

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD**

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
OCTOBER 24, 2022**

Call to Order

Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; David Ziegler, Community Development Director; Heather Galan, Public Works Director; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; Jodi Luka, Management Analyst; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Battalion Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Commander; Jesse Gonzalez, Deputy Police Chief.

Roll Call

PRESENT: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

ABSENT: 0-

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

**B. CONSENT
AGENDA /
OMNIBUS VOTE**

The Village Administrator read the consent agenda for an omnibus vote as follows:

1. Approval of minutes from the October 10, 2022 Village Board meeting.
2. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award sanitary sewer cured-in-place-pipe service contract to Hoerr Construction, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00 (Municipal Partnering Joint Bid Consortium contract).
3. Approval of the 2023 Village Board meeting schedule.
4. Approval of Payroll for period ending October 7, 2022 in the amount of \$961,672.64.
5. Approval of Bills for the period ending October 24, 2022 in the amount of \$1,129,915.41.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve the Consent Agenda for an omnibus vote as read.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

**C. PETITIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

D. REPORTS

None.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2022 - 58 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. for engineering services (Phase 1 & 2) for the Dilleys Road Pedestrian Path from the ComEd right of way to Stearns School Road.

Administrator Muetz said residents have long desired a pedestrian crossing along Grand Avenue at 1-94 it is financially and logistically unfeasible. As a result, staff has focused on making the Stearns School and Washington Street crossings easier to reach. Staff has been in discussions with Lake County Department of Transportation (LCDOT) to develop a plan to fill a gap along Dilleys Road. The hope is an 8' wide path on east side of Dilleys Road from the ComEd path to Stearns School Road. LCDOT has this as a priority location for pedestrian and bicycle travel but it is not scheduled within LCDOT's five-year construction plan. Muetz stated LCDOT would possibly be open to cost sharing Phase II design and would fully cover the cost for Phase III construction if Phase I determines that the path can fit within the ROW. The Village would cover Phase I cost to see if it is physically possible to fit a path on the east side of the road. Cost sharing Phase II would be agreed upon once there has been a Phase I determination. Gewalt Hamilton has performed similar projects with Lake County in the past with great results. As such, the Village requested a proposal. Gewalt submitted a not to exceed proposal of \$124,000 to complete Phase 1 (\$50,170) and Phase 2 (\$73,290) engineering. Administrator Muetz stated with the opportunity to partner with the County to cover portions of Phase II and potentially all of Phase III, combined with continued requests to make getting across the Tollway easier, staff is recommending to move forward with Gewalt Hamilton. There is appropriate funding in the FY 22/23 Budget to cover the expense.

Trustee Thorstenson said this is a great opportunity. She stated she just recently submitted this stretch of road as a needed project during a Lake County information gathering session. She continued to state increased truck traffic on the roadway further justifies the need for improved pedestrian facilities.

Trustee O'Brien stated he agreed with Trustee Thorstenson and asked for an estimated construction/completion date. Village Engineer Leach stated potentially next fiscal year.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2022 - 58 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. for engineering services (Phase 1 & 2) for the Dilleys Road Pedestrian Path from the ComEd right of way to Stearns School Road.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Ord. 2022 - 59 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Clark Dietz, Inc. for engineering services for the Stoney Island area water main improvements.

Administrator Muetz said the majority of the water main in the Stoney Island-area is cast iron that becomes brittle over time and leads to catastrophic failures. Engineering staff would like to have the design

completed for this area so that it will be shelf ready when time and resources become available for replacement. The Village has been working with Clark Dietz on multiple projects since 2017. Staff met with Clark Dietz to develop the scope of work for Stoney Island Area. Clark Dietz provided a proposal for the area recommending a total budget of \$75,000 for the design and permitting work. Administrator Muetz stated there is appropriate funding in the Approved Budget.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2022 - 59 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Clark Dietz, Inc. for engineering services for the Stoney Island area water main improvements.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Ord. 2022 - 60 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Prasino Engineers, LLC. for design, engineering, bidding and construction oversight services for the replacement of the Village Hall air distribution system.

Administrator Muetz said the main components of the Village Hall HVAC system are 31 years old. System controls are pneumatic which has created challenges related to servicing the building (pneumatic systems are outdated and many companies no longer service them) and obtaining parts. Control boxes in the ceiling have also posed challenges related to obtaining parts, with staff going as far as purchasing used parts off eBay. As a result, staff sought the assistance of a professional on the most logical way to replace the system in a phased approach. At the referral of FGM Architects (architect for Fire Station #3) staff met with Prasino Engineering for a full assessment of the air handling system. Administrator Muetz stated Prasino is a consulting engineering firm with significant experience in outfitting systems in existing buildings. Prasino has provided a detailed proposal for professional services to engineer a new air handling system that includes design, engineering, bidding and construction oversight services. The cost for this service is \$32,250. There is funding in the current budget to cover this expense. Staff recommends moving forward now to allow the appropriate financial and operational planning.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Ord. 2022 - 60 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Prasino Engineers, LLC. for design, engineering, bidding and construction oversight services for the replacement of the Village Hall air distribution system.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

4. Approval of renewals related to the Village's self-insured medical plan.

- Health Insurance Plan's Stop Loss Coverage a period of 12 months with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois at an estimated cost of \$548,856.00 and \$16,775.00 for aggregate coverage; and

- Administrative Services Only contract for a period of 12 months with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois at a rate of \$74.65 per employee per month and adjusted for anticipated annualized prescription rebates of \$249,094.00.

Administrator Muetz stated Human Resources Director Christine Palmieri would summarize the proposed health insurance renewal.

Director of Human Resources Palmieri said staff worked with Wright Benefits Strategies and Wilson Partners on the health insurance renewal. She said the Village has been self-insured for the past twenty years and recommends continuing to move forward as self-insured

utilizing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL). She said the stop loss originally came in 15% over the current year, however this was negotiated down to a 5% increase.

Renewal of specific & aggregate stop loss / reinsurance coverage with BCBSIL is estimated cost of \$548,856 for specific coverage (+\$23,000 or 5%) and \$16,775 for aggregate coverage (no increase). These figures are based on an \$80,000 stop loss level.

Director Palmieri then discussed the administrative fees. BCBSIL quoted a cost of \$74.65 per employee per month (+\$1.11 per employee per month or 1.5%).

She continued to state projecting claims utilization is very difficult. Items that were put on hold during COVID were acted upon during the current plan year, so those expenses have impacted the Village's costs. In addition, delayed billing has impacted the Village's plan. It is anticipated that such claims will decrease going forward.

Director Palmieri concluded by stating Wright Benefit Strategies has assisted the Village since 2006. There are no proposed changes to the fees related to this service.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of renewals related to the Village's self-insured medical plan.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

5. Approval of renewal of employee life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment policies with The Standard for a 24-month period beginning January 1, 2023.

Director Palmieri said the Standard has provided the Village's life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) policy for the past 4 years. The Standard provided the Village a two-year renewal quote that included a 22% increase year one, no adjustment year two. Staff consulted the Village's insurance consultant, Wright Benefit Strategies (WBS), to discuss options given the increase. WBS communicated that it is seeing similar increases across the board and that attempts to negotiate lower rates for other entities have been unsuccessful. Director Palmieri stated is important to note the 2023/2024 quote by The Standard is equivalent to the quote MetLife provided the Village four years ago. The majority of the increase is a result of market conditions, inflation and the demographics of the Village's workforce. Despite the increase, staff recommends moving forward with The Standard for 2023/2024. Staff also recommends marketing the life insurance plan prior to the 2025 plan year.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Balmes to approve of renewal of employee life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment policies with The Standard for a 24-month period beginning January 1, 2023.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Jane Blackfield
672 Dunham Road
Gurnee, IL**

Mrs. Blackfield stated she has been a resident of Gurnee since 1983 and would like to share her concerns about a proposed truck dealership across from HeatherRidge. She stated she understands the importance of a stoplight, but does not support this proposal. She expressed concerns including the impact on property values, noise, traffic, operating hours and size to name a few. She concluded by stating this development should not be in the Village of Gurnee and she will be working to share her opinions with fellow residents.

Mayor Hood thanked her for the comments and urged her to listen to the Planning & Zoning Board meeting where the proposal was discussed. This would allow her to learn more about the operation and have accurate information when she speaks with others. Mayor Hood stated the stoplight is important to the Village and without increased traffic from the site the State will not approve the installation.

Roy Blackfield
672 Dunham Road
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Blackfield stated he was vocal when Gurnee Mills was proposed as he advocated for the installation of landscaped berms to help reduce the visual impact of the development. He stated something similar should be incorporated into this development. He also shared concerns over how storm water will be handled, the size of the sign requested and operating hours. He stated he does not see how this development improves Gurnee.

Mayor Hood once again thanked the Blackfields for their comments and stated he expects the proposal to be before the Village Board for consideration in late-November.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Village Attorney stated that tonight's Executive Session will reference:

Adjournment to Executive Session

5 ILCS 120/2 2 (c) (1) which states: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body of legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body to determine its validity.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

Recall to Order

Mayor Hood recalled the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m.

PRESENT: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

ABSENT: 0-

1. Approval of Res. 2022 – 05 authorizing execution of a settlement agreement and general release of claims.

Executive session item.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Res. 2022 - 05 authorizing execution of a settlement agreement and general release of claims.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**
