

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE
RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Village President Dan DiMaria convened the Regular Meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall and led the Board and assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then asked for a moment of silence to commemorate those who had lost their lives in the 9/11 attack 20 years ago.

- II. Village Clerk Eileen Harford called the roll. Present were Trustees Bill Grear, Saba Khan, Rita Minx, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Janine Witko.

III.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor DiMaria asked for an approval of two sets of Minutes this evening:

1.
 - The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2021. Trustee Minx moved to accept the Minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**
2.
 - The Minutes of the Special Meeting held August 25, 2021. Trustee Minx moved to accept the Minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Grear. **Motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Trustee Khan).**

IV.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Outstanding Neighbor Presentation

- a. Mayor DiMaria introduced Community Relations Commissioner Anisa Laliwala to present the Commission's Outstanding Neighbor Award tonight to Arthur "Bob" General.
- b. Ms. Laliwala explained that the mission of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) is to foster, encourage, and promote positive relations among all Morton Grove residents of all ages, genders, races, creeds, national origins, and economic and educational levels. She said that, during the pandemic, many people experienced or witnessed others performing extraordinary acts of kindness, which gave the Commission the idea for the Outstanding Neighbor Award program.

IV.

SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- c. Ms. Laliwala stated that the Outstanding Neighbor program gives residents the opportunity to acknowledge one (or several) of their neighbors who have made a positive difference in their neighborhood. Tonight's recipient, Arthur "Bob" General, was nominated by two of his neighbors. She invited him, his family, and his nominators, Joyce and Jim Mills and Peg DeSario, along with Mayor DiMaria and Trustee liaison Travis, to the podium.
- d. Joyce and Jim said that Bob "is always the first person to recognize new neighbors on the block. He assists with shoveling snow and helps neighbors get into the Christmas spirit with his wonderful decorations. He helps neighbors put up and take down their decorations, initiates many fun activities in his neighborhood, and he never says "no" to anyone."
- e. Peg concurred, adding that Bob likes to bring vegetables to his neighbors, fixes lawn equipment, and definitely brings the spirit of Christmas to all.
- f. Mayor DiMaria said that, "one of the best things we do at Board meetings is honor outstanding neighbors. Morton Grove is a diverse community with a small-town feel. The best way to serve the Village is to serve your neighbor!" He then presented Bob with a special pin, a pen, a certificate, and a gift card as a token of appreciation from the Village Board and the CRC. The Board congratulated Bob, his family, and his nominators as photos were taken of the group.
- g. Ms. Laliwala noted that the Commission is always looking for new members. The CRC meets the second Tuesday every month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at Village Hall in the second floor conference room. The next meeting is tomorrow night and all are welcome.

V.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

VI.

PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

NONE

VII.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

NONE

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Mayor DiMaria had several appointments to the Advisory Commission on Aging and two reappointments to the Environment and Natural Resources Commission. He asked for a single motion to concur with these appointments:

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

- a. For the Advisory Commission on Aging: Hope Hornstein, who was not present, Josephine Meehan, in the assemblage tonight, and Marilyn Sneider, former Village Clerk who is still willing to serve the Village in her retirement years, also in attendance this evening. He noted that Marilyn's husband, Don, holds the record as the longest-serving Trustee in the Village.
- b. For the Environment and Natural Resources Commission: Christine Corelli for a three-year term ending August 1, 2024, and Andrew Hoffman, also for a three-year term ending August 1, 2024.

Trustee Minx moved to concur with these appointments, seconded by Trustee Travis. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

- 2. Next, Mayor DiMaria sought concurrence with his appointment of Daniel Didech to be the Village's Adjudication Hearing Officer.

Trustee Minx moved, seconded by Trustee Gear, to concur with this appointment. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

- 3. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed the month of September 2021 as "National Preparedness Month" in the Village. He noted that promoting emergency preparedness in families, workplaces, and communities can help minimize both physical and economic damage throughout the Village should a disaster occur. Mayor DiMaria encouraged residents to "make a plan" about how to communicate with friends and family before, during, and after a disaster; to "build a kit" by gathering supplies to last for several days after a disaster for everyone in the home, including pets; to limit the impacts of disasters by understanding the risk of disasters in this area, checking insurance coverage, and learning how to make one's home strong in the face of storms and other common hazards; and to teach children about preparing for emergencies and what they should do in the event they become separated from their parents.
 - a. Anecdotally, Mayor DiMaria said he was with a young family yesterday that came from a town in Louisiana that was hit hard by Hurricane Ida. They are now displaced and living with the wife's family in Lombard. They won't be able to go back home for at least weeks, possibly even longer. This highlights the need for emergency preparedness!
- 4. Mayor DiMaria also proclaimed the week of September 17 through September 23, 2021 as "Constitution Week," noting that it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 2021, which marks the 233rd anniversary of its drafting. He asked all residents to reaffirm the ideals held by the framers of the Constitution by attentively protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us all through this guardian of our liberties.
- 5. Mayor DiMaria encouraged non-vaccinated individuals to get vaccinated, and reminded everyone that non-vaccinated people are required to wear a face covering when in Village facilities. He said, he respects people's decisions but asked that non-vaccinated individuals wear a mask to be courteous to their neighbors.

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

6. Mayor DiMaria reminded everyone that Morton Grove's French Market is being held every Saturday until October 30, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Civic Center. He said a variety of local vendors offer fresh produce, food items, and other goods at this family-friendly market. Vendors and offerings change throughout the season. Mayor DiMaria said he thinks that this time of year is the best time to visit the market.
7. Mayor DiMaria thanked everyone who attended Morton Grove's Labor Days event, held on September 4 and 5. It was something the community needed and they got it—live music, beer garden, food, children's play area, and fireworks. He singled out Trustee Gear and Trustee Minx, as well as Park Commissioners Paul Minx and Keith White, all of whom worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition. A great time was had by all who participated!
8. Mayor DiMaria said the Village's Fire and Police Honor Guards did an outstanding and reverent recognition of the 9/11 event at the 20th Anniversary Commemoration held on September 11th. He said it's hard to believe it's been 20 years since there was so much sacrifice by so many, along with a tremendous amount of dedication by those directly in harm's way and by first responders who stood ready to protect our communities, large and small, with courage, commitment, and dedication. We witnessed tremendous bravery and significant sadness that day. We will never be the same, and in some ways, we are stronger through our resilience as a nation and a community, and we must forever remember the sacrifices made by all that responded to the call of duty. Mayor DiMaria said, "There are people who step up and go **into** danger rather than run **from** it; those people are called heroes."
9. Mayor DiMaria said, also on September 11, the Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) held Morton Grove's first Sustainability Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Civic Center. The Expo featured exhibits from local businesses and community organizations providing eco-friendly services and opportunities for Morton Grove residents and businesses. The exhibits were crowded the entire event, which was very well attended and well received by the community. Kudos to all who made this a great success!
10. Mayor DiMaria announced that on Saturday, November 6, the Village will hold its first-ever Pumpkin Smash at the north end of Harrer Park. A Pumpkin Smash is an effort to divert pumpkins from ending up in landfills by providing residents a location to drop off jack-o-lanterns to be composted. Mayor DiMaria said more details will be forthcoming.
11. Mayor DiMaria reminded everyone that the 2021-2022 Village vehicle sticker must be properly displayed on your vehicle(s) as of Wednesday, September 1, 2021. If yours isn't, please correct that!

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

12. Lastly, Mayor DiMaria presented **Resolution 21-59, Authorizing the Installation of Temporary Street Signs in the 7000 Block of Church Street in Morton Grove, Illinois, to Honor Christina Curtis.**
- a. He explained that the Village has established a policy and a process for the application, approval, and installation of temporary street signs to honor a former Morton Grove resident or employee who made a significant contribution to the Village.
 - b. Christina Curtis lived on the 7000 block of Church Street for over 20 years. She was a student at Hynes Elementary School and Golf Junior Middle School, where she made many friends, excelled in her coursework, and was the valedictorian of her class. She attended Niles North HS and was awarded a scholarship to Marquette University in Milwaukee. Christina started dancing when she was 5 years old, and was a teacher working with beginning student dancers before she passed away at age 23. Christina personified the values of the Morton Grove community, and will always be remembered by her students, teachers, neighbors, friends, and most importantly, her family, as a warm, bright, friendly person who found time for everyone she met.
 - c. Mayor DiMaria noted that Norine Nagel has made the proper application to honor Christina with the installation of two honorary street signs in the 7000 block of Church Street. The application was approved by at least 65% of the household on that block. The Village Board has determined that it is fitting and proper to recognize Christina Curtis by installing honorary street signs in her honor for a period of 12 months after installation.
- Trustee Gear moved to approve Resolution 21-59, seconded by Trustee Witko.
- d. Trustee Thill asked Mr. Czerwinski to explain this new program.
 - e. Mr. Czerwinski said this is a relatively new program to recognize individuals in the Village or who have served the Village. A person can nominate someone by filling out an online application and submitting it to the Village. The nominator needs to prove that 65% of their block (or area) agree this should be done. Mr. Czerwinski said it's very localized and can sometimes get very emotional. The individual (or group) nominating the person for street signs pays for the signs and then the Public Works Department communicates to the neighborhood when and where the sign will be installed. The legal street name does not change, and after a period of time, generally one year, the temporary sign(s) will be removed and given to the nominator(s).
 - f. Mayor DiMaria acknowledged Christina's friends and family present this evening, and said, "We'd be remiss if we didn't do this." He thanked them for bringing Christina to the Village's attention. He said he hoped they would invite him to the unveiling of her sign.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-59.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Gear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford had no report this evening.

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Mr. Czerwinski provided official Notice of Public Hearing for the Proposed Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project. It will be held on September 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. The Public Hearing's purpose is to consider the establishment of the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District. The Village will provide the required legal notice of the public hearing.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no report this evening.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTSA. Trustee Gear:

Trustee Gear introduced for a first reading **Ordinance 21-07, Approving a Final Plat of Subdivision and Accepting Certain Improvements for the Beckwith Crossing Subdivision at 6729 and 6733 Beckwith Road in Morton Grove, Illinois.**

He explained that the property commonly known as 6729 and 6733 Beckwith Road, located on the south side of Beckwith between Oak Park Avenue and Lehigh Avenue has a combined land area of 1.71 acres and is located within the R-1 Single Family Residence zoning district. It is currently improved with one single family residence and stormwater management facilities. In July 2019, the Village Board passed Ordinance 19-10 pursuant to the Subdivision Application submitted by the Developer, Zubair Patel, which approved a Preliminary Plat of Subdivision for the property to create five (5) new lots of record. Subsequently the Developer submitted a Final Plat of Subdivision prepared by Heritage Land Consultants LLC. The Building Commissioner, Plan Commission Chair, Village Administrator, and Corporation Counsel reviewed the Final Plat of Subdivision and unanimously found it to be in substantial compliance with the approved Preliminary Plat of Subdivision, and recommend approval of the Final Plat to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Gear said, as this is the first reading, no action on this will be taken tonight.

B. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan had no report this evening.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

C. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no report this evening.

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no report this evening.

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis noted that the 11th annual Community Relations Commission-sponsored Community Artists Performance is scheduled for Saturday, October 30 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. It will feature high school performers showing their talents "live on stage" at the Civic Center, pending the COVID guidelines at the time.

All performers are asked to develop and provide virtual presentations. Submissions must be made by September 24, 2021, by noon to www.identityperformingarts.org/projects.aspx. Questions should be directed to ginny@identityperformingarts.org.

F. Trustee Witko:

1. Trustee Witko presented **Resolution 21-55, Authorizing a Tsk Order With Ciorba Group, Inc. For Albert/Davis Water Main Improvement Project.**
 - a. She explained that Public Works is prioritizing replacement of its water main crossing under the North Bridge Chicago River in order to reduce vulnerability of the distribution to supply water to its customers on the east side of the Village. A segment of the water main within the forest preserve near Albert Avenue and Davis Street is a high priority for replacement. The engineering needs exceed the expertise and capacity of Engineering Division staff.
 - b. Trustee Witko noted that Resolution 18-08, approved in January of 2018, authorizes Village staff to negotiate task order contracts with Ciorba Group, Inc. for professional engineering services. Village staff has negotiated the scope of this work with Ciorba Group, Inc. to provide preliminary and design engineering services for this project in the amount of \$61,969.

Trustee Witko moved to approve Resolution 21-55, seconded by Trustee Minx.

- c. Trustee Thill said he noticed on the map that the Village is considering open trenching. He asked that, instead, the Village consider vertical boring, if it can be done. He said the area this is being done in has been undergoing restoration for the past 17 years. Trustee Thill said it might cost a little more, but he felt that "sometimes you have to think about nature."



XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-55.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

2. Next, Trustee Witko presented **Resolution 21-56, Authorization for the Execution of a Contract With the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) For Maintenance of Traffic Signals.**
 - a. She explained that IDOT and the Village have a mutual interest in and the maintenance and apportionment of shared energy costs for traffic signals along State highways within Morton Grove. A 10-year intergovernmental agreement between IDOT and Village specifying these maintenance and financial responsibilities expired on June 30, 2021. IDOT has submitted a new 10-year agreement for execution. The Village pays a quarterly invoice to IDOT for IDOT to maintain certain traffic signals and for energy costs. The Village is responsible for maintaining traffic signals within the Village on the following State highways: Golf Road, Dempster Street, Oakton Street, and Waukegan Road.
 - b. Trustee Witko said Village's estimated share of the 2022 annual maintenance and energy cost is \$25,000. This will be modified periodically based on IDOT's procurement policy for traffic signal maintenance and energy supply.

Trustee Witko moved, seconded by Trustee Grear, to approve Resolution 21-56.

 - c. Trustee Thill clarified that the Village pays \$25,000 annually, not quarterly. Mr. Czerwinski said that annually is correct.
 - d. Trustee Thill also wondered why the agreement shows the State purchasing and installing traffic signals, but the Village is responsible for any litigation regarding them. He did not think that was right and wondered if anything could be done about it. Mr. Czerwinski and Corporation Counsel Liston said that it's the State's rule and the Village cannot amend it. Mr. Czerwinski said it's one of the conditions for the Village to be involved in its program.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-56.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

3. Trustee Witko then presented **Resolution 21-57, Formalizing the Village's Endorsement for the Project Development of a Pedestrian Facility Along Oakton Street.**

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

- a. Trustee Witko explained that this Resolution is to express support and authorize submittal of a construction funding application for a pedestrian facility along Oakton Street. She noted that Village staff is developing an improvement to provide a pedestrian facility along Oakton Street within the Villages of Morton Grove, Niles, and Skokie. These Villages are also trying to assemble funding sources for the engineering and construction expenses. The project cost is estimated to be more than \$4,000,000. The Illinois Safe Routes to School is a funding program that can provide up to \$250,000 for construction costs. The program is accepting applications until September 30, 2021. The application process requires a resolution to authorize the financial support of the sponsoring agency.

Trustee Witko moved to approve Resolution 21-57, seconded by Trustee Travis.

- b. Trustee Thill noted that this is a \$4 million dollar project and we're hoping to get \$250,000 for it. He wondered what, currently, the other sources of funds are. Village Engineer Chris Tomich responded that already \$3 million dollars from the federal government and \$350,000 from the County have been earmarked for this project. The funds have been awarded but not yet received. Trustee Thill agreed that, as of right now, the project looks good. He said, for a \$4 million project, the Village's cost should end up around \$200,000.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-57.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

4. Trustee Witko presented her final Resolution of the evening, **Resolution 21-58, Authorizing the Purchase of One New International Dump Truck with Spreader and Snowplow From Rush Truck Center of Springfield, Illinois.**
- a. She explained that the purchase of this new dump truck will replace a current 1998 dump truck. This purchase was competitively bid through two separate procurement agencies, the Illinois Central Management Agency's Joint Purchasing Program for the International Cab and Chassis, and Sourcewell Procurement for the Salt Spreader and Snowplow. Rush Truck Center of Springfield, IL was selected as the low bid vendor in the amount of \$192,644. Trustee Witko stated that funding for this purchase is available in the 2021 Enterprise Fund.
- Trustee Witko moved, seconded by Trustee Grear, to approve Resolution 21-58.
- b. Trustee Thill asked if the Village was receiving any trade-in value for the dump truck being replaced. Mr. Czerwinski said the information should be in the report. If there is no trade-in value from the vendor, the 1998 dump truck will be sold at auction.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-58.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

- c. Mayor DiMaria noted that the Village is replacing a **1998** truck. He said he would challenge any Village in the country—**nobody** maintains equipment and keeps things operating as good as Morton Grove's Public Works personnel.
- 5. Lastly, Trustee Witko reported that the Village's first (and hopefully, annual) Sustainability Expo held this past Saturday was "wildly successful." There was a steady line of customers at each exhibitor's booth. She thanked all the exhibitors, noting that they did a wonderful job of teaching residents unique and effective ways for residents to "go green." She thanked the members of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission for "having the vision" and for their months of work to bring this Expo to fruition, especially staff liaison Terry Liston.
- a. Ms. Liston said she doesn't mind getting the credit, but felt it was really due to Public Works staff, who did a yeoman's job, and to Mr. Czerwinski.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIII. WARRANTS

Trustee Minx presented two Warrant Registers this evening:

- 1) Warrant Register for August 23, 2021 in the amount of \$887,262.58 and
- 2) Warrant Register for September 13, 2021 in the amount of \$310,941.00.

- 1. Trustee Minx moved to approve the August 23rd Warrant Register as presented, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

XIII.

WARRANTS (continued)

2. Trustee Minx moved to approve the September 13th Warrant Register as presented, seconded by Trustee Grear.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Witko aye

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

NONE

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Witko aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

PASSED this 27th day of September, 2021.

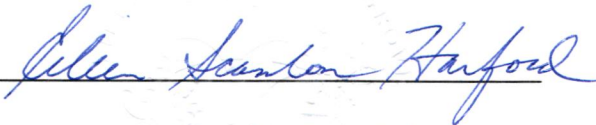
Trustee Gear	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Khan	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Thill	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Travis	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Witko	<u>Aye</u>

APPROVED by me this 27th day of September, 2021.



Daniel P. DiMaria, Village President
Board of Trustees, Morton Grove, Illinois

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 28th day of September, 2021.



Eileen Scanlon Harford, Village Clerk
Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois

Minutes by Teresa Cousar