

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL  
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Other Officials in Attendance**

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Jack Linehan, Assistant Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; David Ziegler, Community Development Director; Heather Galan, Public Works Director/Village Engineer; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Commander; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director

**Roll Call**

**PRESENT: 6- O'Brien, Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner**  
**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0-**

**Motion Carried.**

**B. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE**

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

1. Approval of minutes from the November 15, 2021 meeting.
2. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 76 amending Chapter 32, Section 32-36, entitled "Planning and Zoning Fees" of the Gurnee Municipal Code.
3. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 77 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Agreement with RHMG Engineers, Inc. for engineering services for the Lawrence Avenue Watermain Replacement & Route 21 Watermain Loop Improvements.
4. Approval of awarding the Fire Station #3 Flashing Yellow Warning Beacon installation project to the low bidder, Home Towne Electric, Inc. at a cost of \$85,226.30.
5. Approval of Payroll for period ending November 19, 2021 in the amount of \$866,424.56.
6. Approval of Bills for the period ending December 6, 2021 in the amount of \$2,554,621.94.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve the Consent Agenda for an omnibus vote. Trustee Thorstenson stated the bill amount is listed wrong on the agenda and is \$2,544,621.94. Trustee Garner and O'Brien amended their motions to reflect the correct bill amount.

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0-**

**Motion Carried.**

**C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Recognition of Warren Township High School (WTHS) Student Athlete State Qualifiers.

Mayor Hood stated he was honored to have WTHS Student Athlete State qualifiers and competitors in attendance tonight. He then introduced Superintendent Ahlgrim and Athletic Director Belmont

who spoke about the student achievements and introduced the students by sport. The following athletes were recognized:

Boys' Cross Country:

Boys Cross Country Team that qualified for the IHSA state meet as an entire team. The team included Cole Kaether, David Lara (finished 24<sup>th</sup> overall), Fahim Rafi, Luke Wiley (finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall), Ozzie Bandera, Nathan Garcia and Max Zeisler.

Boys Cross Country Team Alternates included Ryan Moats, Ryan Alassir, Calix Flores, Jesse Kowalski, Connor Lockwood, Kimi Vesely, Clay Cottrell

Girls' Cross Country:

Girls' Cross Country team member Mia Pasha competed in the State meet and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Emma Leung was a Girls' Cross Country team alternate who went in case she was needed but did not compete.

Girls' Swimming

Girls Swimming team member Grace Bevers qualified for and competed in the State meet in the 200-meter individual medley and the 100 meter backstroke. She finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100-meter backstroke overall. Hailey Benoit qualified for and competed in the State meet in the 100 meter backstroke.

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**D. REPORTS**

None.

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**E. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Hood recessed the Regular Meeting and returned to Public Hearing at 7:15 PM. The Public Hearing continued until 8:18 PM.

Mayor Hood called Regular Meeting back to order at 8:19 PM.

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**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 78 authorizing the approval and execution of an Annexation Agreement for property located at 16530 Washington Street and 34644 Cemetery Road.

This was the topic of the Public Hearing.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2021 - 78 authorizing the approval and execution of an Annexation Agreement for property located at 16530 Washington Street and 34644 Cemetery Road.

**Roll call,**

**AYE: 1- Balmes**

**NAY: 5- O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner**

**ABSTAIN: 1- Hood**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Failed.**

2. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 79 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement among member agencies of the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST).

Police Chief Smith provided a brief summary of the COAST program stating a significant percentage of issues handled by local Police Departments are the result of mental health issues. First responders are typically the initial point of contact rather than social workers or medical personnel who are better equipped to assist with the underlying issues. This challenge has been discussed by Lake County Police Departments for some time and has resulted in the formation of a Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) pilot program. Seven agencies in Lake County have agreed to participate in this program and provide resources to assist. Participating agencies will be providing one police officer for a one-month rotation in the unit. That police officer will be paired with a social worker/clinician and their main goal will be going into the field to follow up with high-level mental health cases from the previous day(s). They could also respond to active calls involving subjects experiencing a mental health crisis. At this time, the only locations

COAST will be sent are participating agency communities. In order to participate an Intergovernmental Agreement must be executed.

Trustee Balmes commended the Police Department for doing this and appreciates the all the effort.

Trustee Garner said this is a great step in the right direction.

Trustee Woodside agreed with Trustees Balmes and Garner.

Trustee Ross asked about the financial commitment that comes with participating. Chief Smith stated the Village covers the salary and clothing for the officer that is assigned to the program. He continued to state the program is funded by a grant currently. In the future, depending how the program develops, there may be a need for additional funding from participating agencies.

Trustee Thorstenson stated this program is much needed and should be fantastic.

Trustee O'Brien stated he is thrilled Gurnee is participating in the program and asked what officers would do if there were down-time. Chief Smith stated there will not be down-time and the officers will remain assigned to Lake County during the 30-day period.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of Ord. 2021 - 79 authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement among member agencies of the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST).

**Roll call,**

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

**NAY: 0- None**

**ABSENT: 0- None**

**Motion Carried.**

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lake County Board member Carissa Casbon thanked the Village for its leadership and participation in the COAST program.

**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 8:36 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,  
Village Clerk**