

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
JANUARY 26, 2026**

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; Jake Litz, Assistant 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, Information Systems Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Chief; Jason Kalinowski, Deputy Police Chief.
Roll Call	PRESENT: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner ABSENT: 1- O'Brien
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
A. PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
B. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA	It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call, AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 1- O'Brien Motion Carried.
C. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE	The Village Administrator read the consent agenda for an omnibus vote as follows. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of minutes from the January 5, 2026 meeting.2. Approval of request for Public Works Director Heather Galan and Water Utility Manager Brett Fritzler to attend the 2026 Midwest Advanced Public Service Institute conference in St. Joseph, MI from April 19 - 22, 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$2,800.00.3. Approval of request from Engineering Division to set a bid date of February 23, 2026 for the 2026 Roadway Resurfacing Program.4. Approval of Payroll for the period ending January 9, 2026 in the amount of \$1,011,720.84.5. Approval of Bills for the period ending January 26, 2026 in the amount of \$3,174,087.77. 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- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 1- O'Brien Motion Carried.
D. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	None.
E. REPORTS	None.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of issuing a Class 2 Tobacco License to Sudhirkumar Patel to operate Lava Smoke Shop – 5572 Grand Avenue, Suite 4 (change of ownership).

Administrator Muetz said the Lava Smoke Shop, located in the same building as O'Toole's, is under new ownership. The new owner is requesting a Class 2 Tobacco License to allow the business to continue status quo. Administrator Muetz stated since a Class 2 License currently exists for Lava Smoke Shop, there is no need to amend the Municipal Code. The Police Department has conducted the necessary background check and found nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of issuing a Class 2 Tobacco License to Sudhirkumar Patel to operate Lava Smoke Shop – 5572 Grand Avenue, Suite 4 (change of ownership).

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- O'Brien

Motion Carried.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

Shelley Palmer
6304 Doral Drive
Gurnee, IL

Ms. Palmer requested that if Casey's applies again for a liquor license the Village deny it. She stated Casey's has not been a good neighbor. She cited issues such as landscaping and blowing refuse. Ms. Palmer also expressed concerns about parking on the site. She then cited Illinois Liquor Commission Underage Compliance Check information, stating Casey's across the State have been cited for underage sales. She concluded by again asking the Village Board to deny any liquor license request.

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 7:07 p.m.

Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk