

**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
JULY 22, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Village President Janine Witko 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 Keith White.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 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)**

Mariano Arena, Jr. spoke, regarding Ordinance 25-23, which amends the Municipal Code of the Village by adding a section dealing with motor driven scooters and electric bicycles. His next door neighbor has a son who has an electric bicycle and he's constantly using it on the streets and the sidewalk.

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

The son's friend has an electric scooter, and he's often over at the neighbor's house, running around with it. Mr. Arena said that, when his neighbor's son is on his electric bicycle, he's too short to be seen in Mr. Arena's rear view mirror. However, when Mr. Arena backs up, the back-up camera does catch the child on the bicycle. Mr. Arena said he's very worried about this and is looking forward to seeing what the Village can do about it.

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. **Dempster Street Corridor Plan**

Mayor Witko said the Village wants to hear residents' feedback and ideas regarding the future of Dempster Street. Residents can provide their feedback on what they would like to see along Dempster by visiting plandempster.org or attending the next community session during the National Night Out event on August 5.

2. **National Night Out**

Mayor Witko invited everyone to join the Morton Grove Police Department on August 5 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the American Legion Civic Center. National Night Out is a free and family-friendly event helps the Village highlight its fantastic Police Department and helps build the bonds between residents and the Morton Grove Police Department. She encouraged everyone to come to this free event.

3. **Metra Parking**

Mayor Witko noted that, as the construction process continues for the new Metra station, there will be a change in the configuration of the construction site which will reduce on-site parking. The Village is emphasizing accessible parking and keeping the drop-off location, but starting August 1, commuters will be able to use the parking lot just north and west of the train station at 8550 Lehigh. The Village is prioritizing residents' access to the lot, so residents who are interested in purchasing a parking permit will be able to do so this week. Permit sales for non-residents will begin next week. The price is \$150 for access to the lot from August 1 to October 31. Permits are available for purchase from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at Village Hall in the Finance Dept.

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Harford had no formal report this evening; however, she did compliment the Morton Grove Police Department for bringing popsicles to the kids at Oriole Pool today. Her granddaughter was one of the children who enjoyed the popsicles very much!

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

1. Village Administrator Chuck Meyer introduced for a first reading tonight **Ordinance 25-23, Amending Title 5, Chapter 4, Section 10 of the Municipal Code Entitled “Prohibited Actions, Conduct” and Creating Title 5, Chapter 4, Section 14 Entitled “Motor Driven Scooters and Electric Bicycles.”**
 - a. Mr. Meyer said, in the Chicagoland area, there’s been a noticeable increase in the number of electric bicycles and electric scooters on the roads and sidewalks. The Village of Morton Grove has also experienced a rise in the prevalence and use of these types of transportation. Mr. Meyer noted that the MGPD chief and deputy chief have done a lot of work on this, researching state law regarding these vehicles, as well as learning what other municipalities are doing to craft sensible guidelines that keep people safe and address the prevalence of these vehicles we’re now seeing.
 - b. This ordinance will define e-bikes, electric scooters, low-speed electric scooters, non-highway vehicles, and toy vehicles, and will affirm that these vehicles are not intended for roadways and sidewalks. It will also establish that a driver’s license is required for low-speed electric bicycles and electric scooters.
 - c. A low-speed electric bicycle is one that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirement of one of these classes:
 - Class 1 is an electric bicycle where the motor is assisted by pedaling; its speed tops out at 20 mph. Class 1 e-bikes can be used on the sidewalk or the street. A helmet is required. The proposed ordinance says users must be age 18 or older with a driver’s license, but Mr. Meyer said the ordinance will be revised to say “age 16 or older...”
 - Class 2 is an electric bicycle where the motor needs no assistance via pedaling; its speed also tops out at 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes are prohibited from being used on sidewalks. A helmet is required. The proposed ordinance says users must be age 18 or older with a driver’s license, but the ordinance will be revised to say “age 16 or older...”
 - Class 3 is an electric bicycle with the motor assisted via pedaling; speed tops out at 28 mph. Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited from being used on sidewalks. A helmet is required. The proposed ordinance says users must be age 18 or older with a driver’s license, but the ordinance will be revised to say “age 16 or older...”
 - d. Electric scooters and low-speed electric scooters are both defined as devices with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding. An electric scooter’s maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is in excess of 10 mph, while a low-speed electric scooter, as the name suggests, is one whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than 10 mph. Electric scooters are prohibited from being used on sidewalks; low-speed electric scooters can only be used on sidewalks. A helmet is required. The proposed ordinance says users of either an electric scooter or a low-speed electric scooter must be age 18 or older with a driver’s license, but the ordinance will be revised to say “age 16 or older...”

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

- e. A non-highway vehicle is defined as any battery operated, electric, or gas-driven all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, off-highway motorcycle, go-cart, mini-bike, motorized skateboard, or other similar motor-driven vehicle for which the state of Illinois does not issue a title document and does not issue license plates or a registration document.
- f. A toy vehicle is a battery-powered ride-on toy that does not exceed 10 mph and is designed for use by children under the age of 8. The provisions of this code do not apply to toy vehicles operated by children under 8 with adult supervision.
- g. Mr. Meyer said the draft ordinance says that any person who, through the operation of an electric bicycle, electric scooter, or low-speed electric scooter, operates the device in a willful and wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property, may have the device impounded at the time that a citation or charge is issued to the operator by the MG Police Department, for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days. Such impoundment shall be subject to a fee of \$500, jointly assessed to the owner and operator of the device, which shall be paid to secure the release of the device.
- h. It also addresses parental responsibility, stating that it shall be unlawful for any parent or guardian of a person under the age of 18 ("minor") to permit the minor to violate, or to fail to exercise due care to restrain the minor from violating any provisions of the ordinance. The commission of any such violation by a minor shall raise a rebuttable presumption that the minor's parent or guardian has permitted the minor to commit said violation, or failed to exercise due care to restrain the minor from committing such violation.
- i. Exemptions would be for any motor-driven scooter operated in a Village sanctioned parade; or any motor-driven scooter or motorized vehicle designed for and used by a person with disabilities, including motorized wheelchairs; or any device used by an authorized representative of the police department, fire department, or unit of government in the course of his or her official duties.

Mr. Meyer said he would be happy to answer any questions from the Board.

- j. Trustee Minx clarified that kids age 10 cannot be riding these bicycles on streets or sidewalks. She asked what recourse does a person have if you see kids that young on these vehicles?
- k. Mr. Meyer said that prevention and education are the most important ways of dealing with this. He said the MGPD is gearing up to be speaking at schools and passing out information. Once the ordinance is approved, the Village will "educate" with articles in the newsletter and on the Village website.
- l. Trustee Khan asked about hoverboards. She sees a lot of them in use and wondered if this ordinance includes hoverboards. Mr. Meyer said he would defer to Chief Weitzel, but he felt that hoverboards would be covered under non-highway vehicles. Chief Weitzel agreed.

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)A. Village Administrator: (continued)

