

**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  
MAY 27, 2025**

**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 assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 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**

- a. Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025, as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Khan. **Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.**
- b. Next, Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passes 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 REPORT**

1. Mayor DiMaria said the Village's annual Morton Grove Days festival is set for July 3 through July 6. However, we really need volunteers! He asked the assemblage to visit the Village's website to get the latest updates. Also, yard signs supporting the Morton Grove Days event are currently being sold. Mayor DiMaria asked the assemblage to consider volunteering for this worthy cause, even if it's only for an hour or two!

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Clerk Harford presented **Resolution 25-45, Accepting the Canvass Results and Proclamation for the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election.**
  - a. She explained that this Resolution will formally accept, confirm, announce, and record the results of the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election. In this election, one candidate ran for the office of Village President for a four-year term; one candidate ran for the office of Village Clerk for a four-year term; and three candidates ran for three offices of Village Trustee (each a four-year term). Three candidates ran for two office for Library Trustee for a six-year term. The Board of Election Commissioners has certified the following results:

Total ballots cast: 2,420

For the office of Village President (four-year term): Janine Witko with 2,035 ballots cast

For the office of Village Clerk (four-year term): Eileen Scanlon Harford with 2,003 ballots cast

For the office of Village Trustee (three four-year terms):

Saba Khan with 1,905 ballots cast

Ashur Shiba with 1,669 ballots cast

Constance "Connie" Travis with 1,811 ballots cast

For the office of Library Trustee (two six-year terms):

Kimberly "Kim" Moldofsky with 1,550 ballots cast

Mohammed Azam Hussain with 1,247 ballots cast

- b. The Board of Elections of Cook County, Illinois has proclaimed, and this Resolution confirms, the certification of the newly elected officials:

Village President: Janine Witko

Village Clerk: Eileen Scanlon Harford

Village Trustee: Saba Khan, Ashur Shiba, and Constance "Connie" Travis

Library Trustee: Kimberly "Kim" Moldofsky, Mohammed Azam Hussain

Trustee Minx moved to approve Resolution 25-45, seconded by Trustee Khan.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT (continued)

Clerk Harford called the roll.

**Motion passes: 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>

X. STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Village Administrator Chuck Meyer had no formal report this evening.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston said it was an honor to have Mayor Krier in the audience tonight. She thanked him for being here. Mayor DiMaria said that shortly there will be three Morton Grove mayors in the room tonight! Ms. Liston also congratulated everyone who was elected and thanked them for being willing to serve. Lastly, she thanked Mayor DiMaria for his years of service.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTSA. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan had no formal report this evening.

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx said she's really hoping people will volunteer for Morton Grove Days; adding, "We're look forward to a great event this year."

C. Trustee Shiba:

Trustee Shiba had no formal report this evening.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no formal report this evening.

E. Trustee Travis:

Trustee Travis had no formal report this evening.

F. Trustee Witko:

Trustee Witko had no formal report this evening.

XII. WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for May 27, 2025 in the amount of \$358,148.00. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

**Motion passes: 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>

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Installation of Newly Elected Village President (Mayor) and Village Clerk

- a. Mayor DiMaria invited Trustee Witko to the podium so that he could swear her in as the new Village President. He administered the Oath of Office and then Mayor Witko returned to the dais.
- b. Mayor DiMaria next administered the Oath of Office to Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford, and she, too, returned to the dais.

2. Appointment of Keith White

- a. Mayor Witko said her first official decision as Mayor is to appoint someone to fill out her Trustee term. She said it's one of the most important decisions she'll make, because Village Trustees serve as the eyes, ear, and voice of our residents, and enact policy to help shape the future of our community.

XII. **OTHER BUSINESS** (continued)

- b. In considering this choice, Mayor Witko said, she was looking for someone familiar with all aspects of the Village, who cares about the community, is an independent thinker and is someone who can work collaboratively with our current Village Board and staff. With all the important things the Board has going on right now, she added, she was looking for someone who could “hit the ground running.” Mayor Witko said, while she appreciates all the people who expressed interest in filling her trustee position, she said she believes the best person for this important role is Keith White.
- c. Mayor Witko noted that Keith was born and raised in Morton Grove. Both his parents were active in the Village as Park District Commissioners and installed in him a commitment to public service. Keith worked for the Park District while he was a student, and later, he served for six years as a Park District Commissioner. Keith has served on a number of Village boards and commissions, and has chaired the Traffic Safety Commission since 2010. In 2013, he served as the Chair of the Village’s first Strategic Planning Committee, and, for as long as she can remember, he has been a volunteer at Morton Grove Days. Keith is currently the Content Team’s General Manager and first responder for disaster restoration emergency services for Paul Davis Emergency Restoration Services. Keith and his wife Joan live on Neenah, and Keith’s proudest accomplishments are his two children. He is a dedicated family man who cares about making Morton Grove better every day. He is committed to maintaining the Village’s high standards for excellence in community services, and wants to encourage business development in the Village.
- d. Mayor Witko said she was proud to appoint Keith White to serve as Village Trustee, and join this exceptional group of community leaders. She asked for a motion to concur with this appointment.

Trustee Minx moved to concur with the appointment of Keith White to fill out the remainder of Mayor Witko’s trustee term. The motion was seconded by Trustee Travis.

**Motion passes: 5 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>		

3. **Installation of Newly Elected Village Trustees**

Former Mayor DiMaria then called Trustee Saba Khan to the podium to swear her in as Village Trustee, followed by Trustee Ashur Shiba, Trustee Constance “Connie” Travis, and finally, newly appointed Trustee Keith White.

4. **Remarks by Newly Elected Board Members**

- a. **Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford** said she was honored to accept the responsibility of serving her third term as Village Clerk. She thanked her husband Keith first and foremost. She also thanked her wonderful family, including her granddaughter Daniela, saying, “Your love, patience, and unwavering support make everything I do possible.”

XII. OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

- b. Clerk Harford thanked the residents of Morton Grove for continuing to place their trust in her. She said, “It’s a privilege to serve a community that is not only vibrant and diverse, but unified in its values. Here, neighbors look out for each other. We celebrate our differences and come together with a shared purpose—to make Morton Grove a place we are proud to call home.”
- c. Clerk Harford said that father had always said that Morton Grove’s most valuable asset were the residents, including all the volunteers, and, of course, Village staff. She said, in her third term, she will continue listening and learning, and working hard for every resident.
- d. Next, **Trustee Saba Khan** welcomed everyone and thanked them for being here tonight. She pointed out that this is a memorable day—Morton Grove has created history today in the swearing-in of the Village’s first female Mayor. She congratulated Mayor Witko.
- e. Trustee Khan said she is enthusiastic and excited to begin her second term as Trustee. She was thrilled to be working with a great team, because they have worked together and accomplished much together. She said, with the addition of Trustee Keith White, we’ll be even better.
- f. Trustee Khan recounted that her oldest son visited her place of business when he was about four years old. She is a periodontist, and her job involves cleaning teeth and taking care of gum disease. Her son asked her, “Why would you do that? Ewww!” And she told him, someone has to do it. Similarly, when she ran for office four years ago, some of her friends asked her why she was doing this. She told them, someone has to do it. She said when you’re passionate about something, you just automatically do it—and it does get easier, especially when you’re part of a great team.
- g. Trustee Khan said her message to the residents is, “I am here to serve the community, and I am your trustee. I’m just like you. My goal is to make a better tomorrow, but together with everyone. You are the people who make Morton Grove incredibly close and amazingly open, just like our motto.” Trustee Khan also gave a shout-out to her husband, Mazhar, calling him “her rock, her trailblazer, and a great inspiration.” She then introduced her two sons and their wives, and her mother. She said, “I am who I am because of her.” She thanked Morton Grove residents for their votes and their trust and said, “I am here to serve you, and I will do so to the best of my ability.”
- h. **Trustee Ashur Shiba** thanked his beautiful wife, who couldn’t be here tonight, and his amazing family, for their constant support and for enduring his many absences due to work and Village duties. He thanked Mayor DiMaria for being a mentor, a friend, and an older (“way older”) brother to him. He noted that this is his first full four-year term and thanked his fellow Board members for the way they’ve coached him. He thanked the Administrative Staff for the incredible job they do, top to bottom; the Village would be lost without them.
- i. Trustee Shiba thanked all those who voted for him, and those who didn’t. He said he wants to be easily accessible to the residents and said, “We’re all neighbors; we’re all friends. I’m here for you and would love to share ideas with you.” He said he comes from a country where many people are related to each other, and said, “Morton Grove feels just like that. We’re one big family.”

