

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD**

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
JULY 27, 2020**

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**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Mayor Kovarik's absence.

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**Other Officials in Attendance**

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Tom Rigwood, Director of Public Works; Brian Smith, Police Chief

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**Roll Call**

**PRESENT: 5-Thorstenson, Ross, O'Brien, Balmes**  
**ABSENT: 1- Garner**

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**A. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Report from Police Chief Brian Smith – Update on Red Light Enforcement Program

Village Administrator Muetz stated that the current contract with RedFlex expired in June, 2020 and has continued on a month-to-month basis while staff has been working to renegotiate some of the terms. Chief Brian Smith will give a review of the program's performance to date.

Chief Smith stated that from 2009 to 2018, the average village-wide crashes have decreased from 1,480 to 982. The approaches are located at: Route 132 and Hunt Club Road, Route 132 & Dilley's Road; Route 132 & Route 21 and Route 41 & Delaney Road. Four additional approaches have been added and they are Washington & Hunt Club Road (East and Westbound) and Washington & Route 21.

Chief Smith gave the following review of program goals in detail:

Goals of the program

- Reduce the number of crashes
  - The number of overall crashes in the village has dropped since the beginning of the program.
- Reduce the number and severity of injuries
  - Half of all red light camera intersections have seen a drop in injuries. A majority of all injuries are minor in nature.
- Increase compliance and re-establish respect for red lights
  - The number of notices printed annually has continually dropped while the number of violations approved by officers remains consistent. This indicates increased motorist compliance with red lights.
- Run a program with integrity and transparency
  - The State of Illinois has an emergency vehicle exemption regarding traffic control devices. All government vehicles, including Gurnee police officers, are held to the same standard as the motoring public and are held accountable for non-exempt red light violations. In addition to issuance of a red light citation, Gurnee officers are also subject to disciplinary action.
- Provide good customer service
  - It is the responsibility of the Traffic Safety office of the Gurnee police department to oversee the day-to-day operation and ensure the integrity of the program. This includes responding to citizen inquiries, monitoring the operation of the equipment, communicating with the vendor, reviewing violations coordinating hearings and serving as a liaison to both the IDOT and Lake County DOT.

Chief Smith gave further detail regarding the violation process and the number of notices printed annually noting that the overall number of violations has dropped since the beginning of the program.

## Questions/Comments

Trustee Thorstenson asked how many photo violations are issued as a percentage of the traffic counts at any particular intersection. Chief Smith will check if the data is available and provide it to the Board.

Trustee Balmes asked if there have been a lot of violation notices contested. Chief Smith stated that not many notices are contested.

Trustee Ross asked if there is a process in place for those who cannot afford to pay the fine. Chief Smith stated there is no process in place to lower the fine.

Regarding emergency vehicles, Trustee Balmes asked if there had been problems with funeral processions. Chief Smith stated that for those types of violation exceptions, no notice is normally sent to the police department based on their guidelines.

Trustee O'Brien asked if a red-light violation is considered a moving violation. Chief stated that it is not.

Trustee Thorstenson asked if information regarding the new contract, including fee structures is available. Chief Smith stated that since they are in negotiations, a final version of the contract is not available; however once finalized, the contract will be presented to the Board including past agreements for comparison, transition of technology, fees, etc.

Trustee Balmes asked if complaints have increased. Chief Smith, along with Village Administrator Muetz stated complaints/comments have generally decreased.

From a public relations standpoint, Trustee O'Brien asked if RedFlex has been in the news lately. Chief Smith stated to the best of his knowledge, no.

Vice Mayor Hood asked if there are other intersections under consideration to be added to the current approaches. Chief Smith stated there are no other intersections currently being looked at.

2. Report from Brett Fritzler, Utility Supervisor and Nick Leach, Assistant Village Engineer – Update on Knowles Road Water and Pressure Zone #5.

Village Administrator Muetz stated that since the Knowles Road Water Tower/Pressure Zone #5 project is nearing completion, it's a good time for a review of effort. Public Works Department and the Engineering Division will review progress to date,

Assistant Village Engineer, Nick Leach gave an update on the Phase 3 Knowles Road Water Tower and Pressure Zone 5 improvements including water tower construction in detail, contractors and consultants on the project, processes used to prepare site to erect tower, equipment and materials used, and finally painting of the tower.

Assistant Village Engineer Nick Leach then continued with the Phase 3 construction of the Pump Station located near Bittersweet Golf Course between the club house and maintenance building. It is where the village's secondary supply line is located from CLCJAWA. Mr. Leach gave a review of the internal components of the system and their use.

Assistant Village Engineer Nick Leach concluded by stating that the new pressure zone is currently running and functioning and that the new water tower is being filled. Hopefully, the project will be closed out in August. He further noted that Gurnee's 2 million gallon water tower is one of only three built in the U.S. making its structure unique. Future considerations include looking into alternative ways for facilities to communicate with each other.

Questions/Comments

Trustee Balmes asked how safe and secure the tower is from intrusion or being compromised. Mr. Leach stated there 24/7 cameras, alarm locks and key pads for entry.

Utility Supervisor Brett Fritzler gave a review of the village's water system infrastructure that includes:

- 190 Miles of Water Main
- 2,572 Fire Hydrants
- 2,403 Water Main Valves
- 11 Pressure Reducing Valves
- 4 Water Towers
- 2 Pump Stations
- 2 Emergency Backup Wells
- 1 Ground Reservoir
- 1 Interconnect with the City of Waukegan

Utility Supervisor Brett Fritzler gave a historical review of the various water pressure zones throughout the village, including water main breaks, storage capacity, daily demand, water distribution and what the Zone 5 customers will see regarding a pressure increase.

The Utility Supervisor indicated that all of the upgrades will improve the village's position during planned and emergency CLCJAWA shutdowns.

Finance Director Brian Gosnell reminded the Board of the process to pay for the Knowles Tower to include:

- 20-year Term Expires 5/29/2040
- 1.84%, No Pre-Payment Penalty
- Debt Service \$283,138 Annually
- 1<sup>st</sup> Payment \$141,569 Due 11/29/2020, Bi-annual Payments
- FY2021 Budget - \$560,000
- FY2021 Principal & Interest - \$310,000
- FY2021 Additional Principal - \$250,000
- Additional \$250,00 Annually Cuts Term in Half Expires 5/29/2030
- May Not Make Additional Payment in FY2021 Due to Impact of COVID-19 on Water Revenues

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**Adjournment**

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

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

Vice Chair Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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**Donna Dallas,  
Deputy Village Clerk**