

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

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; Erica Wells, Assistant Finance / HR Director; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; Jodi Luka, Management Analyst; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief.

Roll Call

PRESENT: 4- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes

ABSENT: 2- Woodside, Thorstenson

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Roll call,

AYE: 4- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 2- Woodside, Thorstenson

Motion Carried.

B. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE

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

Trustee Thorstenson arrives 7:02pm

1. Approval of minutes from the October 23, 2023, and October 30, 2023 Village Board meeting.

2. Approval of request from the Information Systems Division to purchase 11 Getac A140 Tablets, accessories, and extended warranty coverage from CDWG, in the amount of \$55,416.02 (Fire Department Mobile Data Computers - Sourcewell CDW Contract 081419 - expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).

3. Approval of request from Public Works Department to allow Administrative Services Coordinator Kristine Poisl and GIS Coordinator Eric Venden to attend the Trimble Innovate (Cityworks) User Conference in Cleveland, OH from May 14-16, 2024 at a cost of \$3,245.00.

4. Approval of issuing Raffle Licenses and waiving the fee and bond requirement for the Gurnee School District 56 Band and Drama programs.

5. Approval of 2024 Village Board meeting schedule.

6. Approval of Payroll for period ending October 20, 2023 in the amount of \$1,014,999.89

7. Approval of Bills for the period ending November 6, 2023 in the amount of \$1,120,749.09.

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

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Woodside

Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Administration of Oath of Office for the promotion of Firefighter / Paramedic Tony Roberts to Fire Lieutenant.

Chief Kavanagh briefly spoke about Firefighter / Paramedic Roberts achievements since joining the department.

Mayor Hood administered the Oath of Office to Roberts.

Lieutenant Roberts introduced his family and thanked all in attendance for their support.

2. Approval of Proclamation designating November 11, 2023, as "Veterans Day" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of a Proclamation designating November 11, 2023, as "Veterans Day" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Mayor Hood's recommendation to establish and appoint a chair to a Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission.

Mayor Hood stated he would like to establish a Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission to better understand what the Village can do to assist veterans and make their lives easier. He then introduced Jim Huisel, who he is recommending to chair the Commission.

Jim Huisel introduced himself and stated he wants to better align veteran resources so he was pleased to hear Mayor Hood wanted to do the same. He stated the Commission currently has nine individuals interested in serving with hopes of growing to twelve. He stated the nine currently interested are:

- Al Mader
- Todd Wilson
- Jim Huisel
- Peter Karlovics
- Dan & Janet Maher
- Konard Otachel
- Irene Hastings
- Allen Lynch

Mr. Huisel stated the Commission is still looking for two female members and an active-duty spouse member. He stated he would like to see resources better coordinated, and share and address issues faced by veterans among other things. He then shared information about the upcoming Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Legion on November 11th at 11:00 am.

4. Approval of Proclamation designating November 15, 2023, as "School Board Members Day" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of a Proclamation designating November 15, 2023 as "School Board Members Day" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

None.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2023 - 77 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for a license to install and operate an antenna and associated equipment on and in the Northwestern Water Tower located at 2010 Northwestern Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois with Gurnee Grade School District #56.

Administrator Muetz said Community Development was recently approached by the IT Department at District 56 about installing antennas and equipment on the Northwestern Water Tower to facilitate communications between the various buildings and facilities throughout the Gurnee Grade School District. In 2020, the Village of Gurnee entered into a similar agreement with Woodland School District for antennas and equipment on the Heather Ridge Water Tower. The agreement and ordinance were modeled after the approved Woodland Agreement. The school district will be required to develop plans and have a qualified contractor install the equipment per Village of Gurnee standards.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2023 - 77 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for a license to install and operate an antenna and associated equipment on and in the Northwestern Water Tower located at 2010 Northwestern Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois with Gurnee Grade School District #56.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Woodside

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Ord. 2023 - 78 authorizing execution of a professional service agreement between the Village of Gurnee and Wright Benefit Strategies, Inc.

Administrator Muetz said the Village of Gurnee has been working with its health insurance broker, Wright Benefit Strategies, since 2006. During that time, Peter Wright has served as a broker and consultant on a wide array of health insurance issues. His services, knowledge of the market, and ability to negotiate savings for the Village have proven to be very advantageous. Wright has requested a rate adjustment (the last adjustment was in 2017) of 4% per year for the next three years. Muetz stated the cost to the Village for the next 3 years would be as follows: 2024 - \$61,356, 2025 - \$63,816, 2026 - \$66,372. Staff believes this adjustment is reasonable given the value and expertise he brings to the table, as well as the fact that he has not adjusted his rate for six years.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Balmes to approve of Ord. 2023 - 78 authorizing the execution of a professional service agreement between the Village of Gurnee and Wright Benefit Strategies, Inc.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Woodside

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of group dental insurance renewal with Delta Dental – 0% rate adjustment for 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024.

Administrator Muetz said Delta Dental has been the Village's current dental insurance provider since 2014. Since that time Delta has only requested one premium increase (2023 – 7.6% increase). The current contract was for a twelve-month period that expires December 31, 2023. Delta has quoted the Village a 0% rate adjustment for the upcoming plan year. Because of this, combined with staff being very happy with the level of service and coverage provided by Delta, staff is recommending the one-year renewal.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of group dental insurance renewal with Delta Dental – 0% rate adjustment for 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Woodside
Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tayyid Rashid
5481 Chapel Hill
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Rashid stated he was a Gurnee resident, veteran, and member of the Muslim community. He read prepared remarks regarding the recent events that have taken place in Palestine and Israel. He stated the world is on the verge of another world war and should strive for a ceasefire. Mr. Rashid spoke to bias in the media and stated empathy should be sought. He concluded his remarks by urging an end to oppression and a comprehensive long-term strategy for peace in the region.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

5 ILCS 120/2 2 (c) (2) which states: Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Woodside
Motion Carried.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

Recall to Order

Mayor Hood recalled the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

PRESENT: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson
ABSENT: 1- Woodside

1. Approval of Ord. 2023 – 79 approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Illinois Council of Police (Communications Operators) and the Village of Gurnee.

Executive Session item.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2023 – 79 approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Illinois Council of Police (Communications Operators) and the Village of Gurnee.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Woodside
Motion Carried.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

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

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk