

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
JULY 15, 2024**

Call to Order

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

Other Officials in Attendance

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; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief.

Roll Call

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

ABSENT: 0-

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor stated that we were under Tornado Watch and if it becomes a Tornado Warning the meeting will be adjourned as he did not want to put people in danger.

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

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

**B. CONSENT
AGENDA /
OMNIBUS VOTE**

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

1. Approval of minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting.
2. Approval of setting a bid date July 29, 2024 for the O'Plaine Road Sidewalk Path at Kings Way North.
3. Approval of setting a bid date of July 30, 2024 for miscellaneous drainage projects.
4. Approval of granting a fireworks permit for Gurnee Days on August 10, 2024.
5. Approval of issuing a Raffle License and waiving the fee and bond requirement for The Exchange Club of Gurnee.
6. Approval of Information System Divisions recommendation to purchase one-year of Cisco SMARTnet maintenance services from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC at a total cost of \$65,188.26. (State of Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology contract).
7. Approval of Police Department recommendation to renew Priority Dispatch for Quality Performance Review subscription in the amount of \$20,592.00 (expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).
8. Approval of Fire Department recommendation to purchase 12 Bullard Thermal Imaging Cameras from Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$65,250.00.
9. Approval of Fire Department recommendation to purchase a Hurst battery operated extrication equipment package from Air One Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$35,390.00 (Fire Department Unit #1321).
10. Approval of Public Works Department recommendation to award 2024 Street Light Program directional boring contract to PirTano

Construction in the amount of \$63,415.50.

11. Approval of Engineering Division recommendation to award 2024 Crack Sealing Program to Patriot Pavement Maintenance at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.00 (Lake County Municipal League Cooperative Purchasing Program).

12. Approval of Engineering Division recommendation to award 2024 Pavement Marking Program to High Star Traffic at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.00 (Lake County Municipal League Cooperative Purchasing Program).

13. Approval of granting a Temporary Class 9 Liquor License to St. Paul the Apostle Church for an event to be held on August 17, 2024 at 6401 Gages Lake Road.

14. Approval of Payroll for period ending June 14, 2024 in the amount of \$1,084,291.91.

15. Approval of Payroll for period ending June 28, 2024 in the amount of \$1,049,238.34.

16. Approval of Bills for the period ending July 15, 2024 in the amount of \$2,446,949.06.

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

Roll call,

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

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of a Proclamation designating August 4 - 10, 2024 as "National Stop on Red Week" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of a Proclamation designating August 4 - 10, 2024 as "National Stop on Red Week" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

2. Mayor Hood said that there were no discussion topics on the agenda for the July 22nd Committee of the Whole meeting and he asked the Trustees if they would like to cancel the meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting for July 22, 2024.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

None.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2024 - 53 granting four Special Use Permits pursuant to the Gurnee Zoning Ordinance to allow installation of two freestanding signs for Gurnee Community Church located at 4555 Old Grand Avenue.

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said this item was on the June 3, 2024 Village Board agenda. At that time, the Village Board decided to continue the matter and allow Gurnee Community Church to respond to feedback provided at the meeting should it so chose. Since that meeting, the Gurnee Community Church has not made any revisions or changes to the signs. Instead, the petitioner provided several studies in response to the EMC safety concerns and its relationship with drivers' visual behavior and traffic characteristics.

Mayor Hood stated that petitioners contacted him and had a presentation for a reduction. He asked to pass it out to the Trustees.

Matt Lask, North Shore Signs, explained that the unit was originally proposed at four feet tall but it will be reduced to three feet in height. The width will remain at eight feet.

Trustee Ross asked if the reduction is in the square feet.

Mr. Lask stated that first option is 32 square feet. The second option is down to 24 square feet.

Trustee Ross questioned if the letters in the electronic message board would be larger than the letters for the church sign.

Mr. Lask stated that it depends on the message. He knows that Gurnee has a restriction of a minimum of six inches tall, and they will meet that restriction. The Gurnee Community Church letters are 6 and 5/8 inches.

Trustee O'Brien asked him if the presentation they just got was about reducing the overall electronic message board to make it the same size or less than the ALEC sign.

Mr. Lask explained that the Alex sign is 3' x 9' or 27 square feet. This one would be 3' x 8' or 24 square feet. It would be slightly smaller than the ALEC sign.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve of Ord. 2024 - 53 granting four Special Use Permits pursuant to the Gurnee Zoning Ordinance to allow installation of two freestanding signs for Gurnee Community Church located at 4555 Old Grand Avenue with the revised electronic message board dimensions of 3' x 8' or 24 square feet.

Roll call,

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

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

Gary Elsbury, representing Gurnee Community Church, thanked the Board members on behalf of the church because he stated the message board is an important part of their existence.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2024 – 54 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Destino Ristorante – 5101 Washington St., Suite 32-36).