- m. Trustee Thill asked if a bike is confiscated, is it a \$500 fee, or a fine? He asked what the difference is. Mr. Meyer said a fine is an assessed penalty; a fee is for the Village's costs. Trustee Thill said, if I run a red light and get caught, I get a ticket; but it's nowhere near \$500. He said \$500 fee for a bike seems high. Mr. Meyer said it's a different situation. If you did something and your car gets impounded, you'll have to pay a \$500 fee to get it back.
- n. Chief Weitzel said it's our intention is to educate people, not to impound or make enemies. We're aiming for cooperative enforcement.
- o. Trustee Thill asked if there would be a grace period, before enforcement begins. Corporation Counsel Liston cautioned against doing so, noting that, currently, all these things are prohibited by law, but the Police Department isn't going around arresting people. She said that there are many adults who are using these vehicles irresponsibly and truly creating dangerous situations, and they don't seem to care that these vehicles are prohibited, much less regulated. She was not in favor of giving people a "free pass" once the ordinance is passed.
- p. Trustee Khan asked if paying a fee would go on a child's record. Mr. Meyer said it would not.
- q. Clerk Harford clarified that children under 16 could use a low-speed scooter on the sidewalk, or, if the child is age 8 or younger, they can use a toy car on the sidewalk. Mr. Meyer said that's correct.
- r. Resident Devesh Pandit commented that he sees people on electric bikes constantly, and they're going very, very fast. He sees them on streets and on forest preserves paths. His question was how would the MGPD gauge the speed of these vehicles? Mr. Pandit felt the speeds he was seeing were more like 25mph. Mayor Witko responded, saying that it's more about the type of e-bike they're using, rather than their speed. He said the speeds these people are going are truly scary.
- s. Trustee Thill commented that electric bicycles are illegal in the forest preserves. Mr. Pandit asked what should he do? Trustee Thill suggested telling these riders that he's already called the police. Chief Weitzel said the forest preserves are under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Forest Preserve Police.
- t. Mr. Arena asked to make one more comment. He said the way he had found out about this was that the Principal of the school had sent home a "have a good summer" letter, and in that letter was mention that the Village was going to be looking at e-bikes and e-scooters.
2. Mr. Meyer then presented **Resolution 25-54, A Resolution Providing an Inducement to the Village of Morton Grove and Prospective Developers for Redevelopment Projects in the Village of**
- a. **Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois.**

- X. He said this would authorize future reimbursements of expenses incurred by the Village and potential developers to improve and redevelop the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.

- a. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)
- b. Village Administrator: (continued)

- c. Dempster Street from Central Avenue to the Forest Preserves suffers from blighting factors, including obsolescence, deterioration, structures below minimum code standards, inadequate utilities, lack of community planning, and stagnating or declining property values.

- d. Developers have contacted the Village indicating their interest in redeveloping this area, but only if the Village provides financial assistance. The Village is also interested in improving public facilities and infrastructure in this area, but will need financial assistance to do so. This Resolution is intended to induce and support the Village’s and Developer’s efforts to evaluate and negotiate potential redevelopment projects and to affirm that the Village will take appropriate action as allowed by law, including the TIF act. The Village will bargain in good faith to negotiate appropriate redevelopment agreements, and if the Village determines that a desired project is appropriate for an economic incentive program and such costs are qualified costs under the TIF Act, the Village may authorize the reimbursement of eligible expenses to itself and Developers, if incurred after the date of this Resolution. Mr. Meyer said he’d be happy to answer any questions from the Board.

Trustee Thill asked if the Village was planning to set up a TIF District tonight. Mr. Meyer said this inducement resolution is like a first step, in that it authorizes the Village to expend funds to create a TIF District. There are many steps in the process to create a new TIF District. Trustee Thill asked if the funds the Village will be expending will come out of the Village’s General Fund. Mr. Meyer said they would come from the TIF fund. Trustee Thill said, but first a TIF would need to be created. Trustee Thill felt that the funds would come from the General Fund, but once a TIF District is created, that TIF Fund will reimburse the Village for any expenditures it may make or have made prior to the creation of a new TIF.

Mayor Witko asked for a motion regarding Resolution 25-54. Trustee Minx moved to approve the resolution, 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. White	<u>aye</u>

- 3.

Mr. Meyer said that, over the last week, the Village has hosted FGMA, the Village’s architect, to meet with staff regarding the initial design for the Village Hall/Police Department at 6201 Dempster. As some may know, the Village has been working on this process since 2022, with a formal approval of contracts to facilitate the purchase of the building in April 2023, followed by the closing on the property in late 2024. As the design phase continues, the Village will be applying for a formal “Special Use Application” to be reviewed and considered by the Appearance Commission, Traffic Safety Commission, Plan Commission, and Board of Trustees at regularly scheduled meetings. These

- X. meetings will be open to the public. The Village will provide formal notification of these meetings to neighbors within 250 feet of the property by mail. Signs will be posted on the property and the
- A. Village will publish a notice in the local newspaper providing notification of the Public Hearing.

STAFF REPORTS (continued)

- b. Village Administrator: (continued)

- c. Additionally, if residents or the public outside of the 250 foot radius want to learn more about the project, the Village will be providing regular updates, notices, and other information on the Village website later this year.

Mr. Meyer said he also wanted to address some concerns that have been raised:

- The Village has no plans to close Georgiana Avenue.
 - The Village has no plans to restrict parking on Georgiana or Fernald during a snowstorm
 - The current plan for the site design is to have primary vehicular access points located along Fernald Avenue so that traffic is routed onto Dempster Street at the signalized intersection of Fernald and Dempster.
- d.

Mr. Meyer said the Village is still early in the design phase and plans may change; but staff wanted to share this information with the public. As always, if anyone ever has a question about our process, Mr. Meyer said they could reach out to him directly at 847-663-3001 or by emailing him at cmeyer@mortongroveil.org.

- B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

- A. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan had no formal report this evening.

- B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening.

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

C. Trustee Shiba:

1. Trustee Shiba presented **Resolution 25-55, Authorizing an Agreement with Ring Central for Telecommunications Licenses, Equipment Hardware, Implementation, and Annual Maintenance for All Village Departments.**
 - a. The Village utilizes telephones for internal communications between staff and external communications with constituents. The current phone system has limited support and lacks features of modern telecommunications systems. In February 2025, the Information Technology Division initiated a public Request for Proposal (RFP) process to upgrade or replace the existing phone system. The proposals were received and evaluated on a variety of factors including cost, applicability, functionality, market presence, vendor presentation, references, and staff feedback.
 - b. It was determined that the RingCentral of Belmont, CA provided a suitable, cost-effective solution to support the telephone communication needs of the Village department. Pending the finalization of the agreement, the cost of licenses, equipment hardware, implementation, and annual maintenance is set at a not to exceed cost of \$128,082.

Trustee Shiba moved to approve Resolution 25-55, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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. White	<u>aye</u>

2. Trustee Shiba also profusely thanked Public Works Director Mike Lukich and the Public Works staff for their hard work in cleaning up after a recent microburst. There were a lot of downed tree limbs and even a few downed trees, but they had everything looking great within a day after the storm occurred.

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no formal report this evening.

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

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis presented **Resolution 25-56, Authorizing a Contract with Ultra Strobe Communications Inc. for the Changeover of Equipment for Police Department Patrol Vehicles.**

- a. She explained that the Village maintains a fleet of marked and unmarked police vehicles, which are essential for providing responsive and effective public safety services. Vehicles that have been in-service for extended periods and have accumulated high mileage often exceed their useful life, impacting reliability and safety. To address this, three (3) newly purchased marked patrol vehicles need to be outfitted with necessary equipment transferred from existing vehicles. In addition, two (2) unmarked vehicles need to receive upgraded lighting packages to enhance safety, and one (1) recently seized vehicle needs to be repurposed for use as a covert squad car.
- b. The Police Department solicited quotes from multiple vendors specializing in change-overs for police department vehicles to achieve competitive pricing. Of those contacted, only two (2) vendors submitted quotes, while other declined to participate. Ultra Strobe Communications, a private company with over 20 years of experience service public safety agencies throughout the Chicagoland area, submitted the lowest quote for this work. Their proposal, totaling \$47,779.50, includes the change-over of three (3) new vehicles and equipment modifications to three (3) existing vehicles.

Trustee Travis moved to approve Resolution 25-56, seconded by Trustee White.

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. White	<u>aye</u>

- 2. Next, Trustee Travis provided an update on the Village’s Drone Program. She said that, earlier this month, residents were protected by the utilization of the MGPD’s drone program during the July 4 parade. During Morton Grove Days, the Board members received a demonstration of the capabilities of the drone program, and were able to see the program “in action,” monitoring situations, providing intel, and responding to emergency calls quickly to provide real-time intelligence to staff in the field. As the Village welcomed thousands of visitors to Morton Grove Days, the drone was able to relay information to officers in the field and help prevent issues from escalating into serious situations. Trustee Travis said it was amazing to see the drone in action!

- 3. Trustee Travis announced that tomorrow, July 23, has been designated as Illinois Speed Awareness Day. The MGPD will be participating in a state-wide initiative to heavily concentrate on speeding enforcement. Our partners at the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Department will also be in Morton Grove starting this evening, through tomorrow, to help with enforcement efforts.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

XI. Trustee Travis:

- E. Lastly, Trustee Travis reminded the assemblage that the Community Relations Commission’s Summer Photo Contest goes to September 1. Photographers can submit up to five (5) photos depicting summer in Morton Grove. Photos may be submitted online or at Village Hall. Please visit the Village’s website for more information.

XI. Trustee White:

- F. Trustee White had no formal report this evening:

XII.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Khan mentioned that there had recently been a shooting near the funeral home. She thanked the police who are making progress on this case. She also felt the MGPD had done a great job notifying the public about when and where the drone was being used during Morton Grove Days. She wondered if there were rules in place regarding privacy and notifications of drone use. Mr. Meyer said yes, there are rules in place, and all of the methods used during the Morton Grove Days event were part of the rules requiring notification. He added that all the MGPD drone users are licensed by the FAA, which has very strict rules and regulations about drone use, flyovers, etc.

XIII.

WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for July 22, 2025 in the amount of \$542,199.40 She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Thill.

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. White	<u>aye</u>

XIV.

RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

- 1. **Bill Page** echoed the Board’s compliments and confidence in the Morton Grove Police Department. He said he had one question, and he didn’t mean it as a challenge, just a sincere question. He said there are always news stories about masked enforcement officials without badges or judicial warrants accosting and kidnapping people. He wondered how the MGPD were protecting us and preventing this.

XIV.

RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS (continued)

- a. Chief Weitzel thanked Mr. Page for his question and said he was taking it as Mr. Page intended, adding, but we can handle challenges too.
- b. Chief Weitzel noted that in 2017, the State of Illinois passed legislation called the Illinois Trust Act, which prohibits local law enforcement from engaging in immigration activities. Also in 2017, the Village of Morton Grove passed a welcoming ordinance, which also prohibits local law enforcement from engaging in these types of activities. All of these prohibitions are rendered into one of the Police Department's policies (Policy 428). The policy in part says "no member of our agency shall detain any individual based on a civil violation of federal immigration law," amongst a myriad of other caveats. The Morton Grove Police Department is not engaged in assisting federal law enforcement in our duties.
- c. In response to Bill's question, Chief Weitzel said if anyone is approached by someone masked, not showing identification, or purporting to be police officer, whether local or federal, the person being approached should certainly feel free to call 9-1-1. The MGPD can help with issues like identifying anyone who actually has bona fides in law enforcement.

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

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

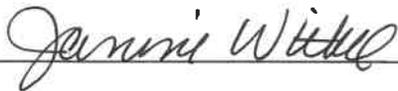
Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

PASSED this 12th day of August 2025.

Trustee Khan _____
Trustee Minx _____
Trustee Shiba _____
Trustee Thill _____
Trustee Travis _____
Trustee White _____

APPROVED by me this 12th day of August 2025.



Janine Witko, Village President
Board of Trustees, Morton Grove, Illinois

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 13th day of August 2025.

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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar