

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2026 – 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
Jeff Stoll, General Foreman
Elizabeth Cassidy, Code Enforcement Officer
11 Members of the public

A Motion by Trustee Scheer to approve the Village Board minutes for January 5, 2026, seconded by Trustee Cameron and carried by unanimous approval.

A Motion by Trustee Flynn to approve the payment of Abstract for January 20, 2026, with a total of \$672,075.81, seconded by Trustee Scheer and carried by unanimous approval.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A Motion by Trustee Lazickas to Open a Public Hearing at 7:03pm to Approve Local Law 1 of 2026 for the tax levy limit, seconded by Trustee Flynn and carried with unanimous approval.
 - Clerk-Treasurer Jerackas spoke about the tax levy limit and said that this is done every year before the budget is even done just in case.

A Motion by Trustee Cameron to close the public hearing at 7:04 pm, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and carried with unanimous approval.

- A Motion by Trustee Lazickas to Open a Public Hearing at 7:04pm to Approve an application from Robert & JoAnne Ruh of 315 Center Street for a permit to keep other than household pets, honeybees, seconded by Trustee Scheer and carried with unanimous approval.
 - The applicant said that between him and his daughter that they have 2.5 acres of land and said that the neighbors are far enough away that he isn't interfering with anyone. He said that the neighbors agreed to plant wildflowers. Trustee Scheer spoke about his knowledge of honeybees. Trustee Cameron suggested having two hives.

A Motion by Trustee Lazickas to close the public hearing at 7:09pm, seconded by Trustee Cameron, and carried with unanimous approval.

- A Motion by Trustee Lazickas to Open a Public Hearing at 7:09pm to Approve an application from Anthony & Nicole Slawinowski of 266 Girard Ave for a permit to keep other than household pets, six hens, seconded by Trustee Rabey and carried with unanimous approval.
 - The applicant spoke and said that they currently have 5 hens, one was a rooster, so they got rid of it once they knew. Mayor Mercurio reminded that applicant that no roosters are allowed.
- A Motion by Trustee Rabey to close the public hearing at 7:12pm, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and carried with unanimous approval.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to Approve local law 1 of 2026 for the tax levy limit, seconded by Trustee Flynn, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:
 Trustee Lazickas - Aye
 Trustee Flynn - Aye
 Trustee Cameron - Aye
 Trustee Scheer – Aye
 Trustee Viger- Aye
 Trustee Rabey- Aye
 Mayor Mercurio – Aye

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of East Aurora to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3: Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of East Aurora, County of Erie, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

Section 4: Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, form or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5: Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to approve an application from Robert & JoAnne Ruh of 315 Center Street for a permit to keep other than household pets, honeybees, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to approve an application from Anthony & Nicole Slawinowski of 266 Girard Ave for a permit to keep other than household pets, six hens, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.

- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to set a Public Hearing on January 20, 2026 to consider an application from JoAnne Ruh of 315 Center Street for a permit to keep other than household pets, honeybees, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to Approve a Hamlin Park Temporary Use Permit, Meaghan Tent Town of Aurora for Aktion Club Kickball, various dates, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to Approve a Temporary Use Permit for Meaghan Tent Town of Aurora for the July 3rd Celebration, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved
 - Clerk-Treasurer Jerackas said that it was the same but with no train. Mayor Mercurio repeated that the town chose not to have a train.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to Approve a Temporary Use Permit for Meaghan Tent, Town of Aurora, for the Town Summer camp, sports, and theater programs, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and unanimously approved
- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to Set a Public Hearing on February 25, 2026 to discuss a Special Use Permit for The Grove, 33 Elm St., Jeremy O'Brien, for a café, seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.
- **APPOINT INSPECTORS OF ELECTION FOR 2026 VILLAGE ELECTION**
 Trustee Flynn, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:
BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 15-116 of the Village Election Law of the State of New York, the following Inspectors of Election are hereby appointed to serve at the specified amount of \$175.00/Inspector per day for the General Village Election to be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. This list is from the Erie County Board of Elections for 2026 Certified Inspectors and will be used to fill the positions and any necessary alternates to run the elections effectively.
 Donna Bodeker – 1736 Center Street
 Bradley Felton - 65 Buffalo Road
 Karen Hintz - 866 Main Street
 Rodney Simone – 85 Byeberry Court
 Saxon Deck (1st alternate) – 12 Tunbridge Walke
 The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Rabey, and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Mercurio said that the traffic study by the engineers for Quaker Road is going to cost \$2,500. Trustee Flynn asked if this was needed for deciding on the re-zoning. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that it does need to be re-zoned and the developers' traffic study is unclear to the Village Planning Board. Trustee Flynn asked if the Planning Board needs that study to make a decision, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said yes. Police Chief Welch asked why we would use our engineer over the state DOT for this study. Village Administrator Krieger described that this study has a projection on future impact versus a study of what is currently there. Mayor Mercurio asked about Commerce Green being a second exit, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that is not an option. Trustee Lazickas asked about the applicant supplying the information, Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy and Village Administrator Krieger said that the applicant did supply that information but we wait our engineers to verify the accuracy of the report. The Village Board agreed to move forward with it and get a budget adjustment to pay for it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Heart of Music ticket sales possibilities- Village Administrator Krieger said that the department heads met with the Heart of Music applicant, Chris Welch, and that he was looking to extend the hours. Village Administrator Krieger said that the department heads would prefer to keep the same hours as last year. He also said that Mr. Welch noted that if Misters didn't have new ownership or is not participating, he will cut off that end of town. It was questioned if Left Coast Taco was on the permit. Left Coast Taco was not on their permit. Mayor Mercurio asked about the cost dropping from \$40 to \$20, Village Administrator Krieger said that Mr. Welch said that the price may increase closer to the event. Mayor Mercurio said that the \$40 cost kept the amount of people down but that the Village Board can't dictate the price. He said that Fireman's Field is on the application, but they currently do not have permission to use it for the event. The Village Board discussed if the event should stay at the same time as it was, 9pm music stops and 10pm when the venues close. Police Chief Welch said that he is good with it to cautiously grow, one more hour or 1,000 more people at most. Trustee Rabey agrees with Police Chief Welch, 1,000 more people but to keep the same closing time. Village Administrator Krieger was told by the applicant that there would be slower music at the end of the night. The Village Board agreed that 8,000 tickets are ok if the footprint is typical, but it may change if the section is smaller for venues. The Village Board discussed the west end of Main Street and how many people the venues hold. Police Chief Welch said that the new management of Misters has new events and a high social media presence, he believes that they will want to be involved. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that a new owners for Misters will need their own special use permit and a 30-day liquor license. Trustee Scheer would like to know the plans because of residents' concerns. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that they are required to have off street parking, the old owner had an agreement with Polked Yolk to meet the parking criteria. She said that Benderson property has enough for their use but not for neighbors or offsite businesses and they have made complaints about that.
- Grant CDBG- Mayor Mercurio announced that the Village received the grant we applied for from Community Development Block Grant for \$103,505.00 for the ADA walkway paths in Hamlin Park.

Department Head and Trustee Reports

Police Chief- He said that they did 20 interviews for the part time dispatcher position and currently have 3 that they have given conditional offers to pending on their background checks. He said that they are conducting a pre-employment background check and evaluation on a candidate for the police officer position. He said that Legislator Lorigo reached out to him and offered an additional \$10,000 in available funding for the police station. He said that they will be making updates to the dispatch center. He said that he will be meeting with people from Red Alert to learn about the new platform. He said that the police department did not get the wellness grant they applied for because he believes that the department did not have enough officers to qualify.

General Foreman- He said that the DPW has been busy the past 24 hours with the snow, he said that they did lose a truck but its back in service now. He said that as soon as they get a break from the snow, they will start getting snow out of parking lots. Mayor Mercurio asked if General Foreman Stoll needed any more help with equipment, if so, he will contact the county with getting more trucks. General Foreman Stoll said that he is good for now.

Code Enforcement Officer- She said that her and Rich will be out of the office next week for the annual code conference, she said just to call and leave a message if you need anything.

Village Administrator- none

Village Clerk-Treasurer- She said that she has been interviewing for a part time account clerk. She asked if the Village Board was good with having the Budget meeting on February 7th at 8:30am, they all agreed.

Trustee Viger- none

Trustee Flynn- none

Trustee Rabey- none

Trustee Scheer- none

Trustee Cameron- She asked about the Tree Law, Mayor Mercurio said that we are waiting on information from Village Attorney Trapp who was not in attendance. She also reminded everyone to dig out their fire hydrants.

Trustee Lazickas- none

Mayor Mercurio- He said that he and Village Administrator Krieger met with the Senior Vice President of Fisher Price to see what future plans they have. He said that they didn't get a whole lot of information, but they mentioned about remodeling and reopening the toy store and moving some employees to other buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Rabey to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm. Seconded by Trustee Lazickas and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Clerk-Treasurer