

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
JULY 24, 2017**

Call to Order

Mayor Kovarik called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; David Ziegler, Assistant Village Administrator/Community Development Director; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; Scott Drabicki, Village Engineer; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; Tom Rigwood, Director of Public Works; John Kavanagh, Deputy Fire Chief; Kevin Woodside, Police Chief; Sandra Campbell, Deputy Police Chief; Jack Linehan, Assistant to the Administrator

Roll Call

PRESENT: 5- Ross, Balmes, Hood, Thorstenson, Jacobs
ABSENT: 1- Garner

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kovarik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Kovarik wanted to personally thank Village Staff for the incredible flood response. She said Mr. Muetz led a terrific team that executed flawlessly.

Mr. Muetz said it was definitely a team effort and everyone stepped up.

**Shawn Depke
Wadsworth, IL**

Mr. Depke says he has property in the Gurnee flood plain and asked who authorized the Church to be barricaded first. He says he pays taxes and the Church doesn't, he added there supposed to be a separation of Church and State. He said this has been going on for years.

Mayor Kovarik said when jersey barriers are used, the property owner must agree to staff pumps behind the walls. There were some that were not willing to make this commitment.

Mr. Muetz said only a few structures can be protected with jersey barriers as a concrete or asphalt surface is required for placement. He stated it is also a first come first serve basis due to the time constraints involved with the river rising.

Mr. Depke says he has never been asked nor have jersey barriers been mentioned. He says it is not fair because he pays taxes and they don't.

B. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Balmes, Hood, Thorstenson, Jacobs

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

C. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE

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

1. Approval of the minutes from the July 10, 2017 Village Board meeting.
2. Approval of granting a Class 9 Liquor License and waiving the fee for the Gurnee Exchange Club for their Gurnee Days events on August 11 and 12, 2017.
3. Approval of purchasing one-year of Cisco SMARTnet maintenance services from the State of Illinois contract holder CDWG in the amount of \$46,417.70.
4. Approval of awarding Water Tower #1 demolition to the low bidder, Iseler Demolition, at a cost of \$49,680.00.

5. Approval of Payroll for period ending July 7, 2017 in the amount of \$827,138.31.
6. Approval of Bills for the period ending July 24, 2017 in the amount of \$1,782,149.61.

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

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Balmes, Hood, Thorstenson, Jacobs

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

D. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Kovarik said that there were no discussion topics on the agenda for the July 31st Committee of the Whole meeting and asked the Trustees if they would like to cancel the meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Balmes to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting for July 31, 2017.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

E. REPORTS

1. Report of July 2017 rain event and Des Plaines River flooding.

Village Administrator Muetz gave a very brief, informal summary of the July 2017. He stated the rainfall resulted in two event, one being localized flooding, the second being riverine flooding. He stated over 400 homeowners have reported basement flooding due to the rainfall. He stated major sandbagging operations began Wednesday, July 13th, and were substantially completed that night. Property owner assistance continued through the week until Saturday afternoon.

He then asked Village Engineer Scott Drabicki to give a brief summary highlighting the event. This summary included:

- Tuesday, July 12th, 10pm to midnight – 1.0” of rain.
- By 1:30am Wednesday, July 13th, an additional 3.0” of rain.
- Overloaded the storm sewer and sanitary sewer system.
- Power outages on the west side of the community.
- Rain combined with power outages resulted in basement flooding.
- Road closures including 41, 132, Washington, etc.....were closed due to localized flooding.
- Overall 6.4” of rain by noon on Wednesday.
- Equates to a 70 year rain event.
- Gurnee Emergency Operation Center was opened.
- At 4:00pm sandbagging operations began and jersey barriers were starting to be set.
- Only second time jersey barriers were used.
- Crested at 12.09” on Sunday.
- Resulted in an 11 year river flooding event.
- Clean up operations began today.

Mayor Kovarik asked how many structures had water due to river flooding. Mr. Drabicki said 24.

Mr. Drabicki continued to give a quick summary of the use of jersey barriers and how to make them more effective when combating a flooding event. He stated seepage is inevitable, therefore additional pumping is needed.

Mayor Kovarik asked about property owners that staff was not able to contact. Drabicki stated staff went structure to structure, but there were some that were not around. Staff then placed tape on the structures to indicate where the river may rise to. He continued to say some owners decided to abandon properties and worked to move belongings out, while others decide to stay on-site and sandbag.

Mr. Muetz then quickly reviewed efforts by Police, Fire, Public Works and Public Information. He stated they are always lessons to be learned and staff will debrief to review the response and make recommendations for improvements.

Trustee Balmes asked about trash removal. Muetz stated staff will work to bring in additional dumpsters. He then reviewed trash removal throughout the entire community, stating the Village will cover the cost until this Friday. After that, residents will be responsible to arrange removal and cover the cost.

Trustee Thorstenson asked about residents registering damage with the County. Muetz stated staff has been directing residents to the County site.

Trustee Jacobs asked if there were any issues related to theft during the event. Staff reported no.

Trustee Balmes asked for further information on reporting damage. Jack Linehan provided further explanation. He stated staff conducted an assessment of riverine flood damage. That information has been provided to the County. In addition, damage related to flash flooding has been reported based on the number of calls to the Village and trash put out for collection.

Muetz concluded by stating any additional questions can be forwarded to staff for follow-up.

2. Report from Pedestrian Mobility Blue Ribbon Commission.

Mayor Kovarik stated she proposed this Commission following the most recent Strategic Planning initiative, whereby pedestrian mobility was a major topic. She then introduced Richard McFarlane who chaired the Commission.

Mr. McFarlane started off by introducing the members of the Commission. He stated the Commission met monthly to devise a plan for how to improve Gurnee to be friendlier to walkers, runners, and bikers. He then reviewed the Guiding Principles that the Commission used. The Commission developed 30 recommendations, which are included in the Final Report. This includes wider, multi-use paths over sidewalks. The recommendations were divided into three basic priorities. He then turned the presentation over to Randy Seebach.

Mr. Seebach stated the plan is very powerful and has the potential to change how the community lives, works and plays over the next 20 years. He then reviewed the difference between the three priority tiers, with Priority 1 being attainable in 3 – 5 years and having the greatest impact. Priority 2 have a 5 – 7 year timeframe and could be more difficult. Priority 3 have less impact and focus on improvements to existing infrastructure. Mr. Seebach then reviewed four Priority 1 projects and their impact on the community, including:

- Hunt Club Road from Washington Street to West Orchard Valley Drive
- Gages Lake Road / Route 21 Installation of sidewalk and crosswalk across Route 21
- Dilley's Road from Grand Avenue to Stearns School
- University Avenue from Briar Avenue to Waveland Avenue

Mr. Paul Bruno reviewed Priority 2 and 3 projects. He stated he is an avid cyclist and has seen how younger generations have placed an importance on walkability and bikability. He stated Priority 2 and 3 projects are still very important for improving mobility. He then reviewed the following projects and their impact on Gurnee, including:

- Grand Avenue from Route 41 to I-94
- Hunt Club from Washington Street to Andover Drive
- Grand Avenue from I-94 to Rollins Road
- Route 21 / Route 120 Access to Des Plaines River Trail

Mr. McFarlane stated the Village had a plan from 1996 whereby few

of the recommendations were implemented. He stated this new plan needs to be communicated, shared with other taxing bodies, regularly reviewed and revisited. He stated it needs to remain at the forefront in order for it to be successful. He concluded by thanking the support from Village staff.

Ms. Susie Kuruvilla stated the plan may seem overwhelming, but will greatly improve the community as it is implemented. She stated it will take partners and cooperation among taxing bodies. Ms. Kuruvilla then reviewed the Gurnee Park District's GO Gurnee program. She concluded by stating the Commission hopes the plan is useful going forward and looks forward to seeing progress towards achieving the recommendations presented in the report.

Mayor Kovarik said she was very impressed with the recommendations and report. She thanked the Commission for the time they put into this project. She said this is a fabulous document that the Village will use.

Mr. Muetz said this will make it easier for staff to allocate resources in the future.

Mayor Kovarik said this was a lot of work but it will have a meaningful impact on the community.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2017 - 38 agreeing to an Amendment to the Admissions Agreement to the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency involving the Villages of Volo and Wauconda and deleting one sentence regarding the identity of Wauconda's representative to the agency.

Mr. Muetz said you may remember that when the West Group (Wauconda and Volo) was allowed into the Agency, it was subject to requirement that the community's CLCJAWA representative has to be a trustee that has previously not served in another elected office in Wauconda. This was the result of some political unrest in the community. Following the April election, Wauconda has a new Mayor who was a former trustee and has been a strong advocate of bringing Lake Michigan water to the community. As such, the CLCJAWA's Board of Directors has requested an amendment to the Wauconda Admissions Agreement to remove the restriction that the representative has to be a trustee that has previously not served in another elected office in Wauconda. The CLCJAWA Board and Exec Committee have approved the amendment. Now all member communities must approve the amendment. Both Mayor Kovarik and Administrator Muetz voted in favor of the amendment, which passed the CLCJAWA boards unanimously.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Balmes to approve of Ord. 2017 - 38 agreeing to an Amendment to the Admissions Agreement to the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency involving the Villages of Volo and Wauconda and deleting one sentence regarding the identity of Wauconda's representative to the agency.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Ross, Balmes, Hood, Thorstenson, Jacobs

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

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

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Kovarik adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**