



**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA**

September 26, 2023, 7:00 pm

**RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6101 CAPULINA AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, all Village Board and Commission meetings are open to the public. This meeting can be viewed remotely via the live stream link found at: www.mortongroveil.org/stream. (If an Executive Session is placed on the agenda, the meeting shall commence at 6:00 pm and the time between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm shall be used for the Executive Session per 1-5-7A of the Village of Morton Grove Municipal Code. If the Agenda does not include an Executive Session, the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Regular Meeting – September 12, 2023
4. **Special Reports** –
 - a. Swearing-In Firefighter: Steve Congenie
5. **Public Hearings** – None
6. **Plan Commission Reports** - None
7. **Residents' Comments (agenda items only)**
8. **President's Report** – *Administration, Comprehensive Plan, Council of Mayors, Northwest Municipal Conference, Strategic Plan Committee*
 - a. Proclamation: Fire Prevention Week
9. **Clerk's Report** – *Family & Senior Services, Advisory Commission on Aging Condominium Association*
10. **Staff Report**
 - a. **Village Administration**
 - b. **Corporation Counsel**

11. Reports by Trustees

- a. **Trustee Khan** – *Finance Department, Appearance Commission, Capital Projects, Lehigh/Ferris TIF (Trustee Travis)*
- b. **Trustee Minx** – *Fire Department, Fire Pension Board, Special Events Commission, RED Center, NIPSTA (Trustee Thill)*
- c. **Trustee Shiba** – *Building Department, Environment & Natural Resources Commission, Legal Department, IT Department (Trustee Witko)*
- d. **Trustee Thill** – *Public Works Department, SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County), MG-Niles Water Commission, Traffic Safety Commission (Trustee Minx)*
- e. **Trustee Travis** – *Police Department, Police Pension Board, Fire & Police Commission, Community Relations Commission, (Trustee Khan)*
- f. **Trustee Witko** – *Community & Economic Development Department, Economic Development Commission, Plan Commission/ Zoning Board (Trustee Shiba)*

12. Other Business

13. **Presentation of Warrants:** \$384,734.50

14. Residents' Comments

15. Adjournment

**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 12, 2023**

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

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Minx moved to approve the Minutes of the August 22, 2023 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Khan seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

NONE

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

NONE

VII. **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

NONE

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT1. Proclamation: Constitution Week

- a. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed the week of September 17 through September 23 as "Constitution Week" in Morton Grove. He noted that the Constitution of the United States is the guardian of our liberties and embodies the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law. It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this outstanding document and its memorable anniversary, and the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion. Mayor DiMaria also pointed out that Public Law 915 guarantees the issuance of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States designating September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week. Mayor DiMaria asked all residents of the Village to reaffirm the ideals the framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by attentively protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

2. Summer 2023 Photo Contest Winners

Mayor DiMaria asked Trustee Travis to announce the Summer 2023 Photo Contest winners.

- a. Trustee Travis said she was pleased to be the Trustee-liaison to the Community Relations Commission, the entity that sponsored the Summer Photo Contest. She said the Commission's purpose is to foster, encourage, and improve our sense of community through positive interactions among all residents regardless of age, gender, religion, national origin or economic status.
- b. Trustee Travis said she was excited to announce the winners of the Summer Photo Contest. These winners were chosen from over 80 outstanding photos which had been submitted. She asked that the winners come down to the front and stand by their photograph. The winners are Christine Byrnes (not present), Jamie Mette (present), Julia Melio (present), Noel Magsino (not present) and Reinor Dimac (not present). She announced that the Overall Winner is Julia Melio. Photos were taken of the winners in attendance with their photographs and with the Mayor and Trustee Travis.
- c. Trustee Travis invited anyone who is interested in serving our Village to think about joining the Community Relations Commission. Their next meeting is September 18 at 6:30pm at Village Hall. More information is available on the Village's website. Everyone is welcome to join!

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford had no formal report this evening.

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Village Administrator Czerwinski had no formal report this evening.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTSA. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan had no formal report this evening, but commented that she had attended the Sustainability Expo this past Saturday. She said she was very proud of the staff for putting it all together; they did a very good job. She was also impressed at the crowd. Trustee Khan said she's very proud of the Village's efforts regarding sustainability.

B. Trustee Minx:

1. Trustee Minx presented **Resolution 23-37, Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Morton Grove.**
 - a. She explained the Fire Department regularly checks, and when needed, replaces its fire hoses. Recently, the department replaced 2,750 feet of hose (49 lengths of 3" hose and 6 lengths of 2.5" hose) that was at least 20 years old, and considered by the Fire Chief to be obsolete.
 - b. Pursuant to Ord. 05-27, adopted by the Board in May of 2005, obsolete or surplus personal property which, in the opinion of the Finance Director and the Village Administrator, is no longer necessary or useful to the Village, and which has an estimated value exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and all motor vehicles and real property of any value belonging to the Village may be sold subject to approval by resolution of a simple majority of the Board of Trustees. The Village Administrator and the Finance Director have opined that the old fire hose is no longer necessary or useful to the Village.
 - c. International Fire Equipment in Richmond, CA has proposed to purchase the surplus hose for \$2,200 and will also pay for shipping costs, provided the Village palletizes and shrink wraps the hose. This Resolution will authorize the sale of the surplus fire hose to International Fire Equipment for \$2,200.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

B. Trustee Minx: (continued)

Trustee Minx moved to approve Resolution 23-37, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

2. Trustee Minx said she, too, was at the Expo and thought it was phenomenal and very well-attended. She offered her kudos to Village staff as well.

C. Trustee Shiba:

1. Trustee Shiba presented **Resolution 23-36, Authorizing the Renewal of a Professional Services Agreement Between the Village of Morton Grove and SAFEbuilt Illinois LLC.**
 - a. He explained that the Village has found that utilizing a third-party provider for plan review and inspectional services has given the Village access to specialized expertise from certified building, electrical, mechanical, and health inspectors, plan reviewers, building officials, and code enforcement officers, provides supplemental support for larger scale and/or high-volume plan review needs, access to additional inspectors, plan reviewers, and code enforcement officers during peak months, and the flexibility to reduce staffing levels during slower winter months.
 - b. In July 2018, the Village joined the Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI), a partnership of 11 suburban communities, to jointly solicit proposals for plan review, inspectional and related services. After a competitive bidding process, the MPI communities unanimously selected SAFEbuilt Illinois as its preferred contractor.
 - c. Pursuant to Resolution 19-30, the Village entered into an agreement with SAFEbuilt IL to provide inspectional, plan review and supplemental code enforcement services through December 31, 2020. Pursuant to Res. 21-22, the Village approved a one-year extension of this contract and authorized the Village Administrator, at his discretion, to approve two (2) additional one-year extensions. Pursuant to Res. 21-46, the contract was amended to include health inspections and related services. SAFEbuilt satisfactorily performed these services, and the Village Administrator extended the contract through December 31, 2023.
 - d. In early 2023, after considering the high quality of service provided by SAFEbuilt IL and comparing rates paid by other communities for similar services, the MPI chose not to undergo a competitive bidding process, and Glenview, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Lincolnwood, and Wilmette have or are in the process of extending their agreements with SAFEbuilt IL for 2024 and beyond.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

C. Trustee Shiba: (continued)

- e. Village staff has negotiated a 3-year contract with SAFEbuilt IL with price increases limited to CPI-U or 3%, whichever is lower. This Resolution will authorize a 3-year contract with SAFEbuilt and will also authorize the Village Administrator to extend the contract if circumstances warrant renewing the contract for two additional 1-year periods through December 31, 2028.
- f. The 2024 rates are 5% higher than the 2023 rates. Cost increases for 2025 and beyond will be limited to 3% or CI-U, whichever is less.

Trustee Shiba moved, seconded by Trustee Witko, to approve Resolution 23-36.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

- 2. Trustee Shiba felt that the Expo was amazing—individuals from all walks of life attended. He also heard compliments about it from some of his friends in Skokie!

D. Trustee Thill:

- 1. Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 23-38, Authorizing a Contract With Steril Koni USA Inc. to Replace the Existing Public Works Omer Vehicle Lift.**
 - a. Village vehicles are serviced and maintained by Public Works vehicle maintenance staff. Currently the vehicle maintenance staff uses an OMER vehicle lift to service Village equipment. The lift was installed in 1988 and has now reached the end of its useful service life. Getting replacement parts for the life is very difficult, and it is experiencing frequent and prolonged mechanical issues which then prolong the time needed to service Village vehicles. Public Works maintenance staff has recommended replacing the OMER lift. The purchase and installation of a new OMER vehicle lift was competitively bid through Sourcewell Procurement Agency, Contract #013020. Public Works received two proposals from vendors taking part in that Sourcewell contract, with Steril Koni USA providing the lowest and most appropriate proposal in the amount of \$176,817.18.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 23-38.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

E. **Trustee Travis:**

Trustee Travis thanked everyone who had participated in the summer Adopt-a-Planter program, and announced that the Village will soon be transitioning to the winter program. She noted that Public Works will be clearing the summer plants from the planters starting September 25, so if anyone has anything in their planter that they want to keep, they should retrieve it prior to that date. More details will be coming soon about the winter Adopt-a-Planter program.

F. **Trustee Witko:**

Trustee Witko had no formal report this evening.

XII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor DiMaria asked for a moment of silence to pause and reflect on the events of 9/11, the lives that were lost and the bravery demonstrated by the first responders.

XIII. **WARRANTS**

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for September 12, 2023 in the amount of \$770,103.73. She moved to approve the Warrant Register as presented, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

XIV. **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

1. **Rudolf Vilks, 7508 Emerson**, reminded the mayor that "residents elect you." He said he's still looking for answers to all of his questions. He said he has a letter dated July of 2023 signed by all the trustees but it doesn't respond to all his questions. He felt that residents are losing money from the Village's water service transitioning from the City of Chicago to Evanston. He said that the "residents' comments" part of the meeting should happen in the beginning of the meeting, not at the end. Lastly, he doesn't like it when Village staff uses abbreviations (IDOT) instead of spelling out "Illinois Department of Transportation."

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (continued)

2. **Matt**, a resident of Chicago, was here this evening celebrating his girlfriend's awesome picture of a monarch caterpillar that was recognized in the Summer Photo Contest. He encouraged residents to please get involved with the Morton Grove Prairie Nature Preserve, adding that he has spoken with the Jeff Wait at Park District and they are going to have new initiatives to "refresh and renew" their efforts to support the preserve. Matt told the Board, "Congratulations on having that awesome treasure in your town."

3. **A resident** said he was here tonight to talk about three subjects: the water; Village ordinances; and flooding.
 - a. He said that ever since the water had switched, he had all new plumbing put in, with copper pipes. He was out of town in Florida for a while and when he came home, his toilet was dark brown from sediment. He put a new float in and after two weeks, it's totally dark brown from the sediment. He said whatever's going on with that water, it's not good. He was not sure if it was not being processed or not being filtered correctly, but something is definitely wrong.
 - b. Regarding the Village ordinances, he said he respects the ordinances and gets permits when appropriate to do so. He hired a contractor; the contractor did not do the work and was guilty of several code violations, but the Village won't do anything about that. When he called the Village's Inspection Department, he was told, "That's a civil matter." Apparently the contractor bears no responsibility for these violations. He asked, "Why do we even have ordinances?" He said it took him six months to get a contractor to correct them. He felt the governing body is supposed to "reinforce" equally (residents and contractors) the ordinances they pass.
 - c. Regarding the flooding, he said it's unbelievable what's going on on his block. But he said it's the same story that he was complaining about six years ago—sewers backing up, etc. He said the Village came out and gave him some kind of "song and dance" but after the truck went by, five minutes later, the water had disappeared. He didn't know if someone had closed a valve or opened it, it's like some kind of secret the Village likes to hide from its residents. There was a number of damages caused by the flooding. It's outrageous.
 - d. Mayor DiMaria told the resident, "We're not hiding anything from our residents." The resident responded that he would appreciate more transparency. Mayor DiMaria asked him to speak to Village Administrator Czerwinski and Mike, the new Public Works Director, immediately following the meeting.

4. **Sue Pellicano** said she had had an issue with an electrical inspector. He didn't even come in and look at the work that had been done. She said she's never had an inspection that careless.
 - a. She was also very concerned with the lack of communication around the recent accident that closed down Waukegan Road. There was nothing on the news about it. Residents knew something was happening from the helicopters flying around their neighborhood. She personally didn't feel safe while this was happening and thought the Village handled it poorly.

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business being brought before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

PASSED this 26th day of September, 2023.

Trustee Khan	_____
Trustee Minx	_____
Trustee Shiba	_____
Trustee Thill	_____
Trustee Travis	_____
Trustee Witko	_____

APPROVED by me this 26th day of September, 2023.

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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 27th day of September, 2023.

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

Proclamation

Village of Morton Grove

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton Grove is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our Village; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States; and

WHEREAS, two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% of these fires resulting from unattended cooking; and more than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS, children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; Morton Grove residents should turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; keep a three-foot kid-free zone around the stove, oven, and other things that could get hot; watch what they heat; and set a timer to remind them that they are cooking; and

WHEREAS, Morton Grove first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through fire prevention education; and Morton Grove residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, **“Cooking Safety Starts With YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention,”** effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking.

THEREFORE, I Mayor Daniel DiMaria do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2023 as

Fire Prevention Week

throughout this Village, and I urge all the people of Morton Grove to check their kitchens for fire hazards and use safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2023, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Morton Grove’s fire and emergency services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of Morton Grove

Daniel P. DiMaria, Mayor