

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
MARCH 11, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:02 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; Ryan Nelson, Assistant IT Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief.

**Roll Call**

**PRESENT: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Ross**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**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 February 19, 2024 meeting.
2. Approval of Res. 2024 – 01 reallocating 2024 volume cap to the Village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois.
3. Approval of Information System Division's recommendation to purchase four Cisco 9300X-24Y-A network switches, cabling, associated software and hardware maintenance from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC at a total cost of \$82,285.84. (State of Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology contract).
4. Approval of request from Administration, Police and Public Works Departments to renew a janitorial contract with Alpha Building Maintenance Services for a period of one year at a total cost of \$65,556.00.
5. Approval of Payroll for period ending February 23, 2024 in the amount of \$1,007,669.44.
6. Approval of Bills for the period ending March 11, 2024 in the amount of \$2,483,902.69.

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

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**Motion Carried.**

**C. PETITIONS AND  
COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**D. REPORTS**

None.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Ord. 2024 - 14 authorizing the execution of a Fire Alarm Monitoring Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and FSS Technology, LLC.

Administrator Muetz said on September 1, 2019, the Village entered into its most recent five-year agreement with Johnson Control Security Solutions (JCSS) to allow it the exclusive right to provide fire alarm monitoring in Gurnee. With the end of the agreement approaching, the Fire Department wanted to take the opportunity to see if there was another reputable vendor that could provide businesses with quality alarm monitoring services using the latest technology, equipment, and an enhanced level of customer service. Currently, all dispatch centers in Lake County, less Gurnee, are using FSS Technologies Inc. (FSS) for fire alarm monitoring. It is also anticipated that the new consolidated dispatch center, LakeComm, will be use FSS for fire alarm monitoring. On January 8, 2024, Village staff from the Fire Department, Police Department, Information Systems, Code Enforcement, Economic Development and representatives from the Newport Fire Protection District met with staff from FSS for a presentation of the company and services. FSS has over 52 years of experience designing, installing and servicing fire alarm monitoring and receiving systems. Muetz stated FSS has proposed installation of a new network, communications equipment and software for the Village and its businesses at a lower cost than they are currently paying. In addition, FSS will handle Trouble and Supervisory Alarms that were traditionally handled by Communications staff (Fire Alarms will continue to go directly to dispatch). This will help reduce the workload on Communications, allowing staff to focus on handling 911 calls. Businesses that lease equipment can expect savings of about \$90 a year. In addition, revenue to the Village will increase approximately \$32,000. Because of reference checks, services provided, business savings, Village revenue increase and efforts to prepare of potential dispatch consolidation, staff is recommending the Village enter into a five-year agreement with FSS effective September 1, 2024 for fire alarm monitoring services. Muetz concluded by stating Deputy Fire Chief Douglass was the lead on the project and in attendance to answer any questions the Village Board may have.

Trustee Thorstenson asked if businesses that contract with Johnson Control would be reimbursed for fees paid to it after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Administrator Muetz and Deputy Chief Douglass stated businesses are billed monthly. The Johnson Control contract expires September 1<sup>st</sup> so there should be no overlap in payments.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Ord. 2024 - 14 authorizing the execution of a Fire Alarm Monitoring Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and FSS Technology, LLC.

**Roll call,**

**AYE: 5- Garner, O’Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Ross**

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Ord. 2024 - 15 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” (Tacos El Durango – 3900 Washington Street).

Administrator Muetz said Tacos El Durango is in the Washington Crossing commercial shopping center (Washington and Ambrogio). The family-owned and operated restaurant opened over ten years ago. El Durango has recently applied for a Class 1 (sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises where sold and the sale and service of "To Go" (off-premises) mixed drinks and single servings of wine, pursuant the terms and conditions set forth in 235 ILCS 5/6-28.8) liquor license. It has communicated it would like to offer alcoholic drinks commonly associated with Mexican cuisine. The Police Department has conducted

all the necessary background checks and finds nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2024 - 15 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Tacos El Durango – 3900 Washington Street).

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Ord. 2024 - 16 adding one Class 7 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Kyoto Ramen – 4949 Grand Avenue).

Administrator Muetz said Kyoto Ramen is looking to open in Grand Mill Plaza commercial shopping center (Grand and Route 21). Kyoto has recently applied for a Class 7 (the sale of both beer and wine for consumption only on the premises where sold) liquor license. Kyoto will be located near the middle of the building (to the east of Stanton Law). It has communicated it would like to offer beer and Saki commonly associated with Asian cuisine. The Police Department has conducted all the necessary background checks and finds nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2024 - 16 adding one Class 7 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Kyoto Ramen – 4949 Grand Avenue).

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Ord. 2024 - 17 adding one Class 7 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Brittane's Event Center – 5101 Washington Street).

Administrator Muetz said the Village Board recently removed one Class 1 liquor license when Tonya's Savvy Events closed. Terry Wadell-Moenter has operated Brittane's Designs for several years as well as a small catering business. She has taken over the space formerly occupied by Tonya's and applied for a Class 7 Liquor License (the sale of both beer and wine for consumption only on the premises where sold). Business plans include space rented either daily or hourly depending upon the customer/ event organizers needs, events to end at midnight, event size will vary but the space will be able to accommodate 20-160 guests, food can be brought in by local restaurants and operator will contract with Gurnee Police Department for off-duty security if deemed necessary. The Class 7 is more restrictive than the Class 1 license that was previously attached to the space. The Police Department has conducted all the necessary background checks and finds nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2024 - adding one Class 7 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Brittane's Event Center – 5101 Washington Street).

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 1- Woodside**

**Motion Carried.**

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Laura Lynch  
3442 Florida Ave.  
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Lynch stated speeding on Florida Avenue is an issue that needs to be addressed. She stated she has contacted the Village about this and she is not satisfied with the response she received. She stated the Police Department has not been effective and the installation of a sidewalk will not alleviate the issue. She stated Police are welcome to sit in her driveway to catch speeders. She requested a speed bump be installed and pavement markings be extended closer to the school.

**Megan Delassus  
5701 Adele Dr.  
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Delassus read a prepared statement regarding a recent incident at Viking Middle School. She stated she is concerned about communication, control, discipline and how the recent incident was handled. She stated there was no communication following the incident, with emails to parents just recently sent. Ms. Delassus stated both parents and students are concerned and worried. She stated there have been past incidents, but no change in how the school handles them. This is a concern. She concluded by stating she wants change to redeem her faith in the District.

**Candy Reimholz  
4754 Crest Ct.  
Waukegan, IL**

Ms. Reimholz reiterated what Ms. Delassus stated. She stated parents are trying to help the school but she does not feel the school is trying to help the parents in return. She stated trust is important and believes communication is lacking. She believes there needs to be policy change, accountability, communication, acknowledgement and a task force created. She stated to resolve the issue the school must admit there is a problem, develop a plan and then execute the plan. She concluded by stating all parties must be involved.

**Derek Gibson  
14939 W. Concord Ct.  
Wadsworth, IL**

Mr. Gibson stated he agreed with everything the speakers before him said. He stated parents are looking at other schools to send their children. He asked the Village to help put pressure on the school to address the issues. He stated the parents want to work with the school. He wants the school to be proactive vs. reactive.

**Mayor Hood**

Mayor Hood thanked those who spoke during Public Comment. He stated he understands the frustration of privacy vs. sharing information with parents. He stated the solution to that issue would need to be addressed by the State legislature. He stated the Police Department's relationship with the school districts is very strong and interactive. He stated he would like to partner with concerned parents to discuss solutions and help everyone understand limitations of what can and cannot be shared. Mayor Hood concluded by stating he would be in touch with Ms. Delassus to set up a meeting.

**Budget Workshop Resumes 7:36pm**

5. Continuation of Budget Workshop #1: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Presentation (if needed).

See March 11, 2024 Budget Workshop #1 minutes.

**Closing Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

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

**Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.**

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,  
Village Clerk**