

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
MARCH 25, 2024**

**Call to Order**

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

**Other Officials in Attendance**

Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; Craig Lambrecht, Fleet Administrator; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief.

**Roll Call**

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

**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 Garner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

**B. CONSENT  
AGENDA /  
OMNIBUS VOTE**

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

1. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 18 approving and publishing the official Zoning Map of the Village of Gurnee.
2. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 19 executing a three-year contract with the Mad Bomber Fireworks Productions for fireworks display services (2024-2026 Gurnee Days Fireworks).
3. Approval of Res. 2024 – 02 authorizing maintenance and improvements of streets and highways under the Illinois Highway Code (2024 Motor Fuel Tax Program).
4. Approval of granting a Class 9 Liquor License and waiving the fee for the Exchange Club of Gurnee for the Village of Gurnee/Gurnee Park District Bonfires & Brews event on May 4, 2024.
5. Approval of Payroll for period ending March 8, 2024 in the amount of \$971,959.10.
6. Approval of Bills for the period ending March 25, 2024 in the amount of \$1,016,671.26.

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- O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner**

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

**C. PETITIONS AND  
COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Fair Housing Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to

approve of a Proclamation designating April as "Fair Housing Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

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

2. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "9-1-1 Education Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Balmes to approve of a Proclamation designating April as "9-1-1 Education Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

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

3. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and recognizing the Blue Kids Lake County Project.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of a Proclamation designating April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and recognizing the Blue Kids Lake County Project.

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

4. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Alcohol Awareness Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation for the record.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of a Proclamation designating April as "Alcohol Awareness Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

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

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**D. REPORTS**

None.

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**E. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

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**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 20 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab.

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said the Village of Gurnee is a longtime member of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab (NIRCL). The lab was founded in 1968 and is located in Mundelein. The laboratory provides forensic services to a Chicagoland population of over 1.6 million and includes DNA, Latent Prints, Firearms/Tool Marks, Controlled Substances, and Toxicology analysis. Other services provided include drug and firearm destruction. NIRCL is accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 2017 international standards by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board for Forensic Testing. Accreditation requires the documentation and implementation of international standards regarding technical procedures, quality assurance standards, and managerial operations. The operating cost of the lab is shared by all member agencies and is calculated based on the population of the community. In FY 23/24, the Village's dues were just over \$47,000. The NIRCL has requested all member agencies sign a new intergovernmental agreement. The agreement is short and straightforward. Attorney Winter has reviewed and had no concerns.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of Ord. 2024 – 20 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY:** 0- None

**ABSENT:** 0- None

**Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the 2024 Street Maintenance Resurfacing Program to the low bidder, Payne & Dolan, Inc., at a cost of \$4,445,904.54.

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said the Village budgeted \$6.9 million for transportation system improvements in the FY 24/25 budget, of which \$5.9 million is earmarked for street resurfacing and pavement patching. Based on early budget estimates, staff was anticipating a 6-mile program for 2024. As the budget developed, additional funding was allocated towards the roadway program that took the total budget to \$5.9 million that staff estimated would cover 6.67 miles (largest program to date). On March 18, 2024, the Engineering Division opened three bids related to the program. The bids ranged from \$4.445 million to \$4.827 million. All the bids were very competitive and under the staff estimate/budget by approximately \$1 million, (staff's estimate for the program was \$5.639 million). Payne & Dolan was the low bidder at \$4.445 million. Assistant to the Administrator Pollack stated Payne & Dolan is a solid company who had the 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022 roadway contracts. Staff is looking at using the savings to expand the road program and potentially fund a portion of the outdoor material storage bin project at Public Works. Additional information on both will be shared at the next Budget Hearing.

Trustee O'Brien asked if for the motion the Board should have the exact amount because it was not mentioned in the recap.

Mayor Hood said \$4,445,904.54 is currently the amount but it might change in the future.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the 2024 Street Maintenance Resurfacing Program to the low bidder, Payne & Dolan, Inc., at a cost of \$4,445,904.54.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY:** 0- None

**ABSENT:** 0- None

**Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Public Works Department request to purchase two Peterbilt 548 chassis from JX Peterbilt of Wadsworth, IL at a cost of \$284,429.48 (Public Works Department Units #651 & #692).

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said the Village Board approved the purchase of four Peterbilt chassis in April of 2022. Three of these chassis just arrived two weeks ago. Unit #692's replacement was not one of the three. While already approved by the Village Board in 2022 pricing has increased as Peterbilt does not allow a prepay or option to lock in pricing. As a result, staff is bringing the request back to the Village Board for approval. In addition, staff is recommending approval to replace Unit #651 that is included in the FY 23/24 Approved Budget. Typically, the request to replace #651 would have come last year in April however Peterbilt was not taking orders at that time and therefore the request has been delayed until now. The Peterbilt 548 chassis is the chassis the Village has been purchasing for snowplows. They have held up very well compared to other manufacturers. Staff continues to be pleased with their performance and the service from JX Peterbilt. Current unit #692 will be stepped down to a back-up plow, while #651 will remain as a primary unit for a few more years. Once the units are stepped down, the current back-ups will be sent to auction.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Public Works Department request to purchase two Peterbilt 548 chassis from JX Peterbilt of Wadsworth, IL at a cost of \$284,429.48 (Public Works Department Units #651 & #692).

**Roll call,**

**AYE:** 6- O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner  
**NAY:** 0- None  
**ABSENT:** 0- None  
**Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of request from Public Works Department to waive bidding requirements and purchase central hydraulic system, hook lift system, dump body, snow plow, wing plow, tailgate spreader and spreader control system from Bonnell Industries, at a cost not to exceed \$370,129.14 (Public Works Department Units #651 & #692).

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said following chassis approval, the trucks need to be up-fitted with snow removal, hydraulic, spreader control, and hook-lift systems. Due to territorial sales related to this equipment, the Village has used Steller hook-lift systems that are provided and installed by Bonnell Industries of Dixon, IL. The equipment requested is the same equipment we have been standardizing our snow and ice control trucks with over the past eleven years. Bonnell and the Village have created a very good working relationship with the purchase of new equipment as well as the upgrading of the existing equipment. The staff has been very pleased with the quality of the equipment, the professional installation, and the responsiveness to our needs. Bonnell Industries utilizes one technician to install all the equipment that we specify. This is important from the standpoint of consistency and affords us the ability to communicate as often as necessary to discuss changes to the installation or routing of equipment. Funding for the upfitting has been included in the FY 23/24 Approved Budget.

Trustee Balmes asked if all of this equipment would be here before November or December of this year.

Fleet Administrator Lambrecht explained that the chassis delivered two weeks ago are scheduled to be upfitted in March of 2025. The next two trucks do not have a build date, but it will most likely be in late 2025 or the beginning of 2026. Lambrecht added it is a placeholder with Bonnell because their builds are backed up but the Village needs to get in line and hold our place.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of request from Public Works Department to waive bidding requirements and purchase a central hydraulic system, hook lift system, dump body, snow plow, wing plow, tailgate spreader and spreader control system from Bonnell Industries, at a cost not to exceed \$370,129.14 (Public Works Department Units #651 & #692).

**Roll call,**

**AYE:** 6- O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner  
**NAY:** 0- None  
**ABSENT:** 0- None  
**Motion Carried.**

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Shelley Palmer  
6304 Doral Drive  
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Palmer read a recommendation written by the Illinois Liquor Commission describing the places where a liquor license shall not be issued within a 100-foot perimeter. She clarified that the Bickford Senior Living and Memory Care facility is 66 feet from the new Casey's. She also referred to the Gurnee Municipal Code, Section 6.17 that no license required by this chapter shall not be issued if the location is determined to be detrimental, stating that Casey's directly adjoins Wentworth and Rolling Ridge subdivision.

Ms. Palmer recapped that Trustees Garner and Ross voted against liquor sales in gas stations in Gurnee and more than 600 Gurnee residents signed a petition sharing concerns about building a Casey's in the Wentworth neighborhood and the potential sale of alcohol. Finally, she asked trustees to continue protecting the citizens of Gurnee by voting against the issuance of this liquor license.

**Karen Minsky**  
**6488 Doral Drive**  
**Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Minsky stated that Casey's is literally in her backyard and her concern is the potential for criminal activity and noise resulting from selling alcohol. She said she was impressed that the proclamation designating April as Alcohol Awareness Month has passed. She mentioned that she will have surgery in the spring and one more in the summer and wants to think that she will recuperate in her home in peace but that will be impossible since the majority of her windows and outdoor patio face Casey's. She asked the Board to deny Casey's liquor license by taking into consideration her neighbors and her physical needs.

**Keith Owens**  
**6464 Doral Drive**  
**Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Owens mentioned that the Village Administrator informed him that Casey's has applied for alcohol and tobacco licenses. He said Casey's should be questioned about what it has done to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage drinkers since the FDA singled it out a few years ago. Mr. Owens said that Casey's locations received citations from the Lake County Sheriff's Department twice in the last year for selling alcohol to underage drinkers.

He explained that he supports Gurnee businesses but he does not understand why Casey's needs to have a license to sell alcohol. He referenced a discussion by the Village Board where it was stated Gurnee was underserved related to the number of gas stations in the community compared to others. He stated this appears to be somewhat of a quid pro quo situation asking the Village would give up some reluctance related to alcohol sales in order to be more business-friendly. Mr. Owens stated he is not anti-business or anti-alcohol but he does not understand why Casey's needs to sell alcohol. He stated he believes that BP got a good deal from the Village as far as money and the investment will pay off quickly and the redevelopment will improve the area. He continued to state if Thorntons decides to build where the Chinese buffet is it would be positive for the Village as well. Mr. Owens stated the difference is those locations are not near residential areas and they will be improved. The Casey's location was vacant and is next to a residential area.

Mr. Owens then discussed the difference between a permit and a license and said that trustees are here to trust and residents put their trust in them because they represent them. He asked trustees to take into consideration the concerns of Wentworth subdivision residents before making a decision. He explained that most Casey's are located in small towns where there are no liquor stores or pizza places. He stated Wentworth residents will be looking forward to the Board's decision.

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**Closing Comments**

None.

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**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 7:30 p.m.

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**Selene Beltran,**  
**Deputy Village Clerk**