

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE  
RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White. Trustee Saba Khan was absent with notice.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

**Motion passes unanimously via voice vote with 1 absent.**

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

1. **Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge Award**
  - a. Mayor Witko called Paul Rizzo of the Illinois Department Law Enforcement Alliance to the podium to present the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge Award. Mr. Rizzo said he's been doing this for 34 years. He said it never gets old—coming to a board meeting and presenting an award to people who do so much work, and such good work, always doing more with less, always being out front of people showing that traffic enforcement is law enforcement.
  - b. Mr. Rizzo noted that, in the category of Municipal Agencies with 36–50 officers, Morton Grove took first place, and also received a Railroad Safety Award. He congratulated Chief Weitzel and the officers at the podium.
  - c. Mayor Witko commented, “We have the best and we know it.” She asked Chief Weitzel if he'd like to say a few words. Chief Weitzel thanked Mr. Rizzo and said this Traffic Safety Challenge program was Mr. Rizzo's idea (along with one other person), adding his gratitude to Mr. Rizzo for still doing this 34 years later. Chief Weitzel singled out Sgt. Nick Hoffman, who oversees all the department's traffic efforts, and Officer Mike Zachacki, who was one of the primary authors of the submission, who did a terrific job. The chief also recognized all the sworn police officers who go out every day and try to make this a safe municipality for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- d. Chief Weitzel then shifted gears, noting that one of the most persistent dangers on our roadways is intoxicated drivers. Each year, thousands of lives are lost nationwide due to impaired driving crashes. In 2023, the last year for which we have confirmed numbers, there were 13,000 deaths in the country due to intoxicated driving. The chief said there's an organization called Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AIM). It's a state-wide nonprofit organization that is one of the leading voices in raising awareness, supporting victims, and recognizing law enforcement officers who have made an impact on DUI enforcement. The following people have been recognized by AIM: Robert Berrato, Lindsay LaPaglia, and Detective Carlos Zima. These three individuals have received citations from AIM for their outstanding efforts. Mayor Witko congratulated them, and the entire Morton Grove Police Department, for being the best.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

VI. PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

NONE

VII. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

NONE

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Mayor Witko proclaimed the week of September 17–September 23, 2025, as **Constitution Week** in the Village. She said the Constitution of the United States is the guardian of our liberties. It embodies the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law. It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this outstanding document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion. Mayor Witko said Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States designating Constitution Week. She asked all residents of the Village to affirm the ideals of the framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by attentively protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.
2. Next, Mayor Witko proclaimed the month of September 2025 as **National Preparedness Month**. National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. It's important to promote emergency preparedness in our families, workplaces, and communities. Preparedness can help minimize both physical and economic damage, should a disaster occur.

VIII. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** (continued)

- a. Mayor Witko noted the theme for 2025’s National Preparedness Month is *Preparedness Starts at Home*. This focuses on getting back to the essentials of preparedness by promoting four key actions:
  - (1) Knowing your risk
  - (2) Making a family emergency plan
  - (3) Building an emergency supply kit, and
  - (4) Getting involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies.
  
- b. Mayor Witko encouraged all Village employees, officials, and residents to do everything possible to make preparedness a priority and to work together, as a team, to ensure the Village is prepared for disasters and emergencies of any type. Mayor Witko thanked all first responders for doing what they do!
  
- 3. Mayor Witko asked for the Board’s concurrence in her appointment of Stefan Johnson to the Police Pension Board. Mr. Johnson will be taking Joe Hedrik’s place. Mr. Hedrik is stepping down after 21 years of service. She thanked him for his tenure on the Police Pension Board. She said that Mr. Johnson currently has a role in Human Resources, Security, and Training with Abt. Prior to that, he served in the Village of Glenview’s Police Department, retiring as a Deputy Chief.

Trustee Travis moved to concur with Mayor Witko’s appointment of Stefan Johnson to the Police Pension Board. Trustee Minx seconded the motion.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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> |

IX. **CLERK’S REPORT**

Clerk Harford reported that, in line with Title 1, Chapter 7, Section 6 of the Village Code, she has appointed Chuck Meyer to serve as a Deputy Clerk for the Village, to provide support for her as Village Clerk.

X. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Village Administrator:

- 1. Mr. Meyer presented **A Request for a Motion to Reconsider Resolution 25-67, Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with Federal Signal Corporation for an Outdoor Warning Siren.**
  - a. Mr. Meyer explained that the Board had approved Resolution 25-67 at its August 26, 2025 Village Board meeting. The Resolution listed Braniff Communications, Inc. as the sole source vendor of the

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

Warning Siren. Subsequently, Braniff Communications, Inc. informed staff that the payment for the siren should be made to Federal Signal Corporation. As such, it is recommended that the Village amend Resolution 25-67 to correctly identify the vendor as Federal Signal Corporation. All costs and terms are the same as the original purchase agreement proposed in Resolution 25-67.

- b. This Resolution, as amended, will authorize an agreement with Federal Signal Corporation for the replacement of the inoperable sire and provide continuity of operation for the warning system. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$31,401, with \$10,000 coming from a Powering Safe Communities Grant.

Trustee Minx moved to amend Resolution 25-67 pursuant to Mr. Meyer’s recommendation. Trustee White seconded the motion.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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> |

Trustee Thill then moved to approve Resolution 25-67 as amended, seconded by Trustee Minx.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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> |

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES’ REPORTS**

A. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan was absent with notice—no report.

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

C. Trustee Shiba:

1. Trustee Shiba presented **Resolution 25-71, Authorizing an Agreement with Clarity Partners for Website Design and Website Hosting for the Village Website.**
  - a. He explained that the Village of Morton Grove maintains an official public-facing website as a source of information, news, event calendar, and related public online resources. Additionally, the Village’s official website promotes the Village’s brand while adhering to technical and regulatory requirements. In June 2025, the Information Technology Division initiated a public Request for Proposal (RFP) process to redesign the website to improve the visual appeal, the content layout, and adhere to existing and emerging regulatory requirements, as the previous website redesign was last done in 2019. Proposals were received and evaluated on cost, applicability, functionality, design, market presence, vendor presentations, references, and staff feedback. Clarity Partners of Chicago, IL provided the most suitable, cost-effective solution for the website design initiative.
  - b. Pending the finalization of the agreement, the cost of the design implementation is \$34,370, and the hosting cost is \$590 per year.

Trustee Shiba moved to approve Resolution 25-71, seconded by Trustee Minx.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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> |

D. Trustee Thill:

1. Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 25-72, Authorizing a Contract With DK Contractors, Inc. for the Fifth-Third Bank Make-Ready Utility Improvements.**
  - a. The Village, the Morton Grove Park District, and Fifth-Third Bank have agreements to redevelop properties as 6201 Dempster Street and 6210 Dempster Street. The Village agreed to install sewer and water utilities to the site at 6210 Dempster Street. The Village worked cooperatively with the site’s design engineers to design the utility improvements within the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) right-of-way and obtain a permit from IDOT for this work.
  - b. The Public Works Department solicited bids according to the requirements of the Municipal Code. DK Contractors, Inc. submitted the lowest bid with a bid amount of \$95,992.00. This contract must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$95,992.00

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-72, seconded by Trustee White.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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 Thill announced that the Public Works Department has started work on their Arterial Street Improvement Program for the following roads:

- **Beckwith Road from Shermer Road to Austin Avenue**
- **Central Avenue from Dempster Street to Golf Road**
- **Gross Point Road from Oakton Street to Main Street**
- **Shermer Road from Harlem Avenue to Golf Road**

This will impact residents along these roadways, and Trustee Thill said that letters have been sent out regarding these upcoming construction projects. Residents are also encouraged to visit the Village’s website for more information.

E. Trustee Travis:

- a. Trustee Travis introduced for a first reading **Ordinance 25-26, An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Municipal Code Entitled “Violations, Procedures, Penalties” to Add Section F Entitled “Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Peace Officer.”**
- b. She explained that the Village has experienced a significant rise in motorists fleeing or attempting to elude police. In 2018, the Police Department documented six (6) instances of motorists fleeing from traffic stops; by 2024, that number exceeded 50 per year.
- c. At the same time, the Police Department has adopted a restrictive pursuit policy designed to protect officers, safeguard the public, and reduce civil liability from pursuit-related vehicle crashes. This pursuit policy, aligned with industry standards and IRMA recommendations, authorizes pursuits only when an individual poses an imminent danger to human life if not arrested immediately, or has already caused great bodily harm. These circumstances are extremely rare in Morton Grove.
- d. Fleeing and eluding cases are difficult to investigate because criminal prosecution requires identifying the driver of the fleeing vehicle. The Police Department has determined that a local ordinance is needed to hold the registered owner of a motor vehicle accountable, when their vehicle is used to flee from or attempt to elude police.

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

E. Trustee Travis: (continued)

- e. If adopted, the Village and Police Department will engage in proactive communication with the community to discourage this crime. In addition, the Police Department will establish policies and procedures to impose penalties against vehicle owners whose cars are used to flee from police.

Trustee Travis said, as this is a first reading of this Ordinance, no action will be taken tonight.

- 2. Trustee Travis, as liaison to Niles Township, shared information for Morton Grove residents who reside in Niles Township. These are ways in which residents can get involved or help support Niles Township programs:

- **Food Rescue**—The Township partners with Trader Joe’s to rescue more than 25,000 pounds of food each month that would otherwise go to waste. Volunteers pick up donations, deliver them to the Food Pantry, and then help put items away. Pickups happen Tuesday mornings and Saturday evenings.
- **On-Site Pantry Days**—Every Thursday, volunteers help inside the Food Pantry with tasks like organizing and cleaning produce, stocking shelves, assisting shoppers, and cleaning up.
- **Respite Center Meal Program**—Volunteers go grocery shopping for the Township’s daily meal program (they cover the costs), preparing meals in the Township’s kitchen, or dropping off pre-made lunches for 30+ guests. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals or groups!

XI.

Trustee White:

F.

Trustee White had no formal report this evening.

XII.

**WARRANTS**

In Trustee Khan’s absence, Trustee Travis presented the Warrant Register for September 9, 2025 in the amount of \$767,447.57. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

|           |               |            |            |           |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Tr. Khan  | <u>absent</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> |

XIII.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Shiba reminded the assemblage that the Village’s annual Sustainability Expo and Recycling Fest is coming up on Saturday, September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event takes place in the Civic Center parking lot and offers fun for the whole family, including a welcoming ceremony at 10:00 a.m., a tree walk starting at 10:15 a.m., music from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and a raffle drawing at 12:45 p.m. Please visit the Village’s website to learn more about this event.

Trustee Thill encouraged residents to let leaves lie this fall. He pointed out that many butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of leaves, and when the leaves are gathered up for pick up, you’re potentially decimating the butterfly population. He said he hopes residents will give great consideration to this request.

XIV.

**RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS**

NONE

XV.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion passes unanimously via voice vote with 1 absent.**

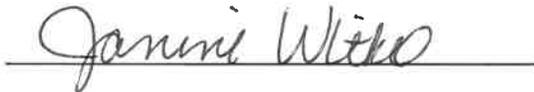
The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



PASSED this 23rd day of September 2025.

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Trustee Khan   | <u>Yes</u> |
| Trustee Minx   | <u>Yes</u> |
| Trustee Shiba  | <u>Yes</u> |
| Trustee Thill  | <u>Yes</u> |
| Trustee Travis | <u>Yes</u> |
| Trustee White  | <u>Yes</u> |

APPROVED by me this 23rd day of September 2025.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 24th day of September 2025.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar