

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD

GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
NOVEMBER 11, 2024

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; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief; Matt Bendler, Police Commander.
Roll Call	<p>PRESENT: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Woodside</p> <p>ABSENT: 1- Thorstenson</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
<u>A. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA</u>	<p>It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.</p> <p><u>Roll call,</u> AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Woodside NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 1- Thorstenson Motion Carried.</p>
<u>B. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE</u>	<p>The Village Administrator read the consent agenda for an omnibus vote as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of minutes from the October 21, 2024 and October 28, 2024 meetings.2. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 68 extending a temporary moratorium on the construction of accessory structures that exceed more than 600 square feet within residentially zoned districts by amending Ordinance No. 2024-45.3. Approval of Public Works Department recommendation to renew fuel purchase contract with Avalon Petroleum Company for the 2025 calendar year (2024 low bidder – no rate adjustment).4. Approval of Police Department request to purchase 12 pole-mounted solar radar units (digital speed signs) from Elan City at a cost of \$35,975.00 (\$11,100.00 discount off regular price).5. Approval of Police Department request to purchase seven FLOCK Falcon cameras and two FLOCK Safety Wing licenses from FLOCK Group, Inc. at a cost of \$27,800.00 (Illinois Attorney General Organized Retail Crime grant proceeds).6. Approval of the 2025 Village Board meeting schedule.7. Approval of Payroll for period ending October 18, 2024 in the amount of \$1,044,899.30.8. Approval of Payroll for period ending November 1, 2024 in the amount of \$1,317,060.00.9. Approval of Bills for the period ending November 11, 2024 in the amount of \$3,755,022.87. <p>It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve the Consent Agenda for an omnibus vote as read.</p>

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

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of Proclamation designating November 11, 2024 as “Veterans Day” in the Village of Gurnee and recognition of Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of a Proclamation designating November 11, 2024 as “Veterans Day” in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood then provided an overview of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program and invited those who participated to come up and receive their banner.

Jim Huisel, Service Officer with the Gurnee American Legion Post 771, along with Mayor Hood presented the banners to:

- 1. Emerson T. Ravago, Navy, 1976-1997
- 2. Morrie Bishaf, Army, 1944-1946
- 3. Ross A. Sorrentino III, Marines, 1989-1994
- 4. Jeff Britz, Navy, 1991-1996
- 5. Frederick Balmes, Army, 1941-1943
- 6. Bill Balmes, Army, 1943-1946
- 7. Marvin E. Schmidt, Army, 1967-1969
- 8. Dick Halma, Army, 1953-1961
- 9. Francis Jacob Niemi, Army, 1944-1946
- 10. Leonard W. Niemi, Sr., Air Force, 1952-1956
- 11. Edward “Mike” Gillings, Army, 1941-1943
- 12. Gordon Gillings, Army, 1943-1945
- 13. Richard Mosher, Army, 1964-1968
- 14. Kevin Burke, Marines, 2014-2019
- 15. David Maliszewski, Army, 1975-1997
- 16. Douglas K. Vander Yacht, Army, 2013-Present
- 17. MG Chuck Whittington, Army National Guard, 1986-2019
- 18. Sean P. Maher, Marines, 2003-2005
- 19. Matthew James Reeves, Marines, 2006-2011
- 20. Tyler Henkel, Marines, 2017-2021
- 21. Patrick Fegan, Marines, 1983-1990
- 22. Joey W. Dimock II, Army, 2007-2010
- 23. Vincent Alexander Niemi, Navy, 1942-1945
- 24. Robert Walter Niemi, Sr., Marines, 1941-1945

Trustee Balmes received two banners honoring her father and uncle, both of whom died during World War II, and expressed her gratitude for the efforts the Village made to honor the community veterans. Trustee Balmes encouraged the audience to share information about the program so other veterans can be honored in the future.

A family of three generations received four banners on behalf of Francis Jacob Niemi, Leonard W. Niemi, Vincent Alexander Niemi and Robert Walter Niemi.

Trustee Ross and her husband David received two banners honoring Edward Gillings and Gordon Gillings. Mr. Ross stated that Edward Gillings was placed in the Army Reserves and, after Pearl Harbor, was called back to serve in North Africa with an artillery division. When he died in service to his country, he was buried in a military cemetery in Tunisia, North Africa.

Trustee Ross mentioned that her father voluntarily enlisted because he had friends who were married and had children. As he was not married

at that time so he decided to enlist. He was an engineer who helped rebuild roads and bridges that had been bombed in Germany, Belgium and France. Trustee Ross noted that when he returned home, he got married and in 1949 became the Mayor of Gurnee.

Richard Mosher thanked Jim Huisel for nominating him. He expressed his appreciation and thanked the Village of Gurnee for honoring his service.

Mr. Buke received her son Kevin Burke's banner. Mrs. Burke stated it was wonderful to see her son's picture on the street banners every day on her way home from work. She expressed appreciation for the Village's tribute to veterans.

Mr. and Mrs. Vander Yacht accepted the banner on behalf of their son Douglas K. Vander Yacht. Mrs. Vander Yacht shared that Douglas was a Warren graduate. He is currently a Blackhawk pilot stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

A lifelong friend received MG Chuck Whittington's banner. He described Chuck Whittington as a hero and a long-time resident of Gurnee. He explained that Whittington retired as a Major General from the Army and is still alive. He thanked Mayor Hood, Mr. Huisel and Austin Polack for initiating this program.

Sean P. Maher's parents received their son's banner. Mrs. Maher shared that her son was killed in action and mentioned that her other son has been serving in the Navy for twenty years.

The Dimock family received the banner for Joey W. Dimock II. Mrs. Dimock expressed her gratitude for being included in the program, noting that Joey graduated from Warren and was an Army Ranger who passed away in Afghanistan in 2010. She asked the audience to remember troops that are deployed and are serving.

Mr. Huisel stated that the program will continue in the future and encouraged attendees to honor their relatives.

2. Administration of Oath of Office for the promotion of Fire Lieutenant Jim Gramer to Fire Battalion Chief.

Chief Kavanagh briefly spoke about Lieutenant Gramer's accomplishments during his time with the Gurnee Fire Department.

Mayor Hood administrated the Oath of Office.

Battalion Chief Gramer thanked the Village Board members, the staff, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Civil Service Board and his family for that opportunity.

3. Administration of Oath of Office for the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Liebert to Fire Lieutenant.

Chief Kavanagh briefly spoke about Firefighter/Paramedic Liebert's accomplishments during his time with the Gurnee Fire Department.

Mayor Hood administrated the Oath of Office.

Lieutenant Liebert thanked the Village Board, the Administration, the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District, the Civil Service, his family and his parents for their support. He stated that Gurnee is a great place to work.

4. Administration of Oath of Office for the promotion of Police Officer Pat Murray to Police Sergeant.

Deputy Chief Gaughan briefly spoke about Officer Murray's accomplishments during his time with the Gurnee Police Department.

Mayor Hood administrated the Oath of Office.

	<p>Sergeant Murray thanked the Village Board, the Civil Service Commission, his family and his friend for being there for him. Sergeant Murray stated that he is excited to take on this position.</p> <p>Mayor Hood called for a brief break at 7:40 p.m.</p> <p>Mayor Hood recalled the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.</p>
<u>D. REPORTS</u>	None.
<u>E. OLD BUSINESS</u>	None.
<u>F. NEW BUSINESS</u>	<p>1. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 69 authorizing the execution of a Small Business Capital Investment Grant Agreement with Sosavi LLC dba Comfort Inn Gurnee for property located at 6080 Gurnee Mills Circle, Gurnee.</p> <p>Administrator Muetz stated this item and the next on the agenda were briefly discussed at the October 28th Committee of the Whole meeting. Comfort Inn Gurnee is proposing a new guest room electronic lock system (RFID locks compatible with mobile app), premium vinyl tile flooring in all 63 rooms and upgrades to the pool maintenance system. The total project is estimated at \$105,820 with the Village grant totaling \$50,000.</p> <p>It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Russ to approve of Ord. 2024 – 69 authorizing the execution of a Small Business Capital Investment Grant Agreement with Sosavi LLC dba Comfort Inn Gurnee for property located at 6080 Gurnee Mills Circle, Gurnee.</p> <p><u>Roll call,</u> AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, , Woodside NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 1- Thorstenson Motion Carried.</p> <p>2. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 70 authorizing the execution of a Small Business Capital Investment Grant Agreement with Shivshakti Hotels LLC dba Country Inn and Suites for property located at 5420 Grand Avenue, Gurnee.</p> <p>Administrator Muetz stated Country Inn & Suites is proposing roof replacement at the facility. The total project is estimated at \$191,850, with the Village grant totaling \$50,000. He stated with both grant recommendations, the committee focused on the importance of well-maintained hotel properties and their impact on positive impression/guest experience for visitors to Gurnee.</p> <p>It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2024 – 70 authorizing the execution of a Small Business Capital Investment Grant Agreement with Shivshakti Hotels LLC dba Country Inn and Suites for property located at 5420 Grand Avenue, Gurnee.</p> <p><u>Roll call,</u> AYE: 5- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, , Woodside NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 1- Thorstenson Motion Carried.</p> <p>3. Approval of renewals related to the Village's self-insured medical plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Insurance Plan's Stop Loss Coverage a period of 12 months with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois subject to other terms of the proposal at an estimated cost of \$626,906.00 and \$24,245.00 for aggregate coverage; and• Administrative Services Only contract for a period of 12 months with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois at a rate of \$77.26 per employee

per month and adjusted for anticipated annualized prescription rebates of \$325,874.00.

- Addition of a Medicare supplement plan and Part D prescription drug plan for retirees through Benistar Administration Services, Inc.

Human Resources Director Christine Palmieri provided a recap of the stop loss proposal with the individualized stop loss limit adjustment last year to \$90,000 with expectation it would calm some of the claims resulting in reduced premium for this year; unfortunately, some unexpected changes occurred that impacted claims for this year. Director Palmieri reviewed the stop loss proposals received from BCBSIL, including a lasered quote and a non-laser quote. Director Palmieri explained that BCBS typically does not laser claims but did offer a laser of \$300,000 for a high-cost claim in order to reduce the premium cost. Director Palmieri indicated the premium cost without the laser would increase by 49%; with the \$300,000 laser, it would increase 16.9%. Director Palmieri explained the impact on the laser and the claims projection may be less, closer to \$150,000 based on the stabilization of the claim.

Director Palmieri discussed the prescription drug plan and administrative costs. Pharmacy cost growth remains a challenge with a group of the Village's size. She stated reviewing claims costs for this year, claims for the Village are trending upwards compared to this time last year. As of August 2024, the Village is currently over a 100% loss ratio compared to this time last year when the loss ratio was under 100%. Staff is hoping to see claims level out and continue to decrease over the next few months but is planning any adjustment to cover the anticipated claims costs if they continue to trend up.

Director Palmieri discussed potential plan design changes that were reviewed. She stated these changes did not amount to much savings and sometimes the changes can be more troublesome than efficient. Staff deferred on any plan design changes for this year.

Director Palmieri discussed potential network change as another cost savings, similar to what was reviewed last year. However, the low estimated savings and difficulty in educating employees on a new plan did not merit changing to a new plan structure. Director Palmieri explained administrative changes including consolidation of participants into one health plan and addition of a Medicare supplement plan for Medicare eligible retirees as part of additional staff initiatives.

Director Palmieri stated staff worked with Peter Wright and his staff to review the addition of a Medicare supplement plan through Benistar. She explained that retirees may remain on the Village's current health plan even when eligible for Medicare. Benistar is a third-party administrator that manages Medicare supplement plans. Benistar offers plans to many other communities and staff felt it was prudent to move to a Medicare supplement plan structure for retirees now and into the future. She stated this would be a more cost-effective plan and provide a more solid benefit plan to retirees eligible for Medicare.

Trustee O'Brien asked for clarification if the vote includes the stop loss or not.

Director Palmieri explained the proposal includes the stop loss and approval of the proposal that includes the laser on the one claim and the 16.9% adjustment.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of renewals related to the Village's self-insured medical plan.

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

**G. PUBLIC
COMMENT**

None.

Closing Comments	None.
Adjournment	<p>It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><u>Voice Vote:</u> ALL AYE: Motion Carried.</p> <p>Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.</p>
Selene Beltran, Deputy Village Clerk	