

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Trustee Cameron
Trustee Flynn
Trustee Lazickas- late 7:02
Trustee Viger
Trustee Scheer
Trustee Rabey
Mayor Mercurio

Also Present:

Maureen Jerackas, Clerk-Treasurer
Shane Krieger, Village Administrator
Patrick Welch, Police Chief
Jeff Stoll, General Foreman
Joe Trapp, Deputy Village Attorney
Elizabeth Cassidy, Code Enforcement Officer
Bruce Ross, Fire Chief
23 Members of the public

A Motion by Trustee Cameron to approve the Village Board minutes for February 17, 2026, seconded by Trustee Scheer and carried by unanimous approval.

A Motion by Trustee Rabey to approve the payment of Abstract for March 2, 2026, with a total of \$285,106.35, seconded by Trustee Flynn and carried by unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS & COMMUNICATIONS (I)

- Mike and Amy Sullivan- 574 South St- They spoke about NYSEG coming to do a gas line change and the timeline, which included the information that their boiler would not restart. Mr. Sullivan noted that Mayor Mercurio intervened, which helped them get the repairs done without paying for the part. He said that they still, however, had to pay for a service call. He said that NYSEG also caused a water line issue when they did the work. The Village came out immediately for a fix until NYSEG could replace it. He said that he appreciates the Mayor looking into this situation and all the help that the Village gave them, but is concerned about this happening to other residents.
- Jay Deperno- Elm Street Bakery- He said that he has concerns about MusicFest. He said that he loves the event and its charitable aspect. He said that it doesn't help all businesses, especially not with the road closures, specifically his business on Elm Street and his neighbor's. He said that he wants it to go on for others, but the scope of the event needs to be considered. Mayor Mercurio noted that the street wasn't always closed, and Police Chief Welch said that he felt that it made it safer. Mr. Deperno still has concerns and said that his business and Left Coast Taco are no longer involved with the event. Police Chief Welch said that he can look further into it with the department heads.

OFFICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to approve the application for 270 Buffalo Rd, Knox Mansion, as part of Stonegate, to consider making it a local landmark, seconded by Trustee Flynn, was unanimously disapproved, so the motion failed.
 - Trustee Rabey is unsure of the direct benefit. He would like to consider it in the future, but not hold residents to these requirements at this time. Mayor Mercurio asked Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy if she had inspected that building, and she said that it is due for a fire inspection. Trustee Lazickas said that he would like to see it preserved, but not by the Village's choice at this point.
- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to approve the Temporary Use Permit for Heart of Music Festival, June 13, 2026 from 3 pm-12 pm, pending an approved Certificate of Liability Insurance (To the clerk at least a month prior) and the approved Part 18 paperwork from Erie County. (to the clerk by noon the Friday before), seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and the motion was not voted on and was tabled.

A motion by Trustee Rabey, to table the Temporary Use Permit for Heart of Music Festival, June 13, 2026 from 3 pm-12 pm, pending an approved Certificate of Liability Insurance (To the clerk at least a month prior) and the approved Part 18 paperwork from Erie County. (to the clerk by noon the Friday before), seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.

 - Trustee Rabey opened the discussion and asked about the hours of the event. Mayor Mercurio called up the applicant. The applicant said he has from 3pm-10pm for music and all venues close by 11 pm, but for the rink, music until 11pm and then they close at midnight. He said that since the event doesn't start until 3 pm and Elm Street Bakery is only open until 4, he doesn't think the event will affect the business that much. The applicant asked if they could close Elm Street later, Police Chief Welch said he doesn't believe that would be possible. Trustee Flynn has concerns about how late the event is asking to go, Mayor Mercurio said that he is OK with the extra hour for the rink, but not for the whole event. The applicant spoke about people going to a non-participating location. He defended the hours he is requesting and said that he does not plan to ask for even longer next year. Trustee Viger said that she would like to keep the same hours as last year, music ending at 9 pm and venues closing by 10 pm, and only giving the rink one extra hour. Mayor Mercurio asked if the Riley Street owner, "Anthony Amabile, had anything to add. Mr. Amabile said that he had no problems two years ago when it went later, and he thinks staying open later helps a little bit, but he is ok with the 9 pm-10 pm time as long as no one is kicking everyone out at 9 pm. Police Chief Welch discussed keeping this under control and the safety of the community. He said that keeping the time at 9 pm-10 pm is helping with that. The applicant spoke about last year and how well it went. He spoke about the later time and keeping the venues open so the patrons don't shift to non-participating locations. Police Chief Welch wants to meet with the department heads about Elm Street. Trustee Cameron and Trustee Rabey both expressed their concerns about the time on the application. Trustee Viger asked about parking on West Fillmore. The applicant said that it will be one-sided parking and he will have plastic signs made up. Mayor Mercurio asked about having the department heads meet and come up with a proposal before the next meeting. Trustee Rabey said that he is still uncomfortable with the hours. Police Chief Welch said that all of the non-participating venues that will be open will be checked by Code Enforcement for capacity and fire codes to keep everyone safe. Trustee Viger wants Millard Fillmore open to local traffic only, along with coming from Temple to go out on Elm.

- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to approve the Temporary Use Permit, Hamlin Park, for Brian Lombardo, EA School District, for Varsity Baseball practice and home games, various dates and times from April to June, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.
 - Mayor Mercurio noted the investments that have been made into that field and that he is glad that it is still being used.
- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to set a public hearing on April 6, 2026 an amendment to the Site Plan application from Brian Fisher of Fibbo Properties at 49 Knox Road to change the façade and the location of the exterior patios and sliding glass doors for units 1 and 2 that affect the south and west sides of the building, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved.
 - Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy reviewed the application and what was being done. She said that she believes it should be a public hearing over getting sent to the Planning Commission.
- A motion by Trustee Cameron, to refer to the Planning Commission on April 7, 2026 a Site Plan application from James Boglioli of Benderson Development, 123 Grey Street, to replace the existing parking lot lighting with new quad, dark sky-compliant LED fixtures, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Flynn, to set a public hearing for April 6, 2026, to consider a local law amending Chapter 112, Demolitions, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to permit the Mayor to sign an agreement with Erie County for Project 5764.22, Maple St, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.
 - Trustee Viger asked if the project is this year, and Village Administrator Krieger said yes. Mayor Mercurio added that the Village got the county to add a sidewalk, and they are taking down the silver maples. Trustee Scheer said that those types of trees plug up the water lines. Village Administrator Krieger and General Foreman Stoll walked the project with the engineer from the county. He said that the county said that one pine tree has to come out in order to make ADA sidewalks, and they will be reaching out to the residents. He said that the county is already working with the funeral home regarding their retaining wall. Trustee Cameron asked if we could remind the county not to park their construction vehicles on the tree lawn. General Foreman Stoll walked with Jesse Griffis from the Tree Board and our arborist. He said that the project is getting 15 new trees.
- A motion by Trustee Lazickas, to appoint Alexander Pierce to the position of police officer as a transfer at step 4 of the CBA to commence on or after March 16, 2026, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.
 - Police Chief Welch introduced Officer Pierce and said that he is an East Aurora High School graduate in 2012 and that he is currently a Rochester police officer. Mayor Mercurio swore in the new officer.
- A motion by Trustee Rabey, to approve Chad Egloff as a member of the East Aurora Fire Department, seconded by Trustee Scheer, and unanimously approved.
 - Mayor Mercurio thanked him for volunteering and said that the Village really appreciates the fire department and all of the volunteers.

- A motion by Trustee Flynn, to Approve Budget Adjustments for the 25/26 fiscal year, seconded by Trustee Cameron, and unanimously approved

Budget Transfers	2025-2026				
FROM			TO		
A.5.5110.0420	Streets road materials	\$ 3,250.00	A.5.1620.0420	Buildings maint and repair	\$ 3,250.00
A.5.5110.0420	Streets road materials	\$ 6,750.00	A.5.1640.0460	Central Garage maint and repair	\$ 6,750.00
A.5.1490.0403	Public Works Office equip	\$ 500.00	A.5.1490.0434	Public Works Phones	\$ 500.00
A.5.1990.0400	Contingency	\$10,000.00	A.5.1640.0140	Central Garage - OT	\$ 10,000.00
A.5.1990.0400	Contingency	\$12,000.00	A.5.5110.0140	Streets OT	\$ 12,000.00
F.5.1990.0400	Contingency	\$ 6,910.00	F.5.8340.0470	Transmission and distribution	\$ 6,910.00
F.5.9900.0901	Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ 4,000.00	F.5.8340.0470	Transmission and distribution	\$ 4,000.00

- A motion by Trustee Scheer, to set a Public Hearing on April 6, 2026 to review the Village 2026/27 Tentative Budget and capital plan, seconded by Trustee Lazickas, and unanimously approved

OLD BUSINESS

- Comprehensive plan priority discussion- Dale Morris from the Village Planning Board commented that the Village Comprehensive Plan was old and questioned if the priorities of the plan are still the village's priorities. He said that it should be reviewed to make sure it's appropriate for today's environment. Mayor Mercurio asked the Village Board what they think about it and spoke about the need for senior housing. He said that the Village is looking to add affordable senior housing on Girard and spoke about the land on Quaker being zoned industrial, even though they are asking to add senior housing there. Trustee Lazickas said that he doesn't disagree with senior housing but doesn't see the need to fill very void in the Village. Trustee Flynn asked why the Village Board wouldn't look at parts of the plan to make sure it's reflective of what the Village wants to move forward. She said that she believes that the plan is still very relevant to most of the priorities of the Village. Trustee Scheer spoke about the changes in the Village. Mayor Mercurio said to set a work session for March 30th, 2026, at 6 pm in the Board Room, with public comments welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resident Concern- Center at South Street- Trustee Lazickas noted that there is a neighbor with a vine or bushes that obstruct the view. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said they have a notice to relocate the planting this spring. Mayor Mercurio noted that it has yet to go to the safety committee. Police Chief Welch wants this to go straight to the county right away and ask for a traffic study. Village Administrator Krieger said that he will do that. A motion by Trustee Lazickas to send a request to the county for a South Street and Center three-way intersection traffic study, seconded by Trustee Viger, and unanimously approved.

Speakers & Communications (II)

- Mary Ann Colopy- 365 South Grove- HPC Chairwoman- She spoke about how she wants historic preservation to be a bigger part of the comprehensive plan. She also believes that the Village needs an architectural review board. She said that she is disappointed with the outcome for the Knox Mansion. Mayor Mercurio said that six months after the inspection, it can be revisited. Mary Ann Colopy spoke about the code and what should be considered when deciding local landmarking. She noted that she had not received any direct communication from anyone who was against the local landmark application. She reviewed the reasons why she believes this should be demolition by neglect.

- **Kirk Colopy- 365 South Grove-** He spoke about the historic landmarking and his opinion on the importance of keeping the Village the way it is currently. He said that he is happy about the demo law that is going to be considered. He asked what the status of three landmarked properties that are currently involved in a lawsuit because of neglect, Deputy Village Attorney Trapp said that he can't legally release that information to the public. Kirk Colopy said he believes that the Village is about a year or two away from losing the Globe Hotel. Mayor Mercurio asked Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy about the property. She said that the public hearing is set and that demo by neglect is a difficult thing to enforce. She said that she is not allowed to go into the Globe Hotel unless the property owner or someone invites her in, unless she has a court order. She said that she had reached out to the owner and they had not responded. Trustee Scheer said that maybe a court order is what is needed here. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that the building has not been foreclosed on. Trustee Flynn asked what would happen once Code Enforcement got inside. Code Enforcement Officer Cassidy said that then the Village Board would have to decide if the building was worth saving. Deputy Village Attorney said that if there is a stability issue, the banks can get a court order to fix it, the Village Board could file and send it to a higher court or call the attorney for the bank and see if they can step in to stop the gap. Mayor Mercurio asked Village Administrator Kriger to work with Deputy Village Attorney Trapp to get a call made to the attorney for the bank and see what can be done. Mayor Mercurio thanked Kirk Colopy for his passion.

Department Head and Trustee Reports

Police Chief- He thanked the Village Board for appointing the new officer. He said that they are busy getting the new part-time dispatchers up to speed. He thanked Clerk Treasurer Jerackas for finding Congressional Spending and is working with her to have it ready before the deadline.

Fire Chief- He said that they had 96 calls in February and 209 to date. He said that they had a horse rescue call and described to the Village Board how they were able to get them out. He said that there have been no major fires in our district.

General Foreman- He said that the DPW has been dealing with 20 water leaks in the past month. He said that they have been cold patching the roads and trying to get the street sweeper out to clean up the roads. He said that they are doing some maintenance on the garbage cans in Hamlin Park. Mayor Mercurio asked General Foreman Stoll to follow up with NYSEG about doing their part in the cleanup at the park.

Code Enforcement Officer- none

Village Administrator- He said that there is an email scam going on with a large invoice from what looks like the Village. Mayor Mercurio asked if Nick could find out where it came from. Clerk Treasurer Jerackas put out a notice on the website and Facebook. Village Administrator Krieger said that they met with AMR about their contract, and they are staying at 3%, and sent the new contract to the Village Attorney.

Village Clerk-Treasurer- She said that she, General Foreman Stoll, and Village Administrator Krieger met with the engineers because they are having a water study done. She said that part of that was put in requests for 2 million and having to do an application for our water infrastructure. She said that she is also working on the budget.

Trustee Lazickas- none

Trustee Cameron- none

Trustee Scheer- none

Trustee Rabey- He said that he thinks that Music Fest should still have the same hours as last year, 1pm-9pm for music and bars close at 10 pm, with an exception for the rink that gets an extra hour. He said that he believes it is better as a day event and stretches our police, fire, and volunteers. He also wants the department heads to discuss a way to keep streets open to residents and discuss parking issues.

Trustee Flynn- none

Trustee Viger- She said that she has valued her time as a trustee with the Village. She gave a shout-out to Police Chief Welch and General Foreman Stoll for the great job they have done stepping up into their new roles. She thanked everyone else in the Village for doing a great job, too.

Mayor Mercurio- He said that the Moose has a great set up for fish fries. He said that he went and spoke at the Boys and Girls Club and talked to the kids about being a mayor. He wanted to remind everyone about the Aurora Historical Society political party dinner on Thursday March 5th. He said that it's a great event and Village Historian Goller is very entertaining.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Viger to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Seconded by Trustee Rabey and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Clerk-Treasurer