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said Destino Ristorante is expected to open in mid-August in the former Chocolate Sanctuary space at Saratoga Square. Owner Danny Legatos grew up in his family's restaurant business, built a 25-year hospitality career in management and operations positions with several major restaurant groups, and lives in Lake County. Destino will be open for dinner every night of the week (Sunday-Thursday until 9pm and Friday/Saturday until 10pm). Later this fall, Destino will add a lunch menu 11am-2pm. The Destino menu will feature northern Italian specialties –fish, chicken, steak, salads, pasta – prepared with homemade sauces and capped off with a variety of dessert choices including homemade tiramisu. Reasonable prices and a friendly, casual ambience will complement the sophisticated décor of the restaurant, which includes three distinct dining rooms capable of seating 90, 40, and 10 people respectively for private events. In addition to the existing outdoor patio, refreshed with new furniture/flowers/lighting, Destino has enhanced the landscaping across the front and will be adding new sidewalk seating, for a total indoor/outdoor seating capacity of approximately 275. The Police Department has conducted all the necessary background checks and finds nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Balmes to approve of Ord. 2024 – 54 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal

Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Destino Ristorante – 5101 Washington St., Suite 32-36).

Roll call,

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

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood invited the Destino Ristorante group to tell the audience about the restaurant.

Danny Legatos, the owner, thanked the Village Board for having them at the meeting, for their time and for their consideration. He stated that the restaurant is special for him and his family. It will be friendly and casual dining. The staff has been with him for over 15 years. The food will be home cooking, not very sophisticated. He added that they are excited to be in the Village of Gurnee.

Kevin Gerow, Destino's counsel, introduced Mr. Pierce, the liquor manager. He explained that Mr. Pierce has an impressive resume in the hospitality industry, with 46 years of experience. He stated that those two gentlemen are very experienced, they know a lot about the food and beverage industry, and they will do the right thing for the community. He affirmed that they would make sure that alcohol would not be served to minors. He added

Mayor Hood stated the Village is excited and loves independent businesses in town.

2. Approval of Fire Department recommendation to purchase 37 portable radios, two mobile radios and associated hardware, software and set-up from Chicago Communications in the amount of \$395,173.77 (Transition to STARCOM 21 Radios – State of Illinois Contract #CMS3618850 – expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).

Assistant to the Administrator Pollack said the Police Department transitioned to the STARCOM 21 radio network effective June 16, 2021. The network is owned and operated by Motorola, Inc. and leased back to the State of Illinois for its use. The STARCOM21 radio network allows interoperability between subscribing agencies and utilizes encryption technology, which prohibits the public from being able to monitor sensitive radio traffic. The FY 24/25 Approved Budget of the Northeast Lake County Consolidated Emergency Telephone Board (NLCC-ETSB) included the replacement of all the Gurnee Fire Department's (GFD) mobile and portable radios with STARCOM 21 units. The GFD currently operates on a VHF radio network for its main dispatch and fire ground frequencies. With the move to LakeComm and the re-organization of fire dispatch frequencies county-wide, the fire service is looking to follow the lead of the police service and move dispatch channels to the STARCOM frequencies. Utilization of a countywide network is very important as the current VHF radio networks that are in place only cover portions of the County, and would not allow the fire service to consolidate in the most efficient manner. The Village of Gurnee will purchase the radios, then be reimbursed by the NLCC-ETSB. Chicago Communications, a longstanding partner of the Village related to public safety communications, hold the State of Illinois contract for the radios. The purchase includes 37 portable radios, two mobile radios and associated hardware, software and set-up.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Fire Department recommendation to purchase 37 portable radios, two mobile radios and associated hardware, software and set-up from Chicago Communications in the amount of \$395,173.77 (Transition to STARCOM 21 Radios – State of Illinois Contract #CMS3618850 – expense eligible for 100% reimbursement from the NLCC-ETSB).

Roll call,

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

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hood	Mayor Hood asked the audience to limit their comment to three minutes due to the large number of people that would like to speak. This will give everyone an opportunity to be heard. Mayor Hood stated Trustee Woodside has said he will not vote on the matter. Mayor Hood further stated he does not intend to vote on this matter because his son co-owns a property management company that specializes in part in nonprofits such as PADS. He clarified the only time he would vote is in the event of a tie. He briefly explained the approval process and stated the Village Board vote is anticipated to take place in mid-August.
William Hamm 3433 Crescent Ave Gurnee, IL	Mr. Hamm stated that the building is a slop hole and bums are walking or sitting around pandering on the corners for change. They should be picked up and taken somewhere else. He said he is against PADS because it is bad for the community.
Karen Rozwadoski 1432 Belle Plaine Gurnee, IL	Ms. Rozwadoski stated that she is scared of living there. She wakes up at night to check if the doors are locked. She had to install cameras and she should not have to do that. She said she did not know PADS already had people in there. There are other better locations.
Jessica Alvers 4125 Charles Ave Gurnee, IL	Ms. Alvers stated that she opposes the PADS operations coming into their neighborhood. Children are living in the neighborhood and she would never want them exposed to what she has seen. That situation is uncontrolled.
Randy Nass 3422 Grandmore Ave Gurnee, IL	Ms. Nass stated that children like hers would be affected by this situation. She agreed that something has to be done about the problems we have with providing for people who are homeless, but this is not the right solution nor the right spot because there are too many kids and elderly people in the area.
Ben Squires 1098 Fuller Road Gurnee, IL	Mr. Squires stated that he supports the PADS proposal. Bethel Church has supported PADS in various ways for over ten years. Fixed-site locations do not mean the end of church support. The churches will continue to provide vital parts of serving people at the sites. He stated that twenty-five churches support PADS. He finished pledging to support PADS and their clients.
Candy Reimholtz 4754 Crest Ct Waukegan, IL	Ms. Reimholtz stated that she lived, worked and volunteered in the Waukegan and Gurnee area for forty-two years. One goal is to make Gurnee the best place. Therefore, she supports PADS Lake County and encourages the Planning and Zoning Board and the Gurnee Village Board to approve the PADS proposed fixed-site Shelter. She said she has another 50 letters of support from residents and local leaders.
Nary Powers 988 Belle Plaine Ave Gurnee, IL	Ms. Powers stated she is against PADS. She is leaving soon for college and she fears for her parents, her family and her neighbors because there are people knocking on her mother's salon door threatening her for money among other things. She stated PADS will not be in control.
Candy Stone 988 Belle Plaine Ave Gurnee, IL	Ms. Stone stated that the Mayor is a good person but residents living on Belle Plaine are thinking of relocating because with these people coming to their neighborhood the value of their properties will decrease. She requested the board members do not let PADS do that because their community is getting bad.
Brian Rivas 3414 Meadow Crest Gurnee, IL	Mr. Rivas stated that he is not against homeless people because they are the most vulnerable in the community and they need help. However, he has had bad experiences with that type of people because they are coming here and causing problems. He said he is against PADS and it should find a better solution.
Elizabeth Rivas 3414 Meadow Crest Gurnee, IL	Ms. Rivas stated that they moved five years ago from Waukegan because they wanted something better for their kids and they found a better place in Gurnee but people are coming in and out that should not be here. She said they call the cops and the homeless people run to Waukegan. There is a PADS already on Grand Ave and they do not need another one. She told Mayor Hood there was a conflict of interest because his son already purchased it and if he votes for it and, if there

would be a tie, it would look bad on him.

Mayor Hood

Mayor Hood clarified that his son does not own the building. He is in the process of becoming the property manager but, in this case, he is not going to manage that particular property, and for that reason, he is not voting.

**Cindy Horvat
5068 Fox Ln
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Horvat stated that Waukegan is a nice town but it has a higher crime rate and she feels that it is bringing crime closer. She added that she is not against PADS but it would be put somewhere else. It should not be around people's homes.

**Steve Carlson
36235 N Mill Ct
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Carlson stated that he served on the Lake County Board for eighteen years and as the Chair of Health and Community Services Committee for fourteen years. During those years, they never addressed the homelessness problem. Finally, there is a solution to address the concerns in the County and in the neighborhood. Gurnee has been a leader in Lake County even when there is political pressure. He asked the Village Board to keep this tradition by approving this project.

**Argeny Powers
988 Belle Plaine Ave
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Powers stated that she does not agree with much of what has been said and done because it is wrong. She has to go to college and be worried about her family and her neighbors. It is hurtful to see kids surrounded by this. She does not want the kids to see what she saw when living in Waukegan.

**Joseph Gibbs
3470 Ellis Ave
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Gibbs stated that he supports the shelter and encourages the Village to approve the proposed fixed shelter. He said that, as a family physician, he sees many patients who are on the edge of homelessness or are homeless with medical conditions. He added that they deserve support and compassion. There is evidence that homelessness contributes to illness, mortality and higher medical costs. Giving people shelter helps reduce those costs.

**Jimi Cicero
3740 Johns Manville
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Cicero stated that he is against the PADS proposal. It should be placed somewhere else, near the mall or on the nicer, western side of Gurnee. They are pushing to put it on the east side and he feels that living in that part of Gurnee, they are a neglected part of town compared to the mall.

**Terry Galvin
945 Crestville Ct
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Galvin stated that a lot of people are a few paychecks away from being homeless. Therefore, he does not agree with the homeless shelter because he already has problems in his neighborhood and it is dangerous to have that people there. He added that he calls the Gurnee Police but they do not do anything.

**Nicole Lee
3496 Metal Crest Cir
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Lee stated that she is opposed to the PADS fixed shelter. There are security and safety concerns. She said her community has many families and businesses and they want to have a safe neighborhood. She asked the Village Board to consider if the PADS shelter would be in their neighborhood and they have to take extra precautions. She added that similar to others, she is not opposed to helping those vulnerable, but the FairBridge Motel is not the place.

**Mark Froseth
525 Prescott Ln
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Froseth asked the Village Board to vote "YES" in support of the PADS proposal. He stated that homelessness in Lake County has increased by 50% over one year and churches are not able to provide the support needed. He expressed that he characterizes the PADS clients as victims of domestic abuse, financially strained due to job loss or poor planning, etc. They are just looking for a way back to their own housing.

**Rachell Thieme
1046 Waveland Ave
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Thieme stated that she has seen changes in the neighborhood in recent months. Since PADS has housed the homeless at the FairBridge, her family has witnessed an increase in people loitering outside the motel and around the area. Therefore, they are not allowing their children to walk in the neighborhood because they do not feel safe. She added that this is causing a loss of revenue for businesses in the area. Granting the PADS shelter would endanger the safety and welfare of the residents.

**Mandy Jo Skinner
1916 Sunshine Ct
Zion, IL**

Ms. Skinner stated that she has witnessed homelessness in every town. The shelter development is a necessary response to a growing homeless challenge. A fixed shelter reduces the burden on emergency

	<p>services, hospitals and law enforcement where individuals can receive care and support. She added that this approach leads to lower costs for Gurnee and will improve overall health and economic outcomes.</p>
<p>Dave McCullin 1188 Boulevard View Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Mr. McCullin stated that when he was a kid, they used to ride their bicycles around the neighborhood. However, he mentioned that they do not allow their son to do that now due to the presence of people lying down in their yards and yelling at each other, which he finds concerning.</p>
<p>Jorie Stuckwisch 987 Belle Plaine Ave Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Ms. Stuckwisch stated that she is a spokesperson for the community members opposed to the FairBridge Inn being used as a location for a fixed site shelter. She asked those present to raise their hands or stand up if they opposed the homeless shelter location. She presented statistics collected from different shelters. She stated shelters create risk in the community and increase crime. Neighborhoods are losing value and businesses are losing revenue.</p>
<p>Becky Kotsinis 907 Belle Plaine Ave Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Ms. Kotsinis thanked the trustees and the Mayor for their services. She stated that the ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code to regulate and license hotels was amended in response to problems caused by sheltering homeless in hotels. She added that based on Gurnee Police reports, FairBridge has violated this ordinance and the Village Board is aware of this problem. PADS has shown an alarming lack of stewardship and accountability in this situation. She said she is afraid for her and her children's safety.</p>
<p>Lori Isaacson 1418 Deer Run Rd Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Ms. Isaacson stated that they have conferred with a commissioner of the Lake County Housing Commission who explained to them the reasons why the FairBridge Inn is unsuitable for this shelter. That location creates hazardous conditions for shelter occupants. She added that conflicts of interest have been uncovered in the decision to choose this property for a fixed shelter. Ms. Isaacson stated that they have identified an alternative site to house the homeless with dignity.</p>
<p>Duane Caldwell 3447 Grandmore Ave Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Mr. Caldwell stated he is against this initiative because they have heard testimonies of people who are afraid, been assaulted and are hurt. They cannot live their lives as they used to because of the environment. He asked the board to be wise and find another solution.</p>
<p>Andy Thieme 1046 Waveland Ave Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Mr. Thieme restated that he is against the homeless shelter. He thinks it is a good idea but it is not a good fit for the community. There is also an economic impact that cannot be ignored. He stated that we need to bring a business that is going to thrive.</p>
<p>Zoe Thieme 1046 Waveland Ave Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Ms. Thieme stated that she used to walk with her friends and now they are always trying to avoid the FairBridge. She said she wants to feel safe while walking in her neighborhood. She fears that the homeless shelter could cause more danger and the safety could be more at risk.</p>
<p>Carri Wagner 4757 Eagle Ct Gurnee, IL</p>	<p>Ms. Wagner stated that the PADS application to approve the funding was incomplete. She asked if it is a requirement to be completed before it is submitted.</p> <p>Mayor Hood stated that it is not a back and forth but he will take her question. Then he asked Mrs. Wagner what application was talking about, the Village of Gurnee or the Lake County Board.</p> <p>Mrs. Wagner confirmed it was the Lake County application. Then she added that PADS already owned that property and she wanted to know if they are getting public funding.</p>
<p>Mayor Hood</p>	<p>Mayor Hood stated he had to end the meeting due to a Tornado Warning in effect. He stated that he appreciated the attendees' comments and the way they had interacted with each other.</p>
<p>Closing Comments</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Woodside to adjourn the meeting.</p>

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

**Selene Beltran,
Deputy Village Clerk**