

**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
JANUARY 13, 2026**

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, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White. Trustee Ashur Shiba was absent with notice.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passes unanimously via voice vote with 1 absent.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

- a. Mayor Witko quipped, "I've never felt so much support, or felt as safe as I do tonight," referencing a large contingent of police personnel in the assemblage tonight. She asked Chief Mike Weitzel to come to the podium.
- b. Chief Weitzel said he was pleased to bring forward three supervisory promotions with the Morton Grove Police Department. These promotions reflect the Department's ongoing need to place experienced, capable leaders into roles of increased responsibility, accountability, and service to both the organization and the community.
- c. The three promotions are Justin Hough to Sergeant, Nicholas Hoffman to Commander, and Eric Ficht to Deputy Chief.
- d. Chief Weitzel said each of these individuals has demonstrated consistent professionalism, sound judgment, and a readiness to take on broader leadership obligations. Their promotions ensure continuity in our operations and support the Department's long-term commitment to effective supervision, training, and community trust. He said, "I appreciate the Board's continued support of the Police Department, and I'm confident these promotions will serve both the organization and the Village well."

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS** (continued)

- e. Chief Weitzel invited Chairman Mike Simkins of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to come to the podium, along with Detective Justin Hough.
1. Mr. Simkins said it was a pleasure to be here and to see many of the individuals vetted by the Fire and Police Commission progressing in their careers. He went on to provide some background on Detective Justin Hough.
 - a. Justin is a 12-year veteran of the MGPD. He grew up on the northwest side of Chicago and is a 2001 graduate of Loyola Academy. He went on to attend Loyola University Chicago, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.
 - b. Justin spent the early portion of his career assigned to Patrol, where he distinguished himself through his work ethic and professionalism, earning numerous commendations. Throughout his career, he has served the Department in a wide range of assignments, including Defensive Tactics Instructor, Range Instructor, Scenario-Based Training Instructor, TASER Instructor, Lead the Way Instructor, Juvenile Officer, and Field Training Officer. In 2021, Justin was recognized as the Afternoon Shift Top Cop, and in 2022, he was selected as a class supervisor at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy, where he gained valuable experience training and preparing new recruits for careers in law enforcement.
 - c. Following that assignment, Justin was selected to serve as a Detective. He continued to expand his professional skill set, earning technical duty assignments in Digital Forensics and as a Department Drone Operator. He was recognized as the Top Cop for the Field Services Division in 2024, and over this past year, he has served as the MGPD's representative on the NORTAF Burglary Task Force.
 - d. Mr. Simkins asked Justin to acknowledge family members present tonight, and then performed the oath of office. Justin's wife, Natasha, pinned on his badge as the Board and assemblage enthusiastically congratulated Sergeant Justin Hough.
2. Chief Weitzel then invited Mayor Witko to the podium to continue the promotion activities. The chief introduced Nicholas Hoffman and asked him to come to the podium. He said Nick is a 19-year veteran of the Morton Grove Police Department, and is a lifelong resident of the northwest suburbs. He graduated from Glenbrook South HS in 2001 and went on to earn an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Oakton Community College in 2004.
 - a. Nick spent the early part of his career assigned to the Patrol Division, where he served in a variety of roles, including Field Training Officer, Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor, Evidence Technician, Juvenile Officer, and Tactical Medical Instructor. In 2020, Nick was selected to serve as a class supervisor at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy, where he was responsible for the training and development of new recruits. He also served as President of the FOP Lodge, during which time he organized several successful fundraising events in support of members and the community.

IV.

SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- b. Chief Weitzel noted that Nick was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2021. He was assigned to the midnight shift in this role, and provided steady leadership and operational oversight, while also taking on several department-wide responsibilities. Nick oversaw the Department's Peer Support Team and coordinated initiatives focused of officer wellness and organizational support. He also directed the Department's traffic enforcement efforts, working closely with officers and residents to address concerns related to hazardous traffic conditions. Under Nick's leadership, these efforts contributed to the Morton Grove Police Department being awarded first place in the 2024 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. Nick is also a graduate of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command.
 - c. Chief Weitzel asked Nick to introduce family members here this evening. These included his wife Molly, his children, and his parents. Mayor Witko performed the oath of office, and Nick's kids pinned on his badge as the assemblage warmly welcomed Commander Nick Hoffman.
3. Next, Chief Weitzel asked Eric Ficht to come to the podium. He said Eric is a 22-year veteran of the Morton Grove Police Department, who grew up in Chicago and graduated from Gordon Tech HS, then earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University.
 - a. The chief said Eric spent his career assigned to the Patrol Division, where he served in multiple capacities, including Field Training Officer and Evidence Technician. In 2017, he was chosen to serve as a class supervisor at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy, where he played a key role in the training and development of new recruits. In recognition of his dedication and professionalism, Eric was named Officer of the Year in 2013.
 - b. Eric was promoted to Sergeant in April of 2019 and then to Commander in November of 2022. Throughout his supervisory and command assignments, Eric has taken on increasing levels of responsibility, including oversight of the Department's Range, Defensive Tactics, and Scenario-Based Training programs. His leadership in these critical areas has directly supported officer safety, readiness, and professional development. Eric is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. Chief Weitzel noted that "law enforcement is a proud family tradition for Eric, and his father, brother, and uncle are all retired members of the Chicago Police Department."
 - c. Mayor Witko administered the oath of office and joined the assemblage in congratulating Deputy Chief Eric Ficht as Eric's wife pinned on his badge.
 - d. Eric asked to say a few words. He thanked all the members of the MGPD he's worked with, and also thanked his family for their support of his career, saying he knows it hasn't been easy.
 4. Mayor Witko returned to the dais, and she again congratulated the three MGPD officers who had been promoted this evening. She also thanked the families of those three officers because the families have to endure all the absences that come with their jobs.

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

NONE

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

NONE

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mayor Witko said she was excited to announce that Morton Grove has been recognized as a Thriving Community by the travel website "islands.com." They acknowledged Morton Grove as a thriving suburb with a family-friendly environment that offers fantastic food and recreational opportunities. The article emphasized all the park and recreational opportunities within the community, and homegrown restaurants like Bringer Inn and Kappy's American Grill. Mayor Witko encouraged residents to visit the Village's Facebook page to see this article.

2. Mayor Witko presented the Administrative Appointments for the calendar year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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|---|-----------------------|
| Village Administrator/Building Commissioner | Charles Meyer |
| Corporation Counsel | Teresa Hoffman Liston |
| Finance Director/Treasurer | Hanna Sullivan |
| Fire Chief | Dennis Kennedy |
| Chief of Police | Michael Weitzel |
| Director of Public Works | Michael Lukich |

Mayor Witko asked for a motion and second to confirm these administrative appointments.

Trustee Thill so moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to confirm these appointments.

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

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

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Clerk Harford said that, on January 7, 2026, she had attended the quarterly meeting of the Northwest Suburban Municipal Clerk's Association of the North & Northwest Suburbs of Cook County. Hosting this meeting was the Village of Skokie, with Mayor Anne Tennes delivering the opening remarks. The keynote speaker was Brad Cole, the Illinois Municipal League Executive Director. He discussed legislative updates and provided valuable resources for our village.
 - a. Clerk Harford said, we also received a copy of "Civics in Schools" booklets for elementary, middle school, and high schools, discussing how local government makes a difference in Illinois cities, villages, and towns. Additional copies can be requested at iml.org/civicsinschools.
2. Clerk Harford announced that the Village is sponsoring their first Senior Expo on Friday, March 13, from 9am to noon at the Morton Grove Civic Center, 6140 Dempster Street. Admission is free and there will be complementary refreshments. Attendees will be able to connect with local senior service providers as well as receive educational materials on health, wellness, transportation, housing, and more. No registration is required. Flyers will be available at Village Hall and at the Civic Center. If you have any questions, please call 847-663-3070.

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Mr. 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:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening, but announced that the next Citizens Police and Fire Academy will be starting on March 18 and will run through May 20, 2026. If anyone is curious about what MGPD and MGF D personnel do, please join the Academy. It will be every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To sign up, please visit www.mortongroveil.org.

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

- C. Trustee Shiba: *In the absence of Trustee Shiba, Trustee White provided his report.*
1. Trustee White presented **Ordinance 25-39, Amending Title 7 Entitled "Public Property and Utilities," Chapter 2 Entitled "Tree Preservation" of the Village of Morton Grove Municipal Code.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee White said that the Village recognizes the services and functions that trees provide as a collective asset to the Morton Grove community. In March of 2025, the Village was awarded a grant from the Chicago Region Trees Initiative at the Morton Arboretum to assist with street tree plantings throughout the community. In accepting the grant, the Village agreed to revise its tree preservation code to meet the organization's requirements. The proposed amendments are procedural in nature, have been approved the Morton Arboretum, and serve to further strengthen the Village's ordinance.
- b. At the request of staff, the Appearance Commission reviewed the proposed amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting on November 5, 2025, and voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend approval of the amendment as presented. If approved by the Village Board, staff will provide notice of the new tree preservation and protection regulations by updates to the Village's website and by mail (via the water bill), and will provide direct guidance as needed.

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 25-39, seconded by Trustee Travis.

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

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

- D. Trustee Thill:
1. Trustee Thill had no formal report this evening, but announced that the Village is currently offering free holiday light recycling. Recycling bins are located in the lobby of Village Hall and will be available until February 1, 2026.
2. Trustee Thill also reminded everyone that lithium batteries are dangerous and should not be included in your recycling. He suggested checking with Lowes, Menards, and Home Depot as they will take lithium batteries to dispose of them.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis presented **Resolution 26-01, Authorizing a Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the Purchase of Twelve (12) Taser 10 Devices and Accessories.**
 - a. She explained that, every year, staff reviews their current technology and equipment along with researching new technology and grants. During this process, staff determined that the Department's inventory of sixteen (16) Axon X2 Tasers were no longer under manufacturer warrant, have exceeded their recommended service life, and are experiencing an increasing rate of mechanical and operational failure. As less lethal weapons play a critical role in reducing injuries to officers and subjects, equipment reliability is essential for both safety and risk reduction. The Department applied for and was awarded a grant to support the acquisition of six (6) new Taser 10 packages through ILEAS. While this funding is appreciated and beneficial, the number awarded is insufficient for reasonable deployment or training coverage.
 - b. The Department determined it can responsibly reduce its taser inventory from sixteen (16) devices to twelve (12) devices while still maintaining appropriate coverage for all patrol officers and supervisors. By combining the six (6) Taser 10 packages awarded through the grant with the purchase of an additional six (6) Taser 10 packages, the Department may acquire a complete, fully modernized inventory of twelve (12) Taser 10s.
 - c. In a normal process to review the needs and possible solutions for the Village, several quotes would have been sought in a competitive process to find the lowest cost option for these services. However, several years ago, the Village entered into an agreement with Axon to handle body cameras, in-car video, ALPR, and digital evidence storage for the Police Department. Axon is the sole manufacturer and provider of taser conducted electrical weapons (CEWs) authorized and widely adopted for law enforcement use. As such, Village staff recommends not soliciting additional quotes and continuing the use of Axon for this purpose in order to enhance system functionality and integration across Village platforms. The total cost in 2026 is \$58,835.90. This includes a savings of \$9,522.42 for bundling items and returning sixteen (16) Taser X2 devices.

Trustee Travis said the \$58,835.90 would be paid by the ILEAS grant (\$21,600) and the Department's Asset Forfeiture Fund (\$37,235.90). She moved to approve Resolution 26-01, seconded by Trustee White.

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

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

2. Trustee Travis gave a brief report on the Niles Township Food Pantry. She said that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for 3,330 Township families are facing new challenges and delays. For every 9 meals that SNAP covers, food pantries provide only 1. Niles Township can't possibly fill that gap along.

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

E. Trustee Travis: (continued)

- a. Trustee Travis continued, stating that the Township is urging people to work together in order to see the incredible difference our community makes when people work together to support one another. The Township is trying to get 1,000 neighbors to commit to \$20 per month (less than the cost of a takeout meal), they can provide our community with fresh produce, fresh meat, eggs, culturally sensitive foods, pantry staples, hygiene items, and diapers. To become a monthly donor, sign up at nilestownshipgov.com. When you give today, you're not just filling a plate; you're fueling hope, strengthening families, and building a stronger, more connected Niles Township.

F. Trustee White:

Trustee White had four Ordinances to present this evening. Each is a second reading, so they will be voted upon tonight.

1. **Ordinance 25-40, Amending Title 12 Entitled "Unified Development Code," Chapter 3 Entitled "Regulation of Specific Uses in All Zoning Districts" to Establish Section 12-3-9 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove to Regulate the Installation and Use of Solar Energy Collection Systems.**
- a. Trustee White said the Community and Economic Development Department continuously reviews and updates the Unified Development Code as needed to keep regulations current and to promote predictable and desirable development. The text amendments in this ordinance are based on input received by Village staff throughout 2024 and staff discussion with the Plan Commission in December 2024 and March 2025.
- b. The Village, as the Applicant, submitted a complete application to the Plan Commission under Case PC25-04 requesting text amendments to Chapter 12-3 of Title 12 to regulate the installation and use of solar energy collection systems. On November 18, the Applicant appeared before the Plan Commission to present the request for approval of the application made under PC25-04. Following Plan Commission input received in previous meetings, language was added to allow grid-connect solar energy collection systems to obtain special use permits to sell energy for use off-site. The proposed language also requires decommissioning plans for all solar energy collection system installations in commercial or industrial zoning districts. The revised text amendments were unanimously approved by the Plan Commission (5-0).

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 25-40, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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

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

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

F. Trustee White: (continued)

2. **Ordinance 25-41, Approving a Special Use Permit to Authorize the Expansion and Modification of an Existing School at the Property Commonly Known as 9000 Belleforte Avenue, Morton Grove, IL.**

- a. Trustee White said this special use permit had been requested by DLA Architects, Ltd., on behalf of Golf School District 67 for the expansion of the existing Hynes Elementary School.
- b. The school expansion would include the addition of a new administrative office to the west of the current multi-purpose room and would form a new primary entrance to the school. A second addition that would serve as a new media center is proposed for a portion of the school currently consisting of an interior courtyard. Several existing classrooms and hallways would be removed as part of the project. A pair of classrooms currently housed in a temporary structure and connected via a walkway with plastic vestibule on the west side of the school would be removed as part of the project. Required stormwater management would be provided by a new detention basin to be located in the northeast corner of the subject property along the National Avenue frontage.
- c. Hynes Elementary School was constructed in the mid-twentieth century and there are no known special use permits or other ordinances regulating the current structure. Schools are a special use within the R-2 zoning district and expansion of the existing school requires a Special Use Permit.
- d. The case has been unanimously approved by the Appearance Commission, the Traffic Safety Commission, and the Plan Commission, although the Plan Commission had conditions relating to landscaping, lighting, traffic signs, and traffic circulation.

Trustee White moved, seconded by Trustee Travis, to adopt Ordinance 25-41.

- e. Trustee Thill asked if the tree issue had been resolved. Village Administrator Meyer responded that the Village will be working together with the Park District and School District 69 on this matter.

Mayor Witko called for the vote on Ordinance 25-41.

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

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

3. **Ordinance 25-42, Approving a Preliminary Plat of Subdivision and Special Use Permit with Associated Waivers for a 60-Unit Mixed-Use Development on Property Commonly Known as 8500–8550 Lehigh Avenue and a 0.531-Acre Portion of the Chestnut Street Right-of-Way Petitioned for Vacation in Morton Grove, IL.**

- a. Trustee White explained that 8500 MG LLC, the Applicant, submitted complete applications requesting approval of a Preliminary Plat of Subdivision and Special Use Permit for the Village-owned property at 8500–8550 Lehigh Avenue and a portion of the Chestnut Street right-of-way

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

F. Trustee White: (continued)

- a. located directly west of the Lehigh Avenue right-of-way, measuring approximately 0.531 acres, petitioned for vacation under PC25-08, which was considered by the Plan Commission on November 18, 2025.
- b. The Applicant proposed to acquire approximately 2.049 acres in Village-owned property and Chestnut Street right of way for the construction of a four-story mixed-use development, with ground floor commercial uses and 60 residential units. Site improvements will include an outdoor seating area, parking area, shared access drive, and landscape areas.
- c. The developer is proposing 124 parking spaces to the rear of the principal structure to serve the mixed-use development, which exceeds the Code's reduced transit-oriented development parking requirement of 120 spaces and the demand of 121 spaces established in the submitted traffic and parking impact study. Vehicular access to the development and the Moose Family Center at 6149 Chestnut will be provided by a two-lane shared access drive at the site's southern lot line. Also, the Applicant is proposing to construct nine (9) parking spaces on abutting property to be dedicated to the Loyal Order of the Moose No. 376 for use by the Moose Family Center.
- d. The developer is requesting waivers for rear yard impermeable coverage, open accessory parking space setback, dwelling units per acre, residential unit location, façade transparency, public parkway trees, and parking lot screening abutting private property.
- e. The Appearance Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed development, with conditions. The Traffic Safety Commission voted unanimously to recommend approve of the proposed development with comments. The Plan Commission, based on the Application, supporting staff report, and testimony presented at public hearings, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Preliminary Plat of Subdivision and the Special Use Permit, with conditions relating to site design and operation.

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 25-42, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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

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

4. **Ordinance 25-43, Approving a Plat of Vacation of a Portion of the Chestnut Street Right-of-Way Located Directly West of Lehigh Avenue and Measuring Approximately 0.531 Acres in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. Trustee White said the proposed vacation will make available for redevelopment by 8500 MG LLC approximately 350 linear feet of a 66-foot wide Village right-of-way, a portion of which will be dedicated to the Loyal Order of the Moose No. 376 for the construction of nine parking spaces,

XI. TRUSTEES’ REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee White: (continued)

improved with an asphalt roadway, pedestrian facilities, landscape areas, utilities, and signage. Chestnut Street currently dead ends to the west at property owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

- b. The street currently services the Moose Family Center at 6149 Chestnut Street, vacant property owned by the Village at 8500 Lehigh Avenue, and a commuter parking lot owned by the Village at 8550 Lehigh Avenue, which was constructed as a temporary use. The property at 8500–8550 Lehigh Avenue and the portion of public right of way proposed for vacation are collectively described as Site E by the Lehigh-Ferris Framework Plan under Ordinance 09-01. The Plan identifies Site E as a preferred site for higher density residential development. The proposed vacation provides the developer with additional contiguous land area to facilitate the 60-unit mixed-use development of Village-owned property under Case 95-07.

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 25-43, seconded by Trustee Travis.

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

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

XII. WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for January 13, 2026 in the amount of \$365,665.33. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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

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

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIV. RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

Mayor Witko noted that each speaker would be allowed 4 minutes to talk.

- 1. **Laura Frisch** was concerned about all the building that’s going on in Morton Grove and urged the Board to look at their own ordinances, especially when concerning density. There has to be a balance between having all these buildings without a plan for keeping green space.

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (continued)

- a. Another issue Ms. Frisch brought up was the fact that the last leaf pick-up that was supposed to occur did not, due to a snowstorm. She said she tried picking them up herself but there's grease and oil on them. She was told to put the leaves under her bushes but she won't, because of the grease and oil on them. She said she thought the Village had finished its leaf pick-up in early December, but when she called Public Works about this problem, they told her the Village stopped picking up leaves about a week ago. She said no notice was given to residents about this. The leaves are hazardous because they attract rodents and they're clogging sewers. She said she took a walk around the Village and there were leaves blocking every sewer. And, while on her walk, she saw a large rat at School and Crain.

2. **Kevin Jenetten** was also unhappy about the building going on and said he felt the Village was losing its character. The developments, for example Sawmill Station, might be nice but because of them, there's all kinds of garbage in the forest preserves, where there had been virtually none before. He also felt the rules weren't being enforced, for example, there is "no parking" by the McDonald's, but he constantly sees school buses parking there.

3. **Carlos Gonzalez** echoed some of the comments regarding the Village's accelerated growth. He said it is important to maintain the Village's character. He said well-being was one of the reasons he and his family moved here. The schools and the green space were his two most important reasons for moving here. He noted that "this site" (where the current Village Hall and Police Station are) could be quite a unique site. Mayor Witko said there are a lot of rumors in the community speculating about condominium or townhome developments on this site, but there is nothing on the drawing board at this time.

4. **David Jenetten** said the amount of building going on is terrible, really disgusting. He noted that he had gone to school back in the day when this site was a school. He said this building is part of the Village's history and no one should be in a big hurry to demolish it and put something else up. It would be tragic if that were to happen.

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee White.

Motion passes unanimously via voice vote, with 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

PASSED this 27th day of January 2026.

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| 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 White | <u>aye</u> |

APPROVED by me this 27th day of January 2026.

Janine Witko

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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 28th day of January 2026.

Eileen Scanlon Harford

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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar