

**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 23, 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 September 9, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

**Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.**

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

1. Announcing the Winners of the 2025 Summer Photo Contest, "Summer in Morton Grove"
  - a. Mayor Witko called Community Relations Commission Chairman Theresa Polyak and Trustee-liaison Connie Travis to the podium to present the contest winners.
  - b. Chairperson Polyak said she was proud to represent the CRC this evening. She explained that the CRC's purpose is to foster, encourage and stimulate the improvement of relations among and between citizens of all races, creeds, national origins and economic and educational levels; and to provide all individuals with an equal opportunity to grow and participate to the best of their ability, in the economic, educational, social, and cultural activities available in our community.
  - c. Ms. Polyak said there were many photo submissions for this contest, which made it difficult for the judges to decide. She said she was proud to recognize the exceptional talent of five residents:
    - Pam Alper (Overall Winner)
    - Melissa Heneghan
    - Kathryn Jackson
    - Ray Luedtke
    - Kim Rhodes

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- d. The winning photographers came up to the podium for photos to be taken of them with their artwork and with Village Board members.
- e. Ms. Polyak invited anyone interested in serving the Village to think about joining the Community Relations Commission. The Commission meets the third Monday of every other month at Village Hall in the second floor conference room at 6:30pm. The next meeting will be November 17, 2025, and everyone is welcome.
- f. Mayor Witko said, "It's nice to have this kind of talent in the Village," after complimenting the photographs on display.

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 October 5–October 11, 2025, as **Fire Prevention Week** in the Village. She said that Morton Grove is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our town, and fire is a serious public safety concern. Homes are the locations where people are at the greatest risk from fire. Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported fire almost in half. Smoke alarms sense smoke well before a person does; they alert residents to danger in the event of a fire in which you may have as little as two minutes to escape safely.
  - a. Morton Grove residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Once installed, smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month. Further, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will be more likely to survive a fire.
  - b. Morton Grove's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. Residents who are responsive to public

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

education measures are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes.

- c. The 2025 Fire Prevention Theme, "Charge into Fire Safety," serves to remind us of the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. Mayor Witko urged all the people of Morton Grove to make sure their homes have working smoke alarms and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Village's fire and emergency services.

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Harford had no formal report this evening.

X. **STAFF REPORTS**A. **Village Administrator:**

Mr. Meyer had no formal report this evening.

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, but announced that, on Saturday, October 4, from 11:00am to 2:00pm, the Fire Department will be holding its annual Open House at Fire Station 4, located at 6250 Lincoln Avenue. This year's event will include fun for the whole family, including games for kids and a live fire demonstration. We hope to see you there!

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)C. **Trustee Shiba:**

Trustee Shiba had no formal report this evening.

D. **Trustee Thill:**

1. Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 25-73, Authorizing a Contractual Agreement with Concentric Integration, LLC of Crystal Lake, IL, for the Purchase of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Hardware and Software to Support the Village of Morton Grove's Pump Station Water Distribution Operations.**
  - a. The Village's SCADA system at its two water pump stations automates and supports the efficient management of the Village's water distribution by monitoring water pressure, flow, and water level, detecting issues such as leaks, and ensuring optimal system performance while reducing operational costs and downtime.
  - b. The current SCADA system is hosted on hardware running Windows Server 2016, which will reach the end of its life on January 27, 2027, and will no longer receive security updates or technical support. The current SCADA software will reach end of service in October 2025 and incompatible with the latest Windows Server versions and Windows 11.
  - c. The Public Works Department, in coordination with the IT Division, recommends replacing the server hardware and upgrading the SCADA system to Windows Server 2025 and the latest versions of SCADA and alarm notification software to reduce the risk of equipment failure, feature obsolescence, and security vulnerabilities. The upgrade includes purchasing server hardware, one desktop computer, software licenses, and one year of subscription support and implementation services. Ongoing maintenance and support by Concentric will be provided on a time-and-materials basis. Additionally, data backup, anti-virus, and anti-malware protection, and remote monitoring and operations will be added after the implementation.
  - d. The pricing and licensing structure for this professional service was reviewed to ensure the fiscal responsibility of this agreement. This purchase is deemed a Professional Service and an approved exception to Competitive Bidding Requirements in line with Section 1-9A-4 titled "Competitive Purchasing Requirements" of the Village Code. The Public Works Department and the IT Division recommend continuing the professional service with Concentric Integration, LLC of Crystal Lake, IL, to maintain a consistent and seamless transition in pump station and water distribution network operations. Maintenance of the system by Concentric Integration, LLC will be billed on a time-and-materials basis.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$69,000.00.

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-73, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

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

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

- 2. Trustee Thill announced that Leaf Collection will begin on October 20. Residents cannot have other materials in their leaf pile. No bush trimming or any landscaper waste. He asked residents to please keep "Leaves ONLY" top of mind.

E. Trustee Travis:

- a. Trustee Travis presented **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."**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- b. Trustee Travis 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.
- 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.

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

E. Trustee Travis: (continued)

Trustee Travis moved to adopt Ordinance 25-26 as presented, seconded by Trustee White.

- e. Trustee Thill asked, if a car has been stolen, will the owner still be liable? Police Chief Mike Weitzel responded, "Not if the car has been reported stolen, and if the theft was reported **before** any situation involving perpetrators trying to elude the police."
- f. Trustee Shiba said he is aware that sometimes teens will "borrow" a parent's car without letting the parents know they're borrowing it. He asked what sort of liability the parents would have, since they would have been unaware of what transpired. Chief Weitzel said the parents would need to go to the police department and provide an affidavit acknowledging they were unaware of their car being borrowed by the family member. This must occur within 72 hours of the incident.

Mayor Witko then called for the vote on Ordinance 25-26.

**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 Travis, as liaison to Niles Township, shared information for Morton Grove residents who reside in Niles Township. The Township office serves as a full-service passport acceptance facility for Niles Township residents. They offer new passports and minor renewals by appointment only. Routine processing takes about 4–6 weeks; expedited service is available for a fee. Passport photos are offered on site for \$17. Bring proof of U.S. citizenship, a valid photo ID, your completed application, and payment by check or money order only—credit cards are not accepted. Reach out to the Niles Township office by phone at 847-673-9300 or on their website, [nilestownshipgov.com](http://nilestownshipgov.com), to schedule an appointment.

XI.

Trustee White:

F.

Trustee White had no formal report this evening.

XII.

**WARRANTS**

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for September 23, 2025 in the amount of \$430,203.97. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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

XII. WARRANTS (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. White	<u>aye</u>

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mayor Witko wished the Jewish residents of Morton Grove a happy Rosh Hashanah, which is the new year that started at sundown last night and will conclude tomorrow night at sundown.
2. Mayor Witko thanked all the residents who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the Neighborhood Outreach session last Thursday at Park View Elementary. She said she appreciated having the opportunity to speak with residents about what they want to see in our Village and how we are able to meet their needs.
3. Mayor Witko also thanked everyone who had participated in the Village’s annual Sustainability Expo, which had taken place on September 13. It was very well attended and quite successful! She especially thanked Public Works staff and the Environment and Natural Resources Commissioners.
4. Due to inclement weather, the annual Touch-a-Truck has been rescheduled to this coming Friday, September 26, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the American Legion Civic Center parking lot at 6140 Dempster. Please bring the whole family to see vehicles from the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments!

XIV. RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

NONE

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being 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 7:15 p.m.

PASSED this 14th day of October 2025.

Trustee Khan	<u>Abst</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 14th day of October 2025.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 15th day of October 2025.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar