

**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 13, 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**

Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 22 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Khan. **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**

Mayor DiMaria said he had two proclamations this evening:

1. **National Public Works Week**
  - a. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed the week of May 18–24 as “National Public Works Week.” He said that National Public Works Week has been celebrated throughout the United States and Canada since 1960. It is celebrated during the third week of May to educate the public on the importance of public works in their daily lives.
  - b. Mayor DiMaria noted the theme of National Public Works Week for 2025 is “People, Purpose, Presence,” highlighting three cornerstone ideals that motivate public works professionals and gives them their sense of purpose. Many times, public works professionals never meet those whose lives they have positively impacted because when things are going right, no one knows that public works is there. Yet, with or without fanfare, public works is ever present, working in the background to advance quality of life for all.
  - c. Mayor DiMaria said that Morton Grove’s Department of Public Works maintains a well-trained staff of 39 full-time employees who serve as the backbone of all Village maintenance services. The department comprises five divisions: Water and Sewer, Streets, Vehicle Maintenance, Engineering, and Facilities Maintenance. Our Public Works professionals are responsible for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of the Village’s public works systems, including storm and sanitary sewers, water mains, streets, bridges, streetlights, traffic signals, public buildings, public fleets, trees, solid waste collection, and recycling which are essential to meeting the needs of our residents.
  - d. Mayor DiMaria stated, “The members of the Village’s Public Works Department are dedicated to ensuring an excellent quality of life for our residents by keeping Morton Grove a safe, sustainable, and resilient community,” adding, “the Village Board and residents are extremely proud of the men and women of our Public Works Department and are grateful for their collective and individual efforts to improve the quality of life in Morton Grove.”
  - e. Mayor DiMaria then proclaimed the week May 18–24, 2025, as “**Public Works Week**” in the Village, and urged all citizens to join him and the Village Board in paying tribute to our public works professionals, and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protect our health and safety, and to advance our quality of life.

2. **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Legion Post 134**

Mayor DiMaria provided some background on American Legion Post 134.

- a. The American Legion was started in 1919 and founded by an Act of Congress after World War I. It fiercely advocates for the unique needs of all veterans, service members, and their families who pledge to protect our nation. The American Legion continues to serve our country’s veterans by destigmatizing mental health support, offering peer-to-peer resources, and empowering them.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

- c. Mayor DiMaria said American Legion Post #134 was founded in 1925 to serve Morton Grove residents; and built the current American Legion at 6144 Dempster Street, which continues to serve our veterans to this day.

American Legion Post #134 is celebrating its 100th year in Morton Grove in May, 2025!

- d. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed May 13, 2025, as "**American Legion Post 134 Day**" in the Village and urged all citizens to support our veterans and the mission of the American Legion; and to join the Village Board and him as they congratulated the American Legion Post 134 for 100 years in Morton Grove.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford had no report this evening.

X. STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Village Administrator Chuck Meyer 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.

B. Trustee Minx:

- 1. Trustee Minx presented **Resolution 25-35, Authorizing the Closure of Dempster Street for the Annual Fourth of July Parade.**

- a. She explained that the Fourth of July Parade is a Morton Grove tradition. This year's parade will kick off at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4, 2025, and will require Dempster Street to be partially or

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

B. **Trustee Minx:** (continued)

completely closed between Central and Lincoln Avenues from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requires the Village to adopt a resolution to approve this closing and assume full responsibility for the direction, protection, and regulation of traffic, along with all liabilities for damages of any kind occasioned by the closing of this state route.

Trustee Minx moved, seconded by Trustee Witko, to approve Resolution 25-35.

**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>

C. **Trustee Shiba:**

Trustee Shiba had no formal report this evening.

D. **Trustee Thill:**

Trustee Thill had eight Resolutions to present this evening.

1. **Resolution 25-36, Authorizing a Contract with DCG Roofing Solutions Company, Inc. of Melrose Park, Illinois for Storage Garage Roof Restoration Project.**
  - a. The Public Works storage garage was built in 1992. The roof is original to the building. Maintenance requirements for the storage garage roof have incrementally increased in cost and scope over the past years. In its current condition, the roof is nearing the end of its useful service life. Public Works staff determined that restoration of the storage garage roof would be advantageous at this time to extend the service life of the building. This contract was advertised and two sealed bids were received, with DCG Roofing Solutions Co., Inc. of Melrose Park being the low bidder at \$58,721.00 for the base bid. The bid packet includes unit prices for unforeseen steel panel repair as needed to support the project. To support the potential need for added steel panel repair, this Resolution will authorize a contract with DCG Roofing Solutions Co., Inc. for the Garage Roof Restoration in an amount not to exceed \$64,595.00 in order to provide a contingency of \$5,874.00. This contract must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-36, seconded by Trustee Travis.

**Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

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

D. **Trustee Thill:** (continued)

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. **Resolution 25-37, Authorizing a Contract with A Plus Quality Service, Inc. of Arlington Heights, IL for the Janitorial Cleaning Services Program.**

- a. This Resolution will authorize the Village Administrator to execute a contract with A Plus Quality Service, Inc. of Arlington Heights, IL for the Janitorial Cleaning Services Program. This work is necessary to provide cleaning services for the Police Department, Village Hall, Public Works, Fire Station #4 administrative offices, and the public area of the newly constructed Metra Station.

The contract was bid through a public bid process in accordance with the Village’s Municipal Code. Six bids were received, with the lowest bid coming from A Plus Quality Service, Inc. in the amount of \$52,450.00. This vendor has previously provided cleaning services for the Village and is qualified to complete the janitorial cleaning services. The Village Administrator is further authorized to extend this contract for 2026 and 2027, if, in the opinion of the Village Administrator, existing circumstances warrant such extension.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Travis, to approve Resolution 25-37.

**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>

3. **Resolution 25-38, Authorizing a Contract With M.E. Simpson Co., Inc. of Valparaiso, IN for the 2025 Water Distribution System Leak Survey.**

- a. The Public Works Department annually surveys its water distribution system for water leaks. The primary objective of this program is to identify and assess specific leakage problems within the water distribution system, ultimately leading to targeted activities for locating and repairing the leaks and achieving an overall reduction in water losses for the system. Public Works received three proposals; the lowest was from M.E. Simpson Co., Inc. of Valparaiso, IN with a proposal amount of \$25,520.00. This Resolution approved a contract with M.E. Simpson of Valparaiso, IN for the 2025 Water Distribution System Leak Survey in the amount of \$25,520.00.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 25-38.

**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>

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

4. **Resolution 25-39, Authorizing a Contract With Builders Asphalt, LLC of Hillside, IL for the 2025 Material Purchasing Program.**

- a. The Village has an annual material purchasing program to purchase asphalt for use by the Public Works Department and to dispose of recyclable asphalt to maintain the Village's rights-of-way and properties. Village trucks will deliver the recyclable asphalt to the plant, collect the asphalt from the producer, and deliver the asphalt to the work site.
- b. The purchase and recycling of construction materials for this program are paid for within the Village's General Fund and the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund. The State of Illinois administratively controls MFT Funds. Bidding procedures and contract documents are required to conform to State requirements for these amounts. This contract was bid through a public process in accordance with the Municipal Code and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements. Two sealed bids were received. The lowest responsive and responsible bid was from Builders Asphalt, LLC of Hillside, IL with a bid amount of \$119,465.00. The Village's internal cost to pick up the material from the asphalt plant in Mount Prospect, IL is calculated to be \$33,465.00, which is less than the transportation cost calculated for the other bid. The bid amount is based upon unit pricing proposed by the contractor for the number of unites estimated by the Village, and the final price of the contract will be increased to the amount budgeted. This Resolution will approve a contract with Builders Asphalt, LLC for the 2025 Material Purchase Program in an amount not to exceed \$87,500.00.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-39, seconded by Trustee Witko.

**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>

5. **Resolution 25-40, Authorizing an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) For Beckwith Road Resurfacing. (MFT Section 21-00111-00-RS)**

- a. The Village was awarded federal funding for approximately eighty percent (80%) of the construction and engineering cost to resurface Beckwith Road from Shermer Road to Austin Avenue. The federal funding requires the Village to pay for the balance.
- b. The use of federal funds requires a joint funding agreement with IDOT. This Resolution will authorize the required joint funding agreement for this project, which has an estimated total cost of \$2,208,535.67, with \$1,755,524.54 of federal funding and \$453,011.13 of local (Village) funding.
- c. Resolution 25-21, approved April 8, 2025, appropriated Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the Village's share for this work. Resolution 25-30, approved April 22, 2025, authorized an agreement with

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

Primera Engineers, Ltd., for construction engineering services for construction improvements on Beckwith Road. IDOT will open bids for construction services for this contract on June 13, 2025.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$453,011.13.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-40, seconded by Trustee Witko.

**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>

6. **Resolution 25-41, Authorizing an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) For Central Avenue Resurfacing. (MFT Section 24-00113-00-RS)**

- a. The Village was awarded federal funding by the North Shore Council of Mayors for what was intended to be approximately eighty percent (80%) of the construction and engineering cost to resurface Central Avenue from Dempster Street to Golf Road, but not to exceed \$1,224,000.00. The federal funding requires the Village to pay for the balance, approximately twenty percent (20%). However, the federal share of the estimated total cost exceeds \$1,224,000.00, resulting in the excess cost being the Village's responsibility and increasing the cost share to approximately thirty-five percent (35%).
- b. Staff anticipates a high likelihood of receiving approval for additional federal funding from the North Shore Council of Mayors to reduce the Village's share of the cost to approximately twenty percent (20%). Although there is the risk of not receiving additional federal funding, staff recommends that there is significant value to the Village to move forward with the project, even with the limited federal funding.
- c. The use of federal funds requires a joint funding agreement with IDOT. This Resolution will authorize the required joint funding agreement for this project, which has an estimated total cost of \$1,890,776.00, with \$1,224,000.00 of federal funding and \$666,766.00 of local (Village) funding.
- d. Resolution 25-22, approved April 8, 2025, appropriated Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the Village's share for this work. Resolution 25-31, approved April 22, 2025, authorized an agreement with Primera Engineers, Ltd., for construction engineering services for construction improvements on Central Avenue. IDOT will open bids for construction services for this contract on June 13, 2025.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$666,776.00.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-41, seconded by Trustee Travis.

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

**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>

7. **Resolution 25-42, Authorizing an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) For Gross Point Road Resurfacing. (MFT Section 21-00110-00-RS)**

- a. The Village was awarded federal funding for approximately eighty percent (80%) of the construction and engineering cost to resurface Gross Point Road from Oakton Street to Main Street. The federal funding requires the Village to pay for the balance.
- b. The use of federal funds requires a joint funding agreement with IDOT. This Resolution will authorize the required joint funding agreement for this project, which has an estimated total cost of \$1,140,947.89, with \$906,558.31 of federal funding and \$234,389.58 of local (Village) funding.
- c. Resolution 25-23, approved April 8, 2025, appropriated Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the Village's share for this work. Resolution 25-32, approved April 22, 2025, authorized an agreement with InNova Consulting, Inc., for construction engineering services for construction improvements on Gross Point Road. IDOT will open bids for construction services for this contract on June 13, 2025.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$234,389.58.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-42, seconded by Trustee Travis.

**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>

8. **Resolution 25-43, Authorizing an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) For Shermer Road Resurfacing. (MFT Section 24-00114-00-RS)**

- a. The Village was awarded federal funding for approximately eighty percent (80%) of the construction and engineering cost to resurface Shermer Road from Harlem Avenue to Golf Road. The federal funding requires the Village to pay for the balance.
- b. The use of federal funds requires a joint funding agreement with IDOT. This Resolution will authorize the required joint funding agreement for this project, which has an estimated total cost of \$1,143,586.00, with \$908,838.00 of federal funding and \$234,748.00 of local (Village) funding.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- c. Resolution 25-24, approved April 8, 2025, appropriated Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the Village's share for this work. Resolution 25-33, approved April 22, 2025, authorized an agreement with Primera Engineers, Ltd., for construction engineering services for construction improvements on Shermer Road. IDOT will open bids for construction services for this contract on June 13, 2025.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$234,748.00.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Travis, to approve Resolution 25-43.

**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>

E. Trustee Travis:

Trustee Travis had no formal report this evening.

F. Trustee Witko:

- 1. Trustee Witko presented **Ordinance 25-19, Amending Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 9 Entitled "Suspension and Revocation" and Amending Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 10 Entitled "Appeal" to Modify the Notice and Hearing Regulations Relating to the Suspension or Revocation of Certificates of Occupancy of Business Operations in Morton Grove, Illinois**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Witko said that, in July of 2024, the Village had adopted Ordinance 24-13, which amended Section 4-4-9 of the Municipal Code to authorize the Village Administrator to suspend or revoke business compliance certificates, business licenses, and certificates of occupancies if businesses are noncompliant with applicable regulations. This Ordinance sets forth notice requirements and a hearing procedure before the Village's Local Adjudication Hearing Officer for these suspensions and revocations. The Ordinance also deletes Section 4-4-10 of the Village Code, which provided an appeal process before the Local Adjudication Hearing Officer, since the Illinois Administrative Code requires decisions of the Local Adjudication Hearing Officer to be reviewed by the Circuit Court of Cook County.

XI. **TRUSTEES’ REPORTS** (continued)

F. **Trustee Witko:** (continued)

Trustee Witko moved to adopt Ordinance 25-19, seconded by Trustee Travis.

**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**

**RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA**

Mr. Meyer said this is the time for the elected officials and any others to address Mayor DiMaria’s tenure and imminent departure, starting with Trustee Khan.

1. **Trustee Khan** thanked Mayor DiMaria for his service and, visibly moved, said that Dan is like family to her and her husband Mazhar. She said Dan introduced her to Morton Grove. She said he means a lot to her, adding that she’s learned quite a lot from him. Trustee Khan then presented **Resolution 25-44, Authorizing the Installation of Temporary Street Signs at School Street and Dempster Street in Morton Grove to Honor Dan DiMaria.** She said this is a very small token of gratitude for all Mayor DiMaria has done for the Village. She then moved to approve Resolution 25-44, seconded by Trustee Witko.

**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>

- a. As he did when voting on Johnnie Mitchell’s street signs a few weeks ago, Trustee Thill said he would like Dan’s street signs to be permanent rather than temporary. Mr. Meyer brought out the new street signs for “Dan DiMaria Drive” and presented them to the mayor.
2. **Trustee Minx** then read for the record a proclamation from Governor Pritzker’s office, thanking Mayor DiMaria for his service to Morton Grove.

“WHEREAS, Daniel DiMaria has served the Village of Morton Grove since 2001 in various roles, including Village Clerk, Village Trustee, and Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Daniel DiMaria has served as the Mayor since 2013 and will be retiring in May 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DiMaria has spearheaded-numerous economic development initiatives, including overseeing the Village's efforts to add a million dollars per year in tax revenue for local public schools through the Lehigh-Ferris TIF District; and

XII.

**RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

WHEREAS, Mayor DiMaria facilitated the opening of numerous new restaurants such as Moretti's, Cooper's Hawk Tava, and Boba Burger; and

WHEREAS, Mayor DiMaria created an environment that brought the community together where the community could embody the slogan of "Incredibly Close, Amazingly Open;" and

THEREFORE, I, J.B. Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby recognize Mayor DiMaria for his commitment to public service and thank him for his years of service to Morton Grove.

Signed Governor J.B. Pritzker"

- a. Speaking for herself, Trustee Minx noted that she and Dan have known each other for a quarter of a century, and have worked together in Village government for 20 of those years. She said she has always admired Dan's dedication and enthusiasm for Morton Grove, and said, in his last 12 years as Mayor, the scope of Dan's vision and his dogged pursuit of those ideas and dreams have transformed our town. Trustee Minx said that Dan always says, "It takes a team," and she praised him for assembling a very good team. She said Dan sought out and attracted new talent, listened to peoples' suggestions, and incorporated them in the master plan when possible. She thanked Dan for the time he has given to the community, and expressed best wishes for his retirement, stating she does expect to see him every Morton Grove Days.
3. **Trustee Shiba** also had a proclamation, but before he read it, he wanted to say a few words about Dan. He said Dan and Billy (Grear) gave him his first shot at politics. Dan has been an amazing mentor and well as a friend, a brother, someone who'll yell at him over the phone if needs be. He told Dan, "I hope to make you proud," adding he hoped Dan would be around for a long, long time.
- a. Trustee Shiba said he was honored to read this proclamation from our State Legislators: State Senator Ram Villivalam and Senator Laura Murphy, and State Representative Mike Kelly. They could not be here tonight because they're in a legislative session, but this is their proclamation recognizing the Honorable Mayo Dan DiMaria.

"Whereas Dan DiMaria has served the Village of Morton Grove for over 20 years in multiple capacities including Village Clerk, Trustee, and most recently as Mayor, and

Whereas, he is recognized for his many accomplishments that have positively impacted the residents of the Village, ranging from housing to infrastructure improvements, and

Whereas, Mr. DiMaria has led efforts to partner with neighboring communities, including Niles, to transition the Village's water supply from Chicago to Evanston resulting in stable rates, \$100 million in infrastructure improvements and long-term savings for generations to come, and

Whereas, to further ensure youth's access to a quality and equitable education, he oversaw the Village's efforts to increase revenue for local public schools through the Lehigh-Ferris TIF district, and

Whereas, he facilitate the opening of numerous new restaurants, including Moretti's, Cooper's Hawk, Tava, and Boba Burger, bolstering the local economy and workforce, and

XII.

**RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

He is deeply valued by his peers and neighbors for creating a community environment that embodies the slogan of “Incredibly Close. Amazingly Open,” and for his many years of service and dedication to the Village of Morton Grove, therefore be it

Proclaimed by the Senate of the One Hundred and Fourth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, that we commend Dan DiMaria for his service as Mayor of Morton Grove, and be it further

Proclaimed that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Dan DiMaria as a symbol of our esteem and respect

Signed, Senator Laura Murphy, Senator Villivalam, and Representative Kelly.”

4. **Clerk Harford** told Dan, “Tonight we celebrate your incredible career of public service.” She said this wasn’t just a retirement, but a reflection of Dan’s unwavering commitment to Morton Grove. This is a journey that began under the guidance of Jack O’Brien and Dan Scanlon, who recognized Dan’s passion for service. From the formative years of the Action Party, Dan’s heart was set on one thing, and one thing only—making Morton Grove a better place for everyone to call home. Clerk Harford noted that Dan started his political career as Village Clerk, but soon after that, he began serving as a Village Trustee, and then, 10 years later, as Mayor.
  - a. Clerk Harford said, “Under your leadership, Morton Grove has seen incredible growth, development, and community spirit.” She paid tribute to Dan’s family, especially his wife Melodee, who has been beside Dan through it all, providing him with her love, strength, and support. She said the DiMaria children have witnessed firsthand the mayor’s tireless dedication, and they are so proud of him and their mom. She said Dan’s days will be brighter than ever now, with his two beautiful granddaughters. She told Dan he could take pride in the fact that his legacy will be felt in Morton Grove by generations to come, and said she hopes he will enjoy every moment with his family, friends, and his band, Face The Music.
  - b. And, to honor the Mayor’s love of music, Clerk Harford and the Board presented him with own concert-themed t-shirt to highlight his retirement and accomplishments. The shirts, which were proudly displayed by the Board, feature a drum set on the front and on the back, highlights his achievements for the community.
5. **Trustee Thill** pointed out that there were 16 mayors before Dan DiMaria, and they got things done, but with Dan, things got done because he was Mayor. Trustee Thill said, in Dan’s 12 years of leading as mayor, his first and best decision was hiring Ralph Czerwinski to be the Village Administrator. Ralph thought he’d stay for five years, but it turned out to be ten. He said Dan had an uncanny ability to select good department heads, and assembled a great staff. Dan also forged good relationships with local leaders in Springfield, which helped bring federal dollars to Morton Grove. Trustee Thill said most people know about Dan’s accomplishments like a new water supply, a new shopping center, and Moretti’s, but he also brought two new car dealerships, an 89-unit housing development, and a new train station. Relationships between the Village and the Park District have also vastly improved under Dan’s leadership.

XII. **RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

- a. Trustee Thill said Dan has a school district that's upset with him because he's brought so many new families with young children to the community. He said, "it takes a smart man to know when to pull the plug, but it takes a stronger man to actually do it." Dan had a plan as to what he wanted to accomplish and he's done it. Trustee Thill told him that he's leaving a legacy anyone would be proud of, and called him a "mayor's mayor." He said, "If I didn't like you, I'd suggest you go to Washington and clean up that mess!" to which Dan replied "I pass." Trustee Thill noted that Dan is retiring from politics but not from life. He encouraged Dan to enjoy golf and love on his wonderful grandchildren, present and future.

- b. Trustee Thill then read a letter received from Senator Tammy Duckworth. She wrote,

"Dear Mayor DiMaria:

I would like to thank you for your over 20 years of service working for the Village of Morton Grove, including the past 12 years as Village Mayor.

Stepping down after more than two decades of public service is a remarkable milestone that reflects your unwavering dedication to Morton Grove. Your leadership in a range of roles – including Village Clerk, Trustee and Mayor – demonstrates a deep commitment to the community. During your tenure, Morton Grove achieved meaningful progress: the formation of the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission, long-term infrastructure improvements, increased revenue for local schools, and a surge in economic development that attracted new businesses and revitalized the Village.

Your legacy as Mayor will be cherished by the residents of Morton Grove for many years to come. You helped shape a vision for the Village that embraced progress, unity, and growth, and you have truly embodied the spirit of "Incredibly Close. Amazingly Open."

As you embark on this new chapter, I hope you take great pride in your achievements and find joy in the opportunities that lie ahead.

Again, thank you for your decades of public service. I wish you all the best in this next chapter.

Signed, Senator Duckworth"

6. **Trustee Travis** thanked Dan for his outstanding service to Morton Grove, saying, "Your dedication, energy, and vision have made a lasting impact on the community, and for that I am deeply grateful." She also thanked Dan for his leadership, friendship, and support over the years. She acknowledged the mark he's made on Morton Grove, from "transforming blighted areas into vibrant, thriving businesses and restaurants to championing major legacy projects like the Morton Grove-Niles water supply project. Trustee Travis lauded Mayor DiMaria for his efforts that have helped "reshape" the community, and positioned Morton Grove for continued growth and success. She said she's had the privilege of knowing Dan since his son and hers were in kindergarten, and commented that it's been "a joy to watch your family grow, to see the pride on your face when you became a grandfather, and to witness the personal warmth and commitment" Dan brings to every corner of this town.

XII. **RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

- a. Trustee Travis told Dan, "You are leaving Morton Grove stronger, more open, and closer than when you began, and for that, we are all better." She let "Daniel" know that, while she'll miss working with him, she won't miss being called "Constance."
  - b. Trustee Travis then presented Dan with a wood carving of a map of Morton Grove as a keepsake and as a reminder of his great impact on our town. The wood carving was made by Morton Grove resident Erica Epperson.
7. **Trustee Witko** noted that there has been a lot of well-deserved talk this evening about everything the Village has accomplished under Dan's leadership, and rightfully so. The growth, revitalization, and the energy Dan has brought to Morton Grove is undeniable. But, she said, she wanted to take some time to speak, not of what Dan's done, but of who he is, and what his friendship and mentorship has meant to her. Trustee Witko said, for the past 12 years, she's had the honor to serve as Trustee by Dan's side. From the very beginning, he showed a level of trust in her that she did not take lightly. She said he believed in her enough to appoint her to the Village Board and he has continued to believe in her every step of the way. That trust and belief has meant everything.
- a. Trustee Witko said that Dan has a rare ability to make everyone feel energized, even when the work is tough. She never knew what kind of news she'd get when she answered Dan's phone calls. But no matter what the news was, it was delivered with enthusiasm, a positive attitude, and a sense that, "whatever it is, we'll handle it, and we'll have a few laughs while we do." She said she watched Dan lead boldly and bring people along with him. He showed her how to build culture, not just policy, and how the tone that's set at the top shapes how people feel working with us and living here.
  - b. Trustee Witko thanked Dan for his friendship and for the deep level of connection and respect that has grown between them over the years, based on their love of Morton Grove. She said the fact that Dan trusts her enough to hand off "his baby" (as he lovingly puts it) means more to her than she can say. She told Dan, "I may lean on you from time to time but I will not disappoint you. I know you'll be nearby, support me and cheering on the Village, and I'm so grateful for that." She said she hoped, in time, she can grow into the same easy confidence Dan's always shown when speaking in public. But one thing is for sure.... She will never learn to play the drums! That's a hole that no future Mayor will ever be able to fill! She thanked Dan again for his leadership, mentorship, belief in her, and most of all, his unwavering friendship. She said she looks forward to continuing that friendship beyond the walls of Village Hall. She said to Dan, "You left a mark not just on the community, but on me, and I'll carry that with me every day."
  - c. Then, in recognition of Mayor DiMaria's support for Morton Grove Days, both as an organizer and performer at the event, she announced that the band shelter shall now be named the "Mayor Danny D Sound Stage," honoring Mayor DiMaria and his service to Morton Grove. She said we look forward to years of the mayor continuing to entertain Morton Grove residents during the annual Morton Grove Days festival from the stage that will bear his name.

**XII. RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA (continued)**

8. **Corporation Counsel Liston** said she has sat on this dais with Dan, in different capacities, for nearly a quarter of a century. She said she was humbled and honored to have had a “front row seat,” adding that she probably understands more than most what Dan has meant to Morton Grove.
  - a. Ms. Liston said, when Dan decided to run for Mayor over 12 years ago, he had already served as Village Clerk and Village Trustee, and he knew what the commitment was. Against the odds, he challenged the status quo and built a coalition of former opponents, non-political people, and political people. He told everyone that they would work together, as a team, to move Morton Grove forward, and he delivered. She said Dan made some very smart decisions right from the beginning. First, he got the endorsement and undying support of Bill Grear. Bill was—and is—an icon in this Village, a home-grown blue collar union man who was an advocate for our children, our seniors, the Village employees, and everything Morton Grove. She told Dan, “You owe much of your success to Bill,” and the Board and assemblage applauded Bill.
  - b. Ms. Liston said that Dan implemented the Village’s Strategic Plan almost immediately, and the way he did it was by talking to people and asking questions like “What do you think?” “What are we doing right?” “What can we do better?” Based on the feedback he received, he set his priorities for his tenure as Mayor, and he achieved them all. Not many people can say that! Ms. Liston said Dan took a chance on an unknown deputy chief from a western suburb, and appointed Mike Simo as the Village’s Police Chief. This decision transformed our Police Department to the knowledgeable, compassionate, and highly respected professionals these men and women are today. Mr. Simo also received a round of applause.
  - c. Ms. Liston said, with the help of Tom Friel, one of Dan’s most pivotal decisions was to seek out new administrative leadership. He opted to forego the formal, traditional selection process for Village Administrator. He knew who he wanted and he personally recruited and hired Ralph Czerwinski for the position. Dan articulated his vision to Ralph and together, they changed positively the character and structure of the Village. The Board and assemblage applauded Ralph.
  - d. One of the frequent comments Dan heard after he was elected was “We need restaurants! We need choices!” He turned that around when he brought in Moretti’s. Ms. Liston said she wasn’t sure if people knew this, but Dan is personally responsible for bringing Moretti’s to Morton Grove. He sought out the owners and ultimately sold them on Morton Grove. They’re pretty happy now, because the Morton Grove Moretti’s is one of their most successful of all their restaurants. And, because of Moretti’s, more restaurants followed, like Cooper’s Hawk, Tava, and Boba Burger to name a few. And Pequod’s is still going strong.
  - e. Ms. Liston said Dan’s team turned the blighted embarrassment that was Prairie View Shopping Center into Sawmill Station, boasting luxury apartments, wonderful shopping and dining choices, and, finally, the long-coveted grocery store that everyone in the Village wanted. People were also saying that they’d like to see more community events. Dan gave us that in spades. He reinvigorated the Community Relations Commission, which now hosts many community outreach and popular programs. Dan listened to residents and established an Environment and Natural Resource Commission, which provides educational programs and events to protect our planet, like the recent Document and Electronics Recycling Program, and in September, the Sustainability Expo.

XII. **RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

- f. Ms. Liston commented that all this was done with prudent fiscal management. She said that Dan properly funded the Village's pensions, and improved the Village's bond rating at the same time. She said, "You led us through COVID. You kept a frightened community informed of what was going on." She said Dan gave us straight answers, and he kept the Village employees safe, and didn't lay off a single person. Dan is a strong advocate of local businesses, most importantly, our restaurants, who needed him the most during the COVID crisis, and he was there for them.
  - g. Ms. Liston noted that, because of Dan's outreach, he has fostered a sense of unity and community in Morton Grove that is not often seen in government. And Dan will forever be known for running some of the quickest Board meetings throughout the State!
  - h. Ms. Liston told Dan, "I have called you many things," (to which he replied, "Ditto"), "but I'm most proud to call you my friend. I've watched you and your family grow and stay close through the best of times and the worst of times." She recalled Dan saying, before his daughter Danielle was born, that the baby's name would be Danielle, because it's a strong name befitting the strong person she will be. She said Dan's children have grown into impressive adults, and now he's a proud grandfather.... And while he is and should be proud, she said, "let's face it, the credit goes to Mel. How many times did she cover for you and do double duty, while you were serving us?" The Board and assemblage applauded Melodee. Ms. Liston thanked Dan for all he has done and said his is a well-deserved retirement. She then wished him, on behalf of his fellow Board members, Village staff, and Morton Grove residents, much success in his next chapter.
9. **Mayor DiMaria** thanked everyone in the room, saying he wouldn't mention names because he doesn't want to leave anyone out, but everyone in the room is important to him. He said when he decided to run for Mayor 13 years ago, it was because he thought Morton Grove could be better. The mayor at the time did his best, but Dan felt there was room for improvement. At the time, there was the Action Party and the Caucus Party, and they came together. He said, all the people on the Board have different national political party affiliations, but when they're running to be elected to the Village Board, they rightfully are only about Morton Grove. He felt people would be better served if the politicians in Washington could focus on doing their best for the people they serve, rather than focusing on how their "party" is voting. They're not coming together, and he felt that was not the way to make the system work.
- a. Mayor DiMaria said his team was, first, the residents, those who offered him feedback, and then, having a great Village staff and outstanding Board Members. He thanked his current Board and past Boards, saying that anyone who's ever sat up here has helped bring us to where we are today. He said he wasn't the biggest fan of college education, but he wanted to thank his mom. He wasn't too interested in college, except he did find Political Science interesting, so his mom pushed him to take that, and he did, and he was grateful for it after he became an elected official.
  - b. Mayor DiMaria thanked all the residents who voted for him and gave him the opportunity to serve, especially in his first election for Mayor. He thanked everyone who serves or has served on a Village Commission, because these commissions help the Village. He thanked the Village staff; they are amazing and they love Morton Grove. They make the Board look good, day in and day out.

XII.

**RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAN DI MARIA** (continued)

Mayor DiMaria expressed his deep thanks to his family, for the sacrifices they made so that he could serve Morton Grove. He said the sacrifices his family has made are immense. He said it's not just his family—it's every elected official's family that sacrifices their time with their loved one. He asked for a round of applause for the families of all the elected officials.

Mayor DiMaria singled out Ralph Czerwinski, saying he couldn't have hired a better person. He would tell Ralph, this is what we need to do, or, this is what the residents want, and Ralph would always say, "I've got this." And he always did. Mayor DiMaria said, "Once Ralph said that, I never worried about it. He always got it done." He said there was no better Village Administrator for the time he was Mayor than Ralph.

Mayor DiMaria praised Tom Friel, the "quiet giant." He was the Fire Chief and he loved Morton Grove, so he began supporting the Village in an administrative capacity. The mayor said Tom "stepped up to the plate" and was crucial to Ralph's success and his success, and he couldn't thank Tom enough.

Mayor DiMaria thanked Terry Liston; she, too, was instrumental in getting everything done. He said, yes, they argued, but it was in the give-and-take that things got done. He said she deserved kudos for helping him make things better. And Mayor DiMaria thanked Bill Grear, saying, "Without Billy Grear, I'm not here." Billy was instrumental in helping Dan win elections, especially the first one. He supported Dan and they knocked on a lot of doors convincing "Grover's" that Dan was the right person for the job. Dan said, "I want everyone to know that the success of this town is as much about Billy Grear as it about me."

Mayor DiMaria said he's already told Paul and Rita Minx that he will be here for Morton Grove Days, which he called the "greatest 4<sup>th</sup> of July event in the United States," and he will do whatever they need him to do. He then offered "pre-emptive pardons" to several friends, noting that Chief Weitzel is aware they have a "get out of jail free" card. He encouraged everyone to come out on May 30; his band is holding a fundraiser for veterans to have service dogs, and in fact, two service dogs will be given out that day. He thanked the Park District for their support of this worthy cause and said, "The veterans have served us; we need to serve them."

Mayor DiMaria addressed Trustee Witko, saying he will continue to work on bringing businesses to Morton Grove and she can count on him for that. He said he hoped people feel that Morton Grove is better today than it was 12 years ago, noting that he gave it his all. He said that passing the torch to Janine Witko made his decision to retire an easy one. He said he's "stoked" for her to begin her term as Morton Grove's first woman Mayor!

Mayor DiMaria thanked everyone with a wish for Peace and Love to all.

XIII.

WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for May 13, 2025 in the amount of \$1,109,458.52. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

**Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

Tr. Khan     aye  
Tr. Thill     aye

Tr. Minx     aye  
Tr. Travis   aye

Tr. Shiba     aye  
Tr. Witko     aye

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

1. **Devesh Pandit** told Mayor DiMaria that he'll be missed, and that he's been a good friend. One thing he appreciated about Mayor DiMaria is that he always answered his calls on the first ring!
2. **Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director of the Niles Township District for Special Education**, said that Mayor DiMaria has made a lasting difference in the Village. She said, "You have lifted us up and never made us feel like an afterthought." She thanked him for championing people with disabilities and for reminding everyone that Morton Grove is stronger when we all stand together.
3. **Rich Block, Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce**, thanked Mayor DiMaria for his strong support of local businesses over the years, and, with gratitude and best wishes, presented him with a plaque expressing the Chamber's appreciation.
4. Trustee Witko, on behalf of **Niles Township Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti**, read a proclamation celebrating Mayor DiMaria's many accomplishments in his years as Mayor.
5. **Habeeb Quadri, Muslim Community Center Academy Superintendent**, thanked Mayor DiMaria for his leadership and for being the kind of Mayor that builds relationships. He shared that the Mayor has come to many of the MCC's events, including a golf outing in Lemont at 6:30 a.m.! He said, "Anytime I needed to talk to you, you answered my call."
6. **Bill Grear** thanked Mayor DiMaria, the Village Board, and the Village staff. He said Mayor DiMaria hit it on the head when he said the Village staff makes the elected officials look better than we are! Bill recounted how Mayor DiMaria convinced Mark Hoffman that Morton Grove would be a great place for a Moretti's, and finally Mark agreed. He thanked Mayor DiMaria for being the person he is, and for his friendship.
7. **Georgie Brunner** said she learned a lot from Mayor DiMaria when they were Trustees together. She said she appreciates how he has revitalized the Village, and thanked him for his friendship.

XIV.

**RESIDENTS' COMMENTS** (continued)

8. **Police Chief Mike Weitzel and Chief Mike Simo** thanked Mayor DiMaria for his support and his amazing spirit. They presented the Mayor with the flag that flew over Village Hall today.

**Mayor DiMaria** thanked everyone. He said he's humbled by everyone's kind words, adding that it's been an honor to serve Morton Grove. He assured everyone they'll be in good hands with Mayor Witko!

XV.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

PASSED this 27th day of May 2025.

Trustee Khan	<u>AYE</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>AYE</u>
Trustee Shiba	<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 May 2025.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 28th day of May 2025.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar