

**MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING  
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD**

**Budget Workshop #1: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Presentation**

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
MARCH 2, 2026**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Mayor Hood called Budget Hearing to order at 5:31 p.m.
<b>Other Officials in Attendance</b>	Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; 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; Ryan Nelson, IT Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Tim Steffens, Fire Battalion Chief; Nick Perry, Fire Battalion Chief; Jim Gramer, Fire Battalion Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Chief; Jason Kalinowski, Deputy Police Chief.
<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>PRESENT: 4- Balmes, Thorstenson, Garner, O'Brien</b> <b>ABSENT: 2- Woodside, Ross</b>
<b>Trustee Woodside and Ross arrive at 5:34 PM</b>	Administrator Muetz outlined the schedule for the presentation.  Finance Director Gosnell introduced the FY2026/2027 Proposed Budget by reviewing a PowerPoint presentation.
<b><u>Mayor's Budget Message</u></b>	Director Gosnell noted a major part of the budget document is the <i>Mayor's Budget Message</i> , which is a high-level overview of priorities and results including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Property Tax</li><li>• Healthy Reserves 67.09%</li><li>• \$2.2M in Outstanding Debt 4/30/27</li><li>• Low Cost of Water CLCJAWA</li><li>• Senior Discounts</li><li>• GFOA Award Since FY 2006/2007</li><li>• Continue Overfunding Pensions</li><li>• Contingency Layers</li><li>• Commissions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veterans</li><li>• Environmental</li><li>• Gurnee Cares</li><li>• Arts</li></ul></li></ul>
<b><u>What's New in FY 2026/2027</u></b>	Next, Director Gosnell reviewed the <i>What's New</i> document in the Introduction section, which lists what is new in the FY 2026/2027 budget and covers most of the cost drivers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administration<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finance Assistant Position</li><li>• Expanded Keeping Posted</li><li>• New Website</li><li>• Service Request, Finance &amp; Permitting Software</li><li>• 250<sup>th</sup> Community Celebration</li><li>• Village Hall Refresh</li><li>• Strategic Plan Update</li><li>• Home Rule Sales Tax/Grocery Tax</li><li>• New Businesses:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SkyZone</li><li>• IKEA</li></ul></li><li>• Bittersweet Irrigation</li></ul></li><li>• Community Development<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICC Certifications</li><li>• Capital Plan/Engineering</li></ul></li><li>• Police Department<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Time Info Center</li><li>• Additional K9 (Explosives)</li><li>• DFR Expansion</li><li>• Lake County SIG Task Force</li><li>• Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT</li><li>• PepperBall Less-Lethal Deployment</li></ul></li><li>• Fire Department<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Investigation Certifications</li></ul></li></ul>

- MABAS County-Wide Investigation Team
- Advanced Cardiac Monitors
- Starcom Expansion
- Public Works Department
  - Mechanic Intern
  - Water Meter Replacements
  - ADA Transition Plan
  - Arc Flash Assessment
  - Fuel Island

**Introduction Section**

Director Gosnell also reviewed other information in the *Introduction* section including:

- Transmittal Letter
- Organizational Structure
- History & Services
- Demographics
- Budget Process
- Basis of Budgeting
- Fund Structure
- Financial Policies

**Personnel Changes**

Director Gosnell then reviewed personnel changes across all departments including:

- Budgeted FTE's 239.25
- Unbudgeted FTE's 15.00
- Total Authorized FTE's 254.25
  - Administration +1.0
  - Community Development +1.0
  - Police Department -23.75
  - Public Works +0.35 FTE's
- 69.8% Public Safety
- 15.7% Public Works
- 7.7% Administration
- 6.8% Community Dev

**Budget Overview**

Next Director Gosnell stated he would review information in the *Budget Overview* section of the budget document:

- Total Revenues \$110.32M
- Total Expenses \$115.27M
- Net Use of Fund Balance \$4.95M
  - Capital Improve Fund -\$7.14M
  - Golf Course Fund -\$2.42M
  - W&S Fund -\$3.55M
  - Fleet Services -\$500K
- Closed Funds
  - 911 Fund
  - Impact Fee Fund
  - NLCC-ETSB

Director Gosnell reviewed information regarding projected fund balances as of April 30, 2027, including:

- General Fund \$30.81M or 67.04%
- MFT Fund \$1.02M
- PD Restricted \$337K
- Economic Development \$1.34M
- Capital Imp Fund \$1.68M
- Golf Course Fund \$101K
- W&S Fund \$3.65M 31.97% of Revenues
- Health Insurance Fund -\$1.85M
- Fleet Services \$305K

**Funding Sources**

Director Gosnell next reviewed information regarding all sources of funding across all funds including:

