

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
MARCH 21, 2022**

Call to Order

Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; David Ziegler, Community Development Director; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Chris Velkover, Information Systems Director; Ryan Nelson, Assistant Information Systems Director; Molly Jones, Communications Supervisor; Phil Brunell, Communications Supervisor; Dave Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Jodi Luka, Management Analyst; Nick Leach, Assistant Village Engineer

Roll Call

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. 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: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O'Brien

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

**B. CONSENT
AGENDA /
OMNIBUS VOTE**

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

1. Approval of Res. 2022 – 01 reallocating 2022 volume cap to the Village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois.
2. Approval of Res. 2022 – 02 authorizing maintenance and improvements of streets and highways under the Illinois Highway Code (2022 Motor Fuel Tax Program).
3. Approval of Engineering Division's recommendation to award design engineering and permitting services for the Knowles Road Pedestrian Path Project to the low bidder, Manhard Consulting, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00.
4. Approval of request to allow Economic Development Director Ellen Dean to attend the International Council of Shopping Centers RECon in Las Vegas, NV from May 22 - 24, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00.
5. Approval of setting a bid date of April 25, 2022 for the Lawrence Avenue and Route 21 Water Main Projects.
6. Approval of Payroll for period ending March 11, 2022 in the amount of \$884,281.29.
7. Approval of Bills for the period ending March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$1,565,777.77.

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

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O'Brien

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation of the Gurnee Police Department's Everyday Hero Award to Emma Owiny for her actions on February 23, 2022.

Chief Smith and District 56 SRO Chad Smits presented Emma Owiny with the Gurnee Police Department's Everyday Hero Award for her actions on February 23, 2022. On that date, Emma arrived home and found her grandmother in need of medical care. She quickly called 9-1-1 and provided the communications operator the information needed to ensure the care needed was received. Officer Smits shared how he learned of the event and stated after reviewing it he recommended Emma receive the award. Chief Smith recognized Emma's friends and family and stated she is a very brave young woman. He then read the award and presented it to Emma. Mayor Hood praised Emma for her efforts.

2. Presentation of the VFW First Responder of the Year Award to Police Sergeant Jason Kalinowski.

Chief Smith stated Sergeant Kalinowski brings a positive attitude to the profession and is constantly looking for opportunities to give back to the community. Chief Smith then introduced Les Durov, Commander Veteran of Foreign War Mt. Prospect Post. Post Commander Durov introduced the other Mount Prospect VFW members in attendance. He then read the First Responder of the Year Award (Police) and presented it to Sergeant Kalinowski. He stated with this award, Sergeant Kalinowski will be considered to receive a State award as well. Sergeant Kalinowski accepted the award with appreciation. He stated he loves the profession and helping people. That is what keeps him going on a daily basis.

3. Recognition of Warren Township High School District IHSA State Medalists:

- Adrianna Demos - 3rd Place Girls Wrestling
- Amanda Hamann - 4th Place Vault
- Blake Vander-Jeudt - 4th Place Diving

Dr. Ahlgim and Athletic Director Belmont recognized the student athletes in attendance. Director Belmont then highlighted the accomplishments of each as well as sharing the students' contributions beyond athletics.

4. Presentation by Warren Township High School District Superintendent Dr. John Ahlgrim – District 121 Referendum.

Mayor Hood stated before the presentation by Dr. Ahlgrim he wanted to share his thoughts. He stated Warren is near and dear to his heart. It has contributed greatly to who he is as a person. Mayor Hood stated Warren continues to do an excellent job developing students, in his opinion, with not a lot of resources. He continued to state that he knows this is a contentious issue for some, but it is not for him. He sees it as an opportunity to support children. He stated Warren is at the bottom in Lake County for spending per student, but is in the middle related to academic performance. He stated the District is to be applauded for accomplishing what it has given the funding challenges. Mayor Hood stated tonight was an opportunity for the public to see the numbers. He stated he understands the request is financially challenging, but not contributing to a child's education is a big deal that will have impacts on the community. Mayor Hood stated he has heard from business owners and developers that their decision to continue in Gurnee is dependent on the referendum outcome. He has never heard talk such as this. He stated the need and the numbers shared tonight are hard to dispute. Mayor Hood then turned the floor over the Dr. Ahlgrim and Pat Keeley, Associate Superintendent of Student Services.

Dr. Ahlgrim thanked the Village Board for the opportunity. He then recognized WTHS Board President Paul Schulz and Vice President John Anderson who were in attendance. Dr. Ahlgrim then reviewed a condensed PowerPoint presentation with the Village Board.

Dr. Ahlgrim stated the District has been struggling with revenue shortages for many years trying to make the most of district resources. The Board of Education placed a referendum question for

an operating rate increase on the April 6, 2021 ballot, but the referendum did not receive enough votes to pass. He stated the District has operated with 20 of the last 27 budgets being deficit budgets. The last time the District passed an operating rate referendum was a 12-cent increase in 2001.

Next Dr. Ahlgrim shared revenue per pupil information. Warren has the lowest local revenue per student out of all high school districts in Lake County at \$13,293. In addition, Warren receives \$2,940 from State sources, \$400 from Federal sources. Warren's total revenue per student is \$16,633 annually (the worst of all high school districts in Lake County). The average total revenue for a Lake County high school is \$25,337 per student. Warren would need an additional \$8,704 in revenue per pupil just to be average.

Mr. Keeley stated on August 17, 2021, the WTHS Board of Education approved a Resolution to place a 60-cent tax limiting rate question on the June 28, 2022 election ballot. This provides approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

Next Mr. Keeley reviewed how the District would invest in the students if the referendum passes. This includes preserving the 8-period day, improving academic supports and mental health services, restoring and protecting athletics and restoring and protecting activities and clubs. Mr. Keeley then reviewed each of these areas in more depth.

Preserve the 8-period day:

- In a 7-period day students will...
 - Be forced to choose 1 elective rather than 2
 - Choosing 1 elective reduces access to curricular 2- to 4-year programs or certification programs. For example:
 - Tech Campus (Seniors Only)
 - CTE (Including PLTW)
 - Band
 - Elective AP Courses
 - World Language

Improve academic supports and mental health services:

- Restore math and English intervention programs
- Address critical mental health needs for students

Restore and protect athletics, activities and clubs:

- Without additional funding a level within each sport program would be reduced next school year (2022-2023 school year)
- More than 30 athletic programs would be eliminated as early as 2023-2024
- Up to 55 clubs and activities would be eliminated as early as 2023-2024
- With additional funding entry level athletic programs for next school year (2022-2023 school year) will be restored to the extent possible

Mr. Keeley then reviewed how WTHS would compare up to its peer districts with a 60-cent limiting rate increase. With the increase Warren moves up one position from the bottom. The 60-cent limiting rate increase would result in a per-pupil revenue increase of \$3,013. He stated while this not a big jump, Warren has demonstrated its ability over the years to produce outstanding students with the support and partnership with the community. This referendum will allow the District to continue this proud tradition.

Mayor Hood clarified that the Village Board has no oversight as it relates to WTHS. He stated while it is an important partner, the Village cannot tell it what to do. He stated that each Trustee has a vote. Mayor Hood stated he supports the referendum and he will vote for it. He stated from his perspective this is a critical issue that impacts the entire Village. He stated getting the facts out is important. Mayor Hood concluded by stating he has the facts and his vote is yes.

Trustee Woodside said it is important that the public be informed. He then stated this is an important investment in the community and that he supports the referendum.

Trustee Thorstenson said she was raised in a family of educators and she and all of her family members that live in the Village support the referendum and will be voting yes.

Trustee Ross said her mother taught at Warren as did her father. She said she is very supportive of this referendum and she will vote yes and tell everyone she knows to do the same.

Dr. Ahlgrim thanked the Village Board for the opportunity to share information.

5. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Fair Housing Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood provided a summary of the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve a Proclamation designating April as "Fair Housing Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

6. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "9-1-1 Education Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood provided a summary of the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve a Proclamation designating April as "9-1-1 Education Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

7. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and recognizing the Blue Kids Lake County Project.

Mayor Hood provided a summary of the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve a Proclamation designating April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and recognizing the Blue Kids Lake County Project.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

8. Approval of Proclamation designating April as "Alcohol Awareness Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood provided a summary of the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve a Proclamation designating April as "Alcohol Awareness Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

9. Reminder: FY 2022/2023 Budget Hearing – 6:40 P.M., April 4, 2022

Mayor Hood said that there were no discussion topics on the agenda for the March 28th Committee of the Whole meeting and asked the Trustees if they would like to cancel the meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting for March 28, 2022.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O'Brien

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

- 1. Presentation by Management Analyst Jodi Luka: Small Business Capital Investment Grant Program Update #2.

Management Analyst Luka reviewed the Small Business Capital Grant Program as of March 21, 2022. She provided the Board with a background reminder and stated to date there have been 24 qualified applicants, which includes 12 retail businesses, 11 restaurants and one amusement facility. She stated total grant funding allocated to capital projects as of March 21st is \$199,805.70, with \$136,557.84 in funding distributed thus far. Based on applicant paperwork the approximate project investment back to the community is \$1,393,266.16.

Management Analyst Luka then reviewed completed projects, projects in progress and proposed projects.

Next, she reviewed current and upcoming communication efforts including targeted mailings sent to the property owners in the East Grand Corridor, shopping centers and independent restaurants, outreach to new qualifying businesses in the area and continuing to work with current applicants to secure funding. Management Analyst Luka also stated a press release highlighting the program will be issued following adoption of FY 22/23 Budget.

Trustee Thorstenson asked about the frequency of outreach efforts. Management Analyst Luka stated the program has shifted. At first, the Village was approached by businesses. It has now transitioned to the Village reaching out to the business. She stated while there is no set schedule, she is regularly approaching businesses directly with visits and phone calls to ensure they are aware of the program.

Mayor Hood thanked Management Analyst Luka for her efforts, complimenting her on the personal touch she has brought to the program. He stated he believes this has been very beneficial and helped the program succeed.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Approval of Ord. 2022 – 11 amending the Redevelopment Agreement with Kensington Development Group, LLC for property located at 7735 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois.

Administrator Muetz said Kensington Development has asked if the building permit fee for the new Cooper’s Hawk restaurant could be deducted from the Village’s upfront portion of the incentive agreement. He reminded the Board that the agreement includes two components; a \$600,000 direct contribution to Kensington upon completion of construction and occupancy of a Cooper’s Hawk and up to \$900,000 in sales tax rebates which will be paid to Kensington over a maximum of six years from actual sales taxes generated by Cooper’s Hawk. The building permit fee of \$99,410.45 would be subtracted from the \$600,000 upfront payment. As such, upon completion and occupancy the Village would be required to pay \$500,589.55 to Kensington.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of Ord. 2022 – 11 amending the Redevelopment Agreement with Kensington Development Group, LLC for property located at 7735 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O’Brien
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

- 2. Approval of Ord. 2022 – 12 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services by and between the Village of Gurnee and the Beach Park Fire Protection District.

Administrator Muetz said the Village started to provide contractual dispatch services for the Beach Park Fire Protection District in 2017. Staff working along with Beach Park Fire Department negotiated a

successor agreement in line with the workload. The proposed five-year agreement starts at \$58,436 and has an annual escalator of 2% over the term. The contract will expire April 30, 2027. The Beach Park Fire Protection District approved the contract at its March 2022 meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2022 – 12 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services by and between the Village of Gurnee and the Beach Park Fire Protection District.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O'Brien

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of recommendation from Police Department and Information Systems Division to award Next Generation 9-1-1 answering equipment software and hardware upgrade project to the low proposer, Intrado, at a Year 1 cost of \$168,948.52 (five-year total cost of \$295,913.51 - expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).

Information Systems Director Velkover stated Illinois 9-1-1 Centers in the next 14-months will take a huge step forward in how 9-1-1 calls are delivered. This proposal is to get the Village ready for that as the scheduled transition is tentatively set for August. This expenditure will allow equipment and software to meet the requirement set by the State related to delivery of calls. This also allows the Village to move from six to seven call-taking positions and secures services from the manufacturer for testing and go-live dates. A technician will be on-site in Gurnee vs. available by the phone to provide support. Integration with internal phone systems will be maintained during the process. He stated moving forward with this will allow the Villager to be ready before its transition date. The Village solicited proposals from both Motorola and directly from Intrado. Intrado has been a public safety systems partner for the Village of Gurnee for nearly 20 years. Motorola's partnership arrangements for 9-1-1 equipment have changed since 2015. When the process started Motorola resold Intrado equipment. Now Motorola resells a different equipment provider. As result, going directly to Intrado resulted in significant savings. Director Velkover stated Assistant Director Nelson has been through a similar update. Communications Supervisor Jones has not so Director Velkover believes this will be an excellent opportunity for her to participate.

Trustee Thorstenson said she has been speaking with Communications Supervisor Brunell about the transition to NG9-1-1 and asked about the ability to text to 9-1-1. Director Velkover stated this action is the first of two steps. The request tonight is the delivery mechanism that creates the pathway for texts to reach a 9-1-1 Center. The next step will allow text and video to 9-1-1. He anticipates this transition will take place in early 2023.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of recommendation from Police Department and Information Systems Division to award Next Generation 9-1-1 answering equipment software and hardware upgrade project to the low proposer, Intrado, at a Year 1 cost of \$168,948.52 (five-year total cost of \$295,913.51 - expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Balmes, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, O'Brien

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Garner

Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Closing Comments None.

Adjournment It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**