutenant O'Hara the administrative task of finding out the deer management plan cost. Police Chief Welch said that it would be \$15,000 annually for this program. He explained that if we become a part of this program that the deer would be field dressed and taken to Amherst to be processed for the Food Bank. He also said that the Police Department has overtime issues already, he is not comfortable with the locations and believes it needs more consideration. Mayor Mercurio asked about other municipalities that don't use police officers but hire experienced people. Trustee Viger asked if Village Administrator Krieger could look into it. Police Chief Welch said he is already looking into this, and neighboring communities that do this program have large areas of brown lands or woodlands that they can utilize. He said that he is unaware of any current villages that currently do this program. Trustee Viger asked about the Town of Aurora's deer management program. Police Chief Welch said that they give out extra doe tags to hunters in the area. He said he needs more information on crossbows and understands the need to control the deer population; however, he wants to do it safely. Trustee Lazickas asked about contraceptives for the deer. Police Chief Welch said that they do not seem to work.

SPEAKERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (II)

- Christine Perisini- 439 Old Center Road- She said that she is with the East Aurora Garden Club and supports the deer management program. She said that she understands the need for more time and thinks that we should work with the Town of Aurora. She also expressed concerns about ticks and Lyme disease with so many deer in the area. Mayor Mercurio said that this is a big issue and that they need more information to make sure we do it right. Trustee Flynn asked when the best time for deer management. Police Chief Welch said that it is January to March. He noted that we can't compare villages and towns with the space to hunt, and he wants to make sure it's safe for the residents.
- Holly Maciewjeski-218 Center Street- She said that she is happy about the moratorium. She said that she also believes that there needs to be more codes in place to protect the village from development. Mayor Mercurio noted that the Village Board is here to keep the character of the Village.
- Nancy Smith- 195 Sycamore- She said that she agreed with Village Attorney Trapp on the length of the moratorium. She also asked about the paths at Hamlin Park that were being discussed and asked if she could see the plans in regard to the trees. General Foreman Stoll said that none of the paths are in the grove.
- Jane Robbins- 505 Oakwood- She has concerns about the number of deer and supports the deer management program

Department Head and Trustee Reports

Police Lieutenant- He said Halloween was very busy in the Village, but went well. He said that the police department is getting ready for the Hallmark event and the Turkey Trot in the Village. Mayor Mercurio asked about the parade route, and Trustee Viger asked if that had been changed without asking the Village. Police Chief Welch said that the same area that was approved to be closed will be utilized; they just extended the parade down for more people to see. Trustee Viger is concerned about the number of people. Police Chief Welch said that he is keeping the road clear of people, which will keep more of them on curbs and sidewalks to make it safer. Trustee Cameron and Trustee Viger said that they would like to be notified of the changes when they happen.

Streets Foreman- He said that the DPW is currently working on leaf pick-up. He said that he is having the arborist come in and train new employees on tree planting and trimming.

Code Enforcement Officer- She said that December 31st is the new building code goes into effect for new builds. She said that there are also updates to flood plain development in regard to permits and said that a large number of houses in the Village will be affected. She said that the code enforcement office has new code training in January.

Village Administrator- He said that he has reached out to AMR about them renewing their contract with the Village, as the contract is up on April 1st, and he is waiting to hear back.

Village Clerk-Treasurer- She said that she submitted the community development block grant application. She is working on the critical infrastructure grant, and they had the capital meeting. She said that updates will be ready during budget season and expressed how important the capital meetings are when it comes to looking for grants and doing the budget.

Trustee Viger- none

Trustee Flynn- none

Trustee Rabey- none

Trustee Scheer- none

Trustee Cameron – none

Trustee Lazickas- He said that there will be an unveiling of the plaque for Ciero Hamlin at Hamlin Park next week, on November 12th at 6 pm. He said Village Historian Goller will be putting on a presentation after the unveiling with the Historical Society at the Aurora Players Theater.

Mayor Mercurio- He said that he went and looked at the bridge at the end of Fillmore, he said that it looks good, but they may want to revisit the sidewalks in the future. He said that they will add the discussion for the historic national registry on the next agenda. Mayor Mercurio asked Mary Ann Colopy about what was involved in the process for becoming a national historic district. Mary Ann Colopy reviewed the process and said that there is a deadline of April 1st that needs to be met for the application, or the Village no longer qualifies because of the income census. She also said that the cost would be around \$20,000 to hire a consultant for this. Mayor Mercurio asked her to send over any other information she has. He also said that he met with the holiday decoration committee and said that they are meeting the next two Saturdays at the highway barn to help with decorations. He said that he really appreciates all the volunteers and all that they do to help the Village look great for the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Clerk-Treasurer