FY 2027 Budget vs. FY 2026 Budget: \$110.32M, +\$8.91M or 8.79%

- Major Revenues +\$7.09M or 16.63%
  - Sales Taxes +\$7.4M
- Intergovernmental -\$353K or 14.68%
  - JETSB & 911 Surcharge -\$405K
- Charges for Service +\$367K or 1.77%
  - Water & Sewer +\$616K
  - Dispatch Services -\$265K
- Fines & Forfeitures -\$636K or 44.73%
  - Red Light Fines -\$500K

- Investments & Contributions +\$1.57M or 8.23%
  - Pension Equity +\$1.00M
  - Golf Course +\$500K
- Fund Transfers In +\$1.08M or 9.83%
  - Health Transfer +\$1.40M

Director Gosnell reviewed information specific to *Major Revenues* across all funds including:

FY 2027 Budget vs. FY 2026 Budget: \$49.73M, +\$7.09M or 16.63%

- MST Sales Tax
  - Budget \$16.00M, +\$224K or 1.42%
- HMR Sales Tax
  - Budget \$18.60M, +\$7.20M or 63.16%
  - 50% General Fund/50% Capital
- Income Tax
  - Budget \$5.56M, +\$92K or 1.69%
- Amusement Tax
  - Budget \$4.00M, -\$150K or 3.61%
- Food & Beverage Tax
  - Budget \$3.05M, +\$200K or 7.02%
- Hotel Tax
  - Budget \$2.45M, +\$45K or 1.88%
- Local Use Tax
  - Budget \$82K, -\$520K or 86.38%
- Major revenues account for 70% of General Fund Revenues

### Fund Summaries

Director Gosnell reviewed expenditures across all funds including:

FY 2027 Budget vs. FY 2026 Budget: \$115.27M, +\$11.79M or 11.39%

- Salaries & Wages +\$1.98M or 5.21%
  - Salaries & Pensions +\$2.05M
- Employee Benefits +\$1.52M or 10.33%
  - Health Ins +\$1.25M
  - Pension Contributions +\$229K
- Prof & Tech Services -\$517K or 13.79%
  - Red Light -\$428K
  - Eng Consultant -\$475K
  - LakeComm +\$350K
- Contractual Services +\$2.25M or 15.71%
  - Roads +\$1.45M
  - CLCJAWA +\$342K
  - Radio Maintenance +\$147K
- Other Cont. Services -\$471K or 18.04%
  - Comms Maintenance. -\$483K
- Supplies +\$117K or 4.87%
  - Vehicle Tech/Parts +\$74K
  - Electricity +\$30K
- Capital +\$6.50M or 60.18%
  - Irrigation +\$2.98M
  - Buildings +\$1.02M
  - Water Main +\$1.59M
  - Vehicles +\$733K
  - Tech +\$430K
  - SWM +\$200K
- Other Financing Uses -\$981K or 17.64%
  - LakeComm Move -\$1.21M
  - ED Reserve -\$200K
  - Rebates +\$364K
- Fund Transfers Out +\$1.39M or 12.95%
  - Health Transfer +\$1.25M
  - ED Transfer +\$196K

### General Fund Overview

Director Gosnell reviewed revenues specific to the *General Fund* including:

FY 2027 Budget vs. FY 2026 Budget: \$55.60M, +\$2.17M or 4.06%

- Major Revenues +\$3.49M or 9.45%
- Taxes -\$15K or 0.62%
  - Telecom -\$25K
- Licenses & Permits -\$10K or 0.77%
- Intergovernmental -\$76K or 13.56%
  - Replacement Tax -\$90K
- Charges For Service -\$275K or 3.08%
  - Dispatch Services -\$265K
- Fines & Forfeitures -\$536K or 48.84%
  - Red Light -\$500K

- Investments & Contributions -\$60K or 3.93%
  - Interest -\$95K
- Other Sources -\$50K or 16.67%
  - Damage to Property
- Fund Transfers In -\$301K
  - 911 Fund Close-out

Gosnell reviewed expenditures specific to the General Fund including:  
FY 2027 Budget vs. FY 2026 Budget: \$55.60M, +\$2.17M or 4.06%

- Salaries & Wages +\$726K or 2.61%
  - Wages & OT
- Employee Benefits +\$238K or 2.81%
  - Pensions +\$206K
- Prof & Tech Services -\$84K or 3.84%
  - LakeComm +\$349K
  - Red Light -\$428K
- Contractual Services +\$275K or 9.64%
  - Radio Maintenance +\$147K
- Other Contractual -\$462K or 21.44%
  - Dispatch Maintenance -\$485K
- Supplies +\$101K or 8.43%
  - Snow & Ice, Vehicle Tech
- Other Uses +\$35K or 8.00%
  - Community Events
- Fund Transfers Out +\$1.41M or 17.09%
  - Health & Econ Dev

**Administration**  
**Department**

Administrator Muetz reviewed personnel changes specific to Administration:

- Total Authorized FTE's 21.40, +1.00
  - Budgeted FTE's 18.40
  - Unbudgeted FTE's 3.00
- Personnel Changes
  - Add Finance Assistant

Muetz reviewed FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives related to Administration including:

- Total budget \$2.86M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - IPBC
  - Finance Realignment
  - Village Hall Refresh Plan
  - HMR/Grocery Tax
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - ERP Software
  - Document Management
  - Additional Community Events
  - Strategic Plan Update
  - Village Hall Phase 1
  - Gowe Beach

IS Director Ryan Nelson reviewed FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to the Information Systems Division:

- Total Budget \$1.48M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Microsoft Cloud Services
  - Cybersecurity / Disaster Recovery Improvements
    - M365 Backup
    - Windows 10 EOL
  - Staffing & Development
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Microsoft Cloud Services
  - SaaS/Contractual Cost Control
  - Department Applications
  - Cybersecurity / Infrastructure Maintenance

Director Gosnell reviewed FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to the Public Information Division:

- Total Budget \$113K
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - 14 Communication Channels,
  - 12 Monthly Communication Plans
  - Launched Regroup Mass Communication System
  - Expanded Keeping Posted to Bimonthly and to 8-pages

- Designed and Built-Out New Website
  - Year over Year Social Media Engagement Facebook Engagement: +54%
  - Instagram Engagement: +9%
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Launch and Refine New Website
  - Perform Software Evaluation for New Service Request System

Director Gosnell reviewed FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to the Village-Wide Obligations Division:

- Total Budget \$3.89M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - \$4.00M Capital Transfer
  - Retail Attraction Consultant
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Additional Village Events
    - 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration
  - Gurnee Cares

**Community Development Department**

Community Development Director David Ziegler reviewed personnel changes and FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to Community Development & Engineering:

- Total Authorized FTE's 17.30, +1.00
  - Budgeted FTE's 16.30
  - Unbudgeted FTE's 1.00
- Personnel Changes
  - Civil Engineer

Planning & Building Safety Division

- Total Budget \$1.68M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Permit Value for FY 26 up 1% over same period FY 25 (\$70.4M through 10 months)
  - Permit Volume up 36% throughout the same period
  - Update Building Codes to 2024 ICC Code Suite
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Re-evaluate permit fee structure (last modified 2018/2019)
  - Investigate online scheduling for inspections
  - ICC Certifications for all Inspectors

Engineering Division

- Total Budget \$1.32M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Completed two major water main projects – Stoney Island & Glen Flora
  - Rehabilitated 9.5 miles of roads
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Hiring another Civil Engineer
  - Estes Water Main & Resurfacing – 2 miles
  - Resurfacing another 3.3 miles of roads.
  - Fuller Road Reconstruction w/ Water Main 1.25 Miles
  - Pedestrian Improvements

**Police Department**

Police Chief Jeremy Gaughan reviewed personnel changes and FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to the Police Department:

- Total Authorized FTE's 103.00, -23.75
  - Budgeted FTE's 98.00
  - Unbudgeted FTE's 5.00
- Personnel Changes
  - Deputy Chief +1.00
  - Commander -1.00
  - Sergeant +1.00
  - Traffic Safety Technician → Crime Analyst
  - PT CSO -0.50
  - Communications -24.25

Administration Division

- Total Budget \$22.7M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Apprentice Program
  - VOP
  - Public Ed / Therapy Dog
  - Public/Retail/Traffic Safety Re-Engagement
  - Flock/DFR

- C.A.R.E Team
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Real Time Info Center
  - K9 – Explosives & Tracking
  - Rifle Replacement Program
  - Lake County SIG
  - Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT

**Fire Department Personnel**

Fire Chief John Kavanagh reviewed personnel changes and FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to the Fire Department:

- Total Authorized FTE's 72.00
- Budgeted FTE's 69.00
- Unbudgeted FTE's 3.00

Administration Division

- Total Budget \$15.4M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - New Ambulance
  - Recruitment / Training
  - Cardiac Monitors
  - FS # 2 Project
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Ambulance
  - High School Fire Camp
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - New Engine
  - Fire/Arson Certifications
  - MABAS Fire Investigation Team
  - Starcom Expansion

**Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Heather Galan reviewed personnel changes and FY 2025/2026 results and FY 2026/2027 initiatives specific to Public Works:

- Total Authorized FTE's 40.55, +0.35
  - Budgeted FTE's 37.55
  - Unbudgeted FTE's 3.00
- Personnel Changes
  - Mechanic Intern +0.35

Streets Division

- Total Budget \$4.63M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Urban Forest Management
  - Infrastructure Maintenance
  - Building Maintenance
  - Street Light Wire Replacement
  - Staff Training
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - ADA Transition Plan
  - CityWorks Software Transition
  - LED Street Light Replacements

Water & Sewer Division

- Total Budget \$8.49M
- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - USEPA Lead & Copper Rule Revisions – 20%
  - Infrastructure Maintenance
  - Begin Meter Replacement Project
  - Staff Training
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - CityWorks Software Transition
  - USEPA Lead & Copper Rule Revisions – 80%
  - Meter Replacement Project
  - Arc Flash Assessment
  - Safety Equipment

Fleet Services Division

- FY 2025/2026 Results
  - Fleet maintenance
  - Vbody – Hydraulic Upgrades
  - Fuel Island Design & Permitting
  - Staff Training
- FY 2026/2027 Initiatives
  - Fleet Garage Space Optimization
  - Fuel Island Construction
  - Fleet Intern

**Water & Sewer  
Operating & Capital  
Funds**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information related to the Water & Sewer Operating Funds including:

Revenues: \$11.43M, +\$605K or 5.59%

- Charges for Service (97%) +\$667K or 6.37%
  - Water Usage up 3.3%
  - Rate Increase 2.7% (2025 CPI)
- Transfer from General Fund \$1.0M

Gosnell reviewed information related to the cost of water for an average bi-monthly water bill for all CLCJAWA communities noting the Village has the lowest cost of water and staff is recommending a 2.7% rate equal to the CPI to maintain purchasing power.

- CLCJAWA Rate Adjustment +5%
- Overall Rate Adjustment +2.70%
- HMR Sales Tax for Capital
- Comparison To CLCJAWA Customers

Expenses: \$14.98M, +\$1.83M or 13.92%

- Contractual Services +\$367K or 11.02%
  - Water Usage up 3.3%
  - CLCJAWA Rate Increase 5.0%
- Capital +\$1.39M or 29.88%
  - Estes & Fuller
  - Meter Program
  - SCADA Optimization

**MFT Fund**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information regarding the 122 – Motor Fuel Tax Fund:

\$1.45M total, +\$15K or 1.07%

- Revenues
  - IML Estimate
- Expenses
  - Road Resurfacing Program

**PD Restricted  
Revenue Fund**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information regarding the 124 – PD Restricted Revenue Fund noting funds can only be used for drug enforcement activities:

\$30K total, -\$154K or 83.68%

- Revenues
  - Forfeited Seizures
- Expenses
  - Drug Enforcement Activities

**Economic  
Development Fund**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information regarding the 125 – Economic Development Fund:

\$3.27M total, +\$196K or 6.38%

- Great Wolf Rebate - \$1.55M
  - \$22M Max, \$11.91M to date, exp 2029
- Gurnee Mills - \$400K
  - Hobby Lobby, Boot Barn/Primark/Ikea
- Other Rebates - \$745K
  - Coopers Hawk, Woody GMC, McCullough, CarWise, Muller, Others Pending Review & Approval
- Capital Grant Program - \$250K
- LCCVB - \$190K
- ED Reserve - \$100K

**Continuation of the  
Budget Workshop  
to the end of the  
Regular Village  
Board Meeting  
6:43 p.m.**

**Continuation of the  
Budget Workshop  
at 8:37 p.m.**

**Capital  
Improvement Fund**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information regarding the 131 – Capital Improvement Fund:

\$16.69M total, +\$3.81M or 29.63%

- Transportation System - \$10.92M

- Buildings & Improvements - \$6.11M
- Vehicles & Equipment - \$3.89M
- Technology - \$919K
- Stormwater Management - \$400K

**Golf Course Fund**

Director Gosnell next reviewed financial information regarding the 211 – Golf Course Fund noting the irrigation system project and funding: \$3.00M total, +2.98M

- Irrigation System
- Village Funding & Course Generated Revenue

**Health Insurance Fund**

Director Gosnell then reviewed financial information regarding the 231 – Health Insurance Fund noting the plan to address the fund deficit over time:

\$6.95M total, +\$1.25M or 21.85%

- Funding Sources
  - Transfers from Operating Departments \$5.90M
  - Employee Premiums \$1.1M
- IPBC Payment
- MOE Local 150 Insurance

**Fleet Services**

Director Gosnell reviewed financial information regarding the 233 – Fleet Services Fund:

\$3.70M total, -\$81K or 2.13%

- Funding Sources
  - Transfers from Operating Departments & Capital Funds \$3.0M
  - Fuel Sales \$255K
- Vehicles on Order Budgeted in a Previous Year

**Police & Fire Pension Funds**

Director Gosnell next reviewed financial information regarding the 307 – Police Pension Fund:

\$5.83M total, +\$625k or 12.01%

- Funding Sources – Investment Income, Employee Contributions, Employer Contributions
- Funded Ratio 78.7%
- ARC \$2.66M
- Contributions \$2.93M
- Overfunded by \$266K

308 – Fire Pension Fund

\$3.78M total, +\$555K or 17.19%

- Funding Sources – Investment Income, Employee Contributions, Employer Contributions
- Funded Ratio 80.2%
- ARC \$2.43M
- Contributions \$2.45M
- Over-funded by \$24K

Director Gosnell then reviewed slides regarding the funded ratio for each and employer Contributions and over-funding for the last 10-years.

**Capital Program**

Capital Plan by System

Total \$27.66M, +\$7.73M or 38.82%

- Transportation System \$10.92M
- Buildings & Improvements \$6.11M
- Water & Sewer \$5.42M
- Vehicles & Equipment \$3.89M
- Technology \$919K
- Stormwater Management \$400K
- Changes Since Capital Plan Presentation
  - +\$50K for Sidewalk

**Debt**

IEPA Loan – Knowles Road Tower

Origination: 5/29/2020

Original Loan: \$5,227,548

Fixed Rate: 1.84%

Term: 20-years

- Additional Principal to Date: \$1,250,000
- Current Payoff Date: 5/29/2030

**Next Steps**

Director Gosnell reviewed the next steps and items to be considered at the Public Hearing and Village Board Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>:

**Questions**

Trustee O'Brien asked about the difference between the over-funding of the police and fire pensions.

Gosnell responded that the investment returns differed and the size of each fund and mix of retirees and contributions makes the difference in the ARC.

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**Adjournment**

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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**Andrew Harris,  
Village Clerk**

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
MARCH 2, 2026**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
<b>Other Officials in Attendance</b>	Patrick Muetz, 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; Ryan Nelson, Information Systems Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Chief; Jason Kalinowski, Deputy Police Chief.
<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>PRESENT: 6- Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside</b> <b>ABSENT: 0-</b>
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.  Mayor Hood recognized the passing of Roneida Martin who served on the Planning & Zoning Board. He stated he had known Roneida for a long time and appreciates her contributions to the Village.
<b><u>A. PUBLIC COMMENT</u></b>	
<b>Trustee Woodside 1218 Windemere Cr. Gurnee, IL</b>	Trustee Woodside stated he could not attend the last Board meeting but watched the meeting and is proud of the Board members that spoke. He stated that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, while municipal policing focuses on protecting the safety of the entire community. Trustee Woodside stated members of the immigrant community should not be fearful of local law enforcement. This fear will have larger impacts on the community and weakens overall safety. Trustee Woodside stated residents must understand they will not be targeted by the Gurnee Police Department for immigration. He stated standards upheld by local law enforcement are also appropriate at the federal level. Trustee Woodside stated leadership requires clarity when public trust is at stake. He stated the prior statements by the Board and proposed that the resolution included in the agenda is a step in affirming who we are as a Village.
<b>Katie Salyer 638 Ravinia Dr. Gurnee, IL</b>	Ms. Slayer thanked the Village Board for the proposed resolution, but stated it needs to go farther. She stated it focuses on property, is too polite and needs language that provides clear protection. Ms. Slayer requested the resolution prohibiting ICE, reference the TRUST Act, require signage/reporting protocols and be adopted as an ordinance. She concluded by stating a firm line needs to be established between federal and local actions.
<b>Ted Brooks 376 Belle Plaine Ave. Gurnee, IL</b>	Mr. Brooks stated he is a parent, former teacher, former principal and current bus driver. He stated he witnessed the event at Warren Township High School which was an extremely dangerous situation. Mr. Brooks stated the police are best equipped to handle such situations and should be the first call people make. He stated the community needs to be protected. Federal agents should not be allowed to operate in the Village without Police Department permission. He urged the Board to force federal agencies to cooperate with the Village.
<b>Cleste Flores 3765 University Ave. Gurnee, IL</b>	Ms. Flores read portions of an email that she sent the Village Board. In summary, the email requested the resolution be strengthened by prohibiting ICE on Village property, requiring documentation of attempted usage, referencing the TRUST Act, including language about transparency and requiring communication and outreach. She requested the Village Board table, the resolution to allow additional dialogue and language.
<b>Michelle Nachbin 1140 Oakmeadow Ct. Gurnee, IL</b>	Ms. Nachbin thanked the three trustees who spoke at the last meeting. However, in her opinion the resolution does not address all concerns.

**Mark Taylor**  
4937 Carriage Dr.  
Gurnee, IL

She provided examples where she does not believe all concerns are addressed. Ms. Nachbin encouraged the Board to review other community resolutions. She stated her hope is that others will follow the Village. She further requested the Village add immigrant resource information to its website. She urged the Board to vote no on the resolution so it can be modified.

Mr. Taylor stated he believes in law and order and that laws must be obeyed. He stated his son-in-law is an immigrant who followed the law and received his citizenship the right way. He stated he has a great deal of respect for the Police Department and wants it to have the resources it needs to protect law abiding citizens in the community.

**Cameron Crombie**  
Waukegan, IL

Mr. Crombie stated he represents members of Lakefront DSA. He stated the Village has failed to act to protect the community from immigration enforcement. Mr. Crombie stated the proposed resolution needs major amendments and as presented, it is not a good one. He stated it does not ban ICE or prohibit it from using Village property. Mr. Crombie stated ICE lies and will not respect Gurnee. He stated the resolution will not protect residents. He concluded by stating that protecting residents is the responsibility of the Village Board.

**Katie Kampf**  
1527 Arlington Ln.  
Gurnee, IL

Ms. Kampf thanked those Trustees that previously spoke. She requested the proposed resolution be amended and then read an email she sent the Village Board. In summary, she requested the Village install signage, provide training to employees, reword the purpose statement, consider working with other taxing bodies and add information to the Village's website. She then shared a story about her third-grade students, and the impact immigration enforcement has had on them.

**Jenny Hartman**  
1494 Birchwood Ln.  
Gurnee, IL

Ms. Hartman shared census information related to the Village of Gurnee. She stated between a quarter to half of the population is in direct danger from the federal government. She stated this needs to be addressed. She then referenced an email she sent to the Village Board. Ms. Hartman requested the Board reinstate established safe zones in the Village, work with Lake County officials to hold ICE accountable and comply with and publicly support the TRUST Act. She then referenced the incident at Warren Township High School.

**Blake Thomas**  
2220 Monument Ct.  
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Thomas thanked the Trustees for making public statements. He stated residents feel strongly about the issue. He requested that permission requests be posted to the website, that the Board prohibit the use of facemasks and that the Village Board continue efforts beyond the proposed resolution.

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

**C. CONSENT  
AGENDA /  
OMNIBUS VOTE**

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

1. Approval of minutes from the February 16, 2026, meeting.
2. Approval of Res. 2026 – 01 authorizing maintenance and improvement of streets and highways under the Illinois Highway Code (2026 Motor Fuel Tax Program).
3. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the Tower Court Sanitary Service Extension project to the low proposer, Xcavating, Inc, at a cost of \$42,250.00.
4. Approval of Police Department recommendation to award a three-year landscape and irrigation maintenance contract to the low proposer, Landscape Concepts Management, at an annual cost of \$20,992.00.
5. Approval of Fire Department recommendation to purchase Bunk Room, Front Office and Community Room Furnishings for Fire Station

#2 Update from KI Furniture at a cost of \$47,666.98 (Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing contract 091423-KII).

6. Approval of Information System Division's recommendation to enter into a 48-month Cisco Security Software subscription purchase from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC via Cisco Capital at a total cost of \$45,849.68 (State of Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology contract CMT4021089).

7. Approval of Information System Division's recommendation to enter into a 36-month SentinelOne Singularity Complete EDR subscription purchase from CDWG a total cost of \$46,436.13 (State of Illinois Sourcewell Joint Purchasing contract IL R-257160).

8. Approval of Human Resources Division's recommendation to enter into a 24-month contract with NEOGOV for applicant tracking and onboarding subscription services at a total cost of \$41,671.20.

9. Approval of Payroll for the period ending February 20, 2026, in the amount of \$1,008,692.99.

10. Approval of Bills for the period ending March 2, 2026, in the amount of \$626,290.50.

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

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

**D. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**E. REPORTS**

None.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Res. 2026 – 02 adopting a policy to regulate the use of Village property by State and Federal agencies.

Mayor Hood requested Attorney Winter provide a summary of his memo and the proposed resolution. Attorney Winter stated he has reviewed resolutions from other communities related to immigration enforcement. He stated these resolutions contain some degree of prohibition of certain immigration enforcement activities. However, in his review there are no communities that have declared themselves an ICE-Free Zone. He stated he also saw communities that did not address this issue over concerns of federal preemption or confusing the public.

Attorney Winter stated the proposed resolution avoids the federal preemption issue and presents a policy that can be enforced. He stated the resolution is proactive, clear, concise and includes an enforcement provision. Other resolutions that he has reviewed do not include enforcement clauses.

Attorney Winter stated the Village has control over its own property and can have rules related to use of that property. He stated it is important to note Gurnee's size and number of Village facilities. The Village has a limited inventory of properties, mainly five operating facilities. It does not own unsupervised vacant property that includes parking spaces. He stated it is important that the policy is legally enforceable. Attorney Winter stated the policy cannot discriminate or affect a single agency. He stated applicants must have due process. Attorney Winter stated it is a blanket policy in the sense that no one has an absolute right to use village property for their own uses that are separate from the general public.

He stated if an agency wants to use a Village parking lot, it must apply for approval. The Village can then approve or deny the request. The

policy states such requests cannot affect operations or be detrimental to the community. He stated permission can be granted by the Village Administrator or Village Board. No other resolution reviewed provides this authority. He stated the policy regulates only Village properties, which based on their size are not feasible for use beyond municipal operations. The application process would require the applicant to provide information about its desired use and operations. Other resolutions he reviewed do not include this requirement. Attorney Winter stated this provision shifts the burden to the applicant to justify the request considering limited Village resources. He stated this would be followed by the Village determining whether the request is approved or denied.

Attorney Winter stated the policy also includes enforcement provisions. He stated the policy is clear – did the agency apply for a permit or not? If it did not receive a permit, it is in violation of the policy, and the Village Administrator can immediately issue a cease-and-desist order. Attorney Winter stated the Village could go to court and request a civil remedy, but this applies generally to on-going issues. He stated the policy was intentionally drafted to ensure the Village has the best protection possible.

Mayor Hood asked the Trustees if they have questions or comments.

Trustee O'Brien asked if the Village would have to issue a permit for items such as Lake County using the Council Chambers for a federal election.

Attorney Winter stated no as this policy addresses exterior (outdoor) space. In addition, he stated the Village already has an agreement with the County to use the room. He continued to state this does not apply to sidewalks or streets or mutual aid agreements that are already in place. Attorney Winter also highlighted the policy includes emergency declaration provisions.

Trustee O'Brien stated the Village does not have control over other taxing bodies' properties, but rather only has control over Village property. He stated he wishes that other agencies were as well-trained and ethical as Gurnee Police Officers, and that when pursued by the authority people would just pull over. Trustee O'Brien stated he recognizes the resolution is too strong for some and not strong enough for others. He stated he appreciates Attorney Winter's explanation that we can only control what is Gurnee's.

Trustee Thorstenson stated she supports policing and Gurnee's officers. She stated voting no could be misconstrued that she does not support treating everyone humanely. Trustee Thorstenson discussed the WTHS student protest, stating it is the kids' way of having a voice. She stated Gurnee needs a resolution that keeps streets safe for everyone. She also stated her support for a school policy requirement. Trustee Thorstenson stated the school and Police Department collaborate on safety issues. She stated she is hopeful Gurnee can improve the resolution to be clearer. She concluded that she does not find the resolution polarizing or a political issue.

Trustee Ross stated she is struggling to understand how immigration enforcement would request permission to use Village property.

Attorney Winter stated if permission is not requested by an entity and a permit was not issued; it would not be able to use the property. He stated it is unlikely that agencies would stage on Village property due to physical limitations, however, if an agency does, the Village will have a policy.

Trustee Ross asked about sharing resources on the website.

Mayor Hood stated the Village can and will include resources on its website.

Trustee Woodside stated he thinks of the resolution from a law enforcement standpoint and is glad language has been included to continue to allow other law enforcement agencies to work in cooperation with the Gurnee Police Department. He stated the only reason this discussion is taking place is because of how one federal agency has

conducted itself. It is the lack of cooperation from this agency that has created this situation. Trustee Woodside stated he appreciates that the proposed resolution was drafted as enforceable, but believes it is lacking without referencing that agency. He stated he would like to see the item be set aside so additional language can be considered. He stated it seems lacking in Whereas provisions, even if they are not enforceable. Trustee Woodside acknowledged that the Village has little power over the federal government, however, the Village can make a statement about who it is as a community.

Trustee Balmes stated she supports law enforcement. She stated she understands that security between local and federal has been violated in some cases, leading to local authority being bypassed. Trustee Balmes stated based on the current situation she believes the resolution as drafted is sufficient.

Trustee Garner thanked Attorney Winter for drafting the resolution, however it does not address residents' needs but rather protects property. He stated federal agents will not ask for permission or will use some other property not under the control of the Village. He questioned how we make ourselves safe from rogue agencies. Trustee Garner stated currently no one is safe in his opinion. He stated the Board can approve the resolution, but that does not make the problem go away. Trustee Garner said everyone needs to work together to solve the problem. He agreed that the issue should be tabled and rethought. Trustee Garner stated the resolution before the Board does not solve the problem.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Res. 2026 – 02 adopting a policy to regulate the use of Village property by State and Federal agencies.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 1- Woodside**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the Grandville Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project (Waveland to Boulevard View) to the low bidder, Acura, Inc., at a cost of \$288,948.84.

Administrator Muetz said this project will construct a new 5-foot sidewalk along the south side of Grandville Avenue between Waveland Avenue and Boulevard View Avenue. The Engineering Division opened bids on February 23rd. Five bids were received, with Acura, Inc. being the lowest bidder at 288,948.84. He stated Acura Inc. has not previously worked in the Village but provided references for past comparable projects. Based on the feedback received from these references, the staff is confident the contractor can complete the work in a timely and satisfactory manner.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the Grandville Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project (Waveland to Boulevard View) to the low bidder, Acura, Inc., at a cost of \$288,948.84.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the 2026 Roadway Resurfacing Program to the low bidder, Payne & Dolan, Inc., at a cost of \$1,977,363.78.

Administrator Muetz said on February 23rd the Engineering Division opened bids for the 2026 Roadway Resurfacing Program. Two bids were received with Payne & Dolan being the lowest bidder at \$1,977,363.79. He stated Payne & Dolan is a solid company who had the 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2024 roadway contracts. The 2026 Program includes 3.3 miles of road including roadways in the Estates at Churchill Hunt, the "Branch Courts" and portions of SouthRidge

subdivision. It also includes repaving the Mother Rudd parking lot.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of Engineering Division's recommendation to award the 2026 Roadway Resurfacing Program to the low bidder, Payne & Dolan, Inc., at a cost of \$1,977,363.78.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Information System Division's recommendation to purchase Cisco network switching, firewalls and associated software and hardware maintenance from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC at a total cost of \$162,010.01 (State of Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology contract CMT4021089).

Administrator Muetz said this purchase relates to the replacement of data network equipment. This equipment primarily consists of network switches. Many of our access switches were placed in service 10-12 years ago and are approaching or recently reached manufacturer end of support and full end of planned useful life. He stated access switching is where desktop telephones, WiFi access points, and security cameras are connected and receive power from, as well as the network connection point for desktop computers and laptop docks. Staff worked with Cisco to review requirements and select hardware models right sized for the Village's environment while maintaining internal objectives. He stated the proposed purchase includes 14 switches across Village Hall, and the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. It also includes firewalls for our Cisco Anyconnect VPN and new firewalls for Utility/SCADA. Presidio Networked Solutions Group currently holds the State contract for Cisco Equipment and Services. The Village has previously used this State contract and Presidio with success and recommends continuing using this avenue.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Information System Division's recommendation to purchase Cisco network switching, firewalls and associated software and hardware maintenance from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC at a total cost of \$162,010.01 (State of Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology contract CMT4021089).

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

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**H. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Michael Barr  
2081 Windsong Ct.  
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Barr stated thanks to the Trustees and the debate. He stated the Village has been impressive and wants the community to trust it. He stated policy is not enough when an outside agency is not following due process. He concluded by asking for the Board's continued leadership and attention to the issue.

**Blake Thomas  
2220 Monument Ct.  
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Thomas thanked the Board for the discussion. He urged the Village Board to be a leader in Lake County. He stated this is a step in the right direction, but just one step. Mr. Thomas stated there is no single solution. The Village should continue to explore other tools it can use to address the issue.

**Katie Salyer  
638 Ravinia Dr.  
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Salyer asked if the resolution was passed. She stated she was disappointed. Ms. Salyer stated the community wants to be protected and requested the conversation continue and the Trustees be more vocal and decisive. She stated these are unprecedented times that need action.

**Katie Kampf  
1527 Arlington Ln.  
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Kampf asked for clarification on parliamentary process as it relates to tabling an item. Mayor Hood stated he would be glad to explain the process after the meeting.

**Anne Caldwell**  
**239 Concord Sq.**  
**Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Caldwell stated she has been concerned about the safety of the community in the past six months. She stated the community needs to feel safe. Ms. Caldwell stated the Village should force federal agencies to follow the same procedures the Police Department does.

**Cameron Crombie**  
**Waukegan, IL**

Mr. Crombie stated he was disappointed with the vote. He urged the Village Board to continue working to address the issue.

5. Continuation of Budget Workshop #1: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Presentation (if needed).

See March 2, 2026 Budget Workshop #1 minutes.

**Closing Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,**  
**Village Clerk**