## XII.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

- j. **Trustee Connie Travis** said she is honored to begin her third term as Trustee, and she sincerely thanked the residents of Morton Grove for placing their confidence in her. She said she's looking forward to continuing to work with her incredible fellow Board members, and gave a warm welcome to the newest Trustee, Keith White. She said she's "energized" by the opportunity to have Mayor Witko leading and guiding the Village over the next four years. She said she's committed to supporting the initiatives and vision of Mayor Witko and the Board, while "staying true to my passion for inclusion and community."
- k. Trustee Travis thanked her family for their unwavering support, and said she's excited for what lies ahead. She added, "I firmly believe that we will continue to move Morton Grove forward, to be stronger and better than ever. I remain dedicated to serving our community with integrity, transparency, and purpose, as we continue to build a bright future for Morton Grove together."
- l. **Trustee Keith White** thanked Mayor Witko for asking him to serve on the Village Board. He said he's lived in Morton Grove for many years, and thanked his wife Joan and daughter Janelle for their support of this opportunity. He said, "they're always behind me 100% and that means a lot to me."
- m. Trustee White said, in 2000, he hired a contractor to put an addition on his house. That contractor was Dan DiMaria, and Dan encouraged Keith to get involved, so he took Dan's advice. Now, 24 years later, he's on the Board of Trustees. Trustee White said he's looking forward to helping move Morton Grove forward, as best he can.
- n. **Mayor Janine Witko** said, "Sitting in this seat as Mayor of Morton Grove is incredibly humbling and incredibly exciting." She said she is grateful to those who voted for her for all who reached out to offer their support and encouragement. She said she has been truly overwhelmed by the number of people who took the time to share their belief in her when she first announced her candidacy, and who have since reached out to offer congratulations.
- o. Mayor Witko said her promise to all the residents is that "I will continue to listen, lead with transparency, and represent you to the very best of my ability, every single day." She thanked the members of the Action Party for standing by her through four general elections and a primary, while working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep Morton Grove moving forward. She said, "Your dedication without ever seeking the spotlight is both admirable and deeply appreciated—we wouldn't be here without you."
- p. Mayor Witko thanked Mayor DiMaria for his trust in her, his leadership, and for leaving Morton Grove in such a strong position. She said, "The Village is undeniably better now than when you took over as Mayor." She said Dan's energy, boldness, and deep love for the Village made a lasting impact on her, and thanked him for the examples he set and the friendship they've built. Mayor Witko said we've seen tremendous momentum over the last decade—new businesses, thriving developments, renewed community spirit—adding "I'm committed to keeping that momentum going." She noted that would mean continuing to invest in smart, thoughtful growth that serves both today's residents and future generations.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

- q. Mayor Witko said the work of keeping the momentum going requires a strong team. She said, "I am incredibly proud to be part of a cohesive Village Board. We've proven we can work together and listen to one another to move things forward, without drama, without ego, and with Morton Grove's best interests at the center of every decision." She said she's excited to continue that spirit of teamwork.
- r. Mayor Witko thanked and recognized the Village staff. From department heads to administrative support to "boots on the ground" workers, they are the heartbeat of this organization—the ones who turn ideas into action. She said "You make our jobs easier, and so often, you do so much with so little. You are the everyday problem solvers and professionals who rarely get the spotlight, but always get the job done. I see you. I value you. And I look forward to working with you."
- s. Mayor Witko thanked her family and friends, many of whom are here tonight. Some are family by blood, she said, others are friends who have become family. She said their support over the last twelve years has meant everything to her. She said she's so glad to have them with her as she begins this journey as Mayor. She gave a special thank-you to her husband, Pete, upon whom Mayor DiMaria has bestowed the title of "First Gentleman." He may not enjoy that title, but he's earned every bit of the credit that goes with it. She thanked him for being her rock and supporter.
- t. Mayor Witko said, for her, being Mayor isn't just about policy, it's about people. She said she's energized by the work ahead, from continuing the economic development momentum that has transformed Morton Grove to expanding community events, to supporting our seniors and strengthening the connections that make the Village so special. She said, "And while I will lead with my own style and vision, my commitment is the same: to move Morton Grove forward with integrity, inclusion, and heart. This Village—my daughter's hometown—means the world to me. I'm honored to serve as your Mayor, and I'm ready to get to work."

XIII. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

**Niles Township Trustee Mazhar Khan** congratulated the newly elected officials on behalf of the Niles Township government. He also thanked Mayor DiMaria for being a wonderful mentor and for his leadership.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Khan.

**Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.



