

**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
DECEMBER 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 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 November 25, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passes unanimously via roll call.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

NONE

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

Mayor Witko said there were several updates to Plan Commission Cases this evening, and Brandon Nolin, Community Development Administrator, would present them. Mr. Nolin said he would be presenting four cases tonight and asked for the Board's patience because a couple were longer than usual.

1. **PC25-04: Request for approval of various Text Amendments to establish Sections 12-3-9 and 12-3-10 of the Morton Grove Unified Development Code (Title 12) to provide guidance for the installation and use of solar energy collection systems.**

- a. Mr. Nolin said that this case was similar to an earlier draft seen by the Board, except this one includes the ability to sell power back to the grid via a special use. Decommissioning requirements have been established as well. The Plan Commission voted unanimously (5-0) on November 18 to approve these text amendments.
2. **PC25-07: Request for approval of a Preliminary Plat of Subdivision in accordance with Chapter 12-8 of the Morton Grove Municipal Code, and Special Use Permits for a 60-unit mixed-use development with ground floor commercial space in a C/R Commercial/Residential District (12-4-3) with variations for rear year impermeable coverage (12-2-5:B.3), setback for open accessory parking spaces and balconies (12-2-6:G), façade transparency (12-5-7:A.3.k), dwelling units per acre (12-5-7:C), residential unit location (12-5-7:D.1), parkway trees (12-11-2:B.4), and parking lot screening abutting private property (12-11-3:B.2) for the property commonly known as 8500-8550 Lehigh Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin said this case, and the next one, PC25-08, are grouped together. In PC25-07, 8500 MG LLC, present this evening, is requesting approval for a planned 60-unit development in a four-story building. The project includes a little over 4,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, with an outdoor plaza/café on the north end of the building. The Plan Commission voted unanimously (6-0) in favor for the proposed project on September 16, 2025. Mr. Nolin pointed out that, subsequent to the Plan Commission's approval, the Village received some comments from residents at the Morton House Condominiums. Mr. Nolin said the Village has coordinated with the development team, who indicated they'd be willing to make some accommodations in response to the residents' comments.
 3. **PC25-08: Request for approval of a Plat of Vacation for a portion of the Chestnut Street right of way located directly west of the Lehigh Avenue right of way in Morton Grove, IL, and measuring approximately 0.531 acres, in accordance with Section 12-9-5 of the MG Municipal Code.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin said, in this related case, 8500 MG LLC is again the Applicant, along with the Loyal Order of the Moose No. 376, and is requesting approval of the vacation of a 0.531 acre portion of Chestnut Street, which is required for the project discussed in PC25-07. The Plan Commission voted unanimously (5-0) on November 18 to approve this request.
 - b. Mr. Nolin said, as required by Village Code in validating the vacation, the Village Administrator and staff found that the vacation will benefit the public interest by optimizing the project site footprint to support a walkable and vibrant mixed-use development that meets the requirements of the proposed development; that easements should be retained for the maintenance of public utilities and for vehicular and pedestrian access. It is also recommended that each owner should take title of the centerline of the right of way, and appropriate compensation of the property will be determined by the Village as part of a forthcoming redevelopment agreement.
 4. **PC25-12: Request for a Special Use Permit to allow the expansion and modification of an existing school at the property commonly known as 9000 Belleforte Avenue in Morton Grove, IL, all within a R-2 Single Family Residence District pursuant to Section 12-4-2:C.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin said that this is a request from DLA Architects Ltd on behalf of Hynes School to allow for the expansion and modification of the existing school. The school expansion would include the

addition of a new administration 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 interior courtyard. A pair of classrooms currently housed in a temporary structure would be removed as part of the project, and the parking lot would be reconfigured. The number of trees proposed for the interior parking lot falls short of Village requirements. The Plan Commission unanimously (5-0) voted to approve this Special Use Permit request with the condition that 12 trees be planted elsewhere on the property or on another property.

- b. Trustee Thill asked if the Board was going to be voting on any of these cases this evening. Mayor Witko said the Ordinances for each case would be a first reading tonight. Trustee Thill asked if a decision had been made as to where the 12 trees would go. Mr. Nolin said there's some flexibility in the Ordinance to allow the developer to confer with the Village Administrator and staff as to where the 12 trees should be planted. Trustee Thill asked if any construction had begun on the property. Mr. Nolin said a revised landscape plan or a plan for the trees on another property was a requirement before a building permit could be issued.

VII. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

1. **June Mire**, a resident in the Morton House Condominiums, said she has already submitted formal comments, so she'd keep it brief. She and several others who couldn't be here tonight due to mobility issues, have three main concerns. First, security, especially because their property backs up directly to the new development. The residents are concerned about people cutting through there, so they are requesting that a solid wall be installed and designed so it won't be a problem later. A second concern is lighting. There should be no floodlights at the new development. And third, vegetation. She and others at the Condos have been working hard to replace non-native plants with native plants, and they hope the new development will do the same.
2. **Christine Correlli**, also a Morton House Condominium resident, was concerned that a fence would be installed, replacing a wall that's currently there. In fact, she'd prefer that the wall be extended, and pointed out that it's solid. She said she was excited about the development but would be a lot happier if the existing wall could be extended.
3. **Lisa Khabeer** thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to speak and said she was glad the Board is listening. She noted that the mayor in Elgin is stepping up against ICE and saying, "It is not okay, what ICE is doing in our Village," and the Chief of Police in Minneapolis is saying, "When you see masked, armed people kidnapping people, call 9-1-1 because we are not going to allow that to happen."
- a. Ms. Khabeer said she was glad that signage is going up, but felt it doesn't do enough. She said early voting will be starting on February 2, 2026. Then or shortly thereafter, the federal government will be sending 1,000 or more agents back to the Village. She said there's no reason why we cannot have our police department ready and prepared for that, just like they're doing in Evanston, where there are people with no ID, wearing masks, carrying weapons, deploying tear gas, even spraying pepper spray into people's eyes. She urged the Board to not be limited by things they can't do. She pointed out that ICE is not playing by the rules, and wondered so why should the Village? They are

violating our rights every day. She closed by telling the Board, “You’ve got to stand up for us. We’re depending on you. I’m depending on you.”

- b. Mayor Witko said, for clarification, that Ms. Khabeer wasn’t addressing anything on tonight’s Agenda, so technically, she should have waited till the end of the meeting. She noted if anyone else had similar comments, they could come up and speak at the Residents’ Comments portion of the meeting that comes near the end.

VIII.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- 1. Mayor Witko proclaimed the month of December as Niles Township Food Pantry Awareness Month. She urged residents to support the efforts of the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation by making a monetary donation to the Food Pantry’s Holiday Gift Car Drive and, or donating toiletry items and non-perishable foods.
 - a. Mayor Witko noted that the Niles Township Food Pantry began as a single shelf in the Township building at 5255 Lincoln in Skokie. It then grew to the back room of the building with one full-time employee. In 2009, the Food Pantry was re-established in the Township annex building at 8341 Lockwood. She said, in 2024, the Food Pantry served more than 72,800 individuals and about 3,300 separate households (more than 8 percent of the total households in Niles Township). There continues to be a profound demand for emergency food due to multiple factors, and the demand for food banks, like the Niles Township Food Pantry, is more critical than ever. Mayor Witko then presented the Proclamation to Niles Township Trustee Mazhar Khan, and called on Trustee Travis, as the liaison to the Township, to provide an update.
 - b. Trustee Travis commented that, this week, the Township is especially low on toiletries, baby diapers, baby food, and baby wipes. These items help our neighbors meet their most basic needs, and they go quickly. She encouraged people to pick up an extra item on their next trip to the store and drop it off at the Pantry. Every donation keeps their shelves stocked and our community supported.
- 2. Next, Mayor Witko presented the Board and Commission Chair Appointments for 2026. No action is needed on this item. The appointments run from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

a.

Advisory Commission on Aging	Hope Hornstein, Chairperson
Appearance Commission	John Pietron, Chairperson
Community Relations Commission	Theresa Polyak, Chairperson
Economic Development Commission	Mark Fernandez, Chairperson
Environment & Natural Resources Commission	Georgianne Brunner, Chairperson
Fire and Police Commission	Michael Simkins, Chairperson
Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals	Chris Kintner, Chairperson
Special Events Commission	Paul Minx, Chairperson
Traffic Safety Commission	Amit Shah, Chairperson

- Next, Mayor Witko reminded the assemblage that the Village Board Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm, with the first hour reserved for Closed Session, and the public portion begins at 7:00 pm. Board Meetings are held in the Council Chambers.

The 2026 meeting schedule is as follows:

January 13	May 12	September 8
January 27	May 26	September 22
February 10	June 9	October 13
February 24	June 23	October 27
March 10	July 14	November 10
March 24	July 28	November 24
April 14	August 11	December 8
April 28	August 25	December 22 (cancelled)

- Mayor Witko noted that the regular meetings of the following Boards and Commissions of the Village will be held at the following times and locations:

	TIME	DATES	LOCATION	STAFF LIAISON
Advisory Commission on Aging	1:00pm	2 nd Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December	Civic Center	Zoe Heidorn
Appearance Review Commission	7:00pm	1 st Tuesday of the month	Council Chambers	Brandon Nolin
Community Relations Commission	6:30pm	January 12, 2026, and the 3 rd Monday of March, May, July, September, and November	Scanlon Conference Room	Terry Liston
Economic Development Commission	7:00pm	2 nd Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December	Scanlon Conference Room	Brandon Nolin
Environment & Natural Resources Commission	6:00pm	1 st Monday of February, April, June, August, October, December	Scanlon Conference Room	Zoe Heidorn

Fire and Police Commission	1:00pm	4 th Tuesday of the month	Fire Station #4	Mike Weitzel Dennis Kennedy
Fire Pension Board		Quarterly (varies)	Fire Station #4	Hanna Sullivan
Plan Commission/ Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00pm	3 rd Tuesday of the month	Council Chambers	Brandon Nolin
Police Pension Board		Quarterly (varies)	Police Station	Hanna Sullivan
Special Events Commission	6:00pm	3 rd Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December	Public Works 7840 Nagle	Zoe Heidorn
Traffic Safety Commission	7:00pm	1 st Thursday of the month	Council Chambers	Chris Tomich

This meeting and location schedule will also be available on the Village’s website.

5. Next, Mayor Witko said, in addition to their normal roles with the Village, our elected officials serve as liaisons to Boards and Commissions, Departments, and partner governments. She said she'd like to continue the same assignments for 2026, with the addition of Trustee White being assigned to the new proposed Dempster Street TIF.
- **Trustee Khan:** Finance Department and Appearance Commission
 - **Trustee Minx:** Fire Department, Fire Pension Board, Fire & Police Commission, Special Events Commission, RED Center, NIPSTA
 - **Trustee Shiba:** Building Department, Environment & Natural Resources, Legal Department, IT Department, Sawmill Station TIF District
 - **Trustee Thill:** Public Works Department, SWANCC, MG-Niles Water Commission, Traffic Safety Commission
 - **Trustee Travis:** Police Department, Police Pension Fund, Fire & Police Commission, Community Relations Commission, Niles Township
 - **Trustee White:** Community & Economic Development Department, Economic Development Commission, Plan Commission/Zoning Board; Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District, Dempster Street TIF District
 - **Clerk Harford:** Family & Senior Services, Advisory Commission on Aging, Maine Township
 - **Mayor Witko:** Administration Department, Council of Mayors, NWMC, Strategic Plan
6. Mayor Witko commented that, over the last several weeks, the Village has experienced several snowstorms. To date, we've witnessed over 17 inches of snow this season, including 6.7 inches in December already. As always, our Public Works Department has risen to the occasion. Personnel have worked all hours of the day and in inclement conditions to clear our streets and keep the community safe. She thanked the Public Works staff for all of their work so far this year, and said, "Our community thanks you as well."
7. Speaking of snow clearing, Mayor Witko said the Village operates a program to connect young adults with neighbors to provide shoveling assistance. The Village is currently looking for high-school age students to participate in the program and earn some money helping their neighbors. To learn more, please visit the "Snow Shoveling and Lawn Care Program" page on the Village website.
8. Mayor Witko presented a Metra Station update. She said the Village is anticipating that on Monday, December 15, the Village's new Metra station will be complete and open to the public. The Village is still finalizing the station but is excited to say that it will be open for commuters starting next week. Following the new station's opening, the process of demolishing the old station will begin. Commuters should visit the Village's website to stay up to date on any changes and impacts due to the building demolition.

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford highlighted a couple of Senior Services the Village provides to its senior. One is the Senior Ride Share Program. This program offers free Lyft rides to qualified residents who are at least 65 years old. Scheduled rides are provided to grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical appointments within Morton Grove. Rides are also available to medical appointments and most

area hospitals and medical buildings. To learn more or to participate, please get in touch with the Village's Social Worker, Liz Schild, at 847-663-3070. Another program Clerk Harford notes is the Village's free Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, and Blood Sugar Screenings. The Village provides these every Wednesday from 9:00 am to noon at the Civic Center, 6140 Dempster Street. No appointment is needed.

X. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Village Administrator:

1. Mr. Meyer presented **Ordinance 25-38, Amending Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 4 Entitled "Fees For Specific Permits, Licenses, Certificates, And Services" Of The Municipal Code Of The Village Of Morton Grove To Update The Ambulance Transport Fees.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program is a federally funded Medicaid program that allows communities to be reimbursed for providing ambulance transportation services.
- b. GEMT has increased its ambulance transportation rate to \$2,710 per transport. This Ordinance will increase the fees for ambulance transportation services in the amount of \$2,500 to account for the correct reimbursement rate provided by the GEMT Program and to make the Village whole for costs associated with this service.

- c. Mr. Meyer asked for a motion to Ordinance 25-38. Motion was made by Trustee Minx and seconded by Trustee Khan. Mayor Witko asked if the Board had any questions.

Trustee Thill asked if this increase would be passed on to non-residents only, or to residents as well. Mr. Meyer said both. Trustee Thill said that didn't sound right. Fire Chief Dennis Kennedy explained that the GEMT rate is a calculated rate that we work with Medicare and the federal government for.

- d. Chief Kennedy stated it has been determined that, on average, it costs us, as a Village, \$2,710 to transport somebody to the hospital. Trustee Thill asked if the residents' and non-residents' rates are the same, and the chief said yes. The difference is, for a non-resident that currently would be billed the \$2,500 we've been charging, we're now requesting an increase to \$2,710. With a resident, the cost will also increase to \$2,710, but the Department will take whatever amount the resident's insurance or Medicare will pay, without asking the resident for anything out-of-pocket. Chief Kennedy noted that \$2,710 was based on the Village's actual costs in 2024. Trustee Thill asked if the ambulance is sterilized after each run. Chief Kennedy said yes, it's completely disinfected. Trustee Thill said he thinks a lot of people think it's just taking a person from Point A to Point B. Chief Kennedy said there's a lot more involved in ambulance transport than people think.

There being no further questions from the Board, Mayor Witko called for a roll call vote on Ordinance 25-38.

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

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.

Mr. Meyer then presented **Resolution 25-81, Authorizing A Professional Services Agreement With EO Sullivan, LLC Of Libertyville, IL, For Lobbying Services On Behalf Of The Village Of Morton Grove.**

He explained that earlier this year, the Village had issued a request for proposals for lobbying services. The Village received three timely responses. EO Sullivan, LLC, provided a comprehensive plan to address the Village’s need for developing a lobbying program for the new Police Department and Village Hall, and addressing other financial needs and regulatory interests. EO Sullivan includes an impressive team of Ed Sullivan, Dan Shomon, and Corryn Bradley. The team demonstrated in their proposal and interview a clear understanding of the Village’s needs and how to best position the Village for lobbying efforts. The selection committee including the Village Administrator, the Assistant Village Administrator, Police Chief, Finance Director, and Corporation Counsel recommended EO Sullivan, LLC to be chosen to provide lobbyist services to the Village, and this Resolution will authorize an agreement with EO Sullivan to perform these services. The fiscal impact of this resolution is \$55,000, which includes the annual retainer expense of \$54,000 plus costs associated with requisite filings with the State for a registered lobbyist on behalf of the Village.

Trustee Travis moved to approve Resolution 25-81, seconded by Trustee White. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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>

A.

3. Village Administrator: (continued)

Lastly, Mr. Meyer reminded the assemblage that the Village’s second Board Meeting in December has been cancelled. The Village’s administrative offices will be closed on December 25, 2025, and on January 1, 2026.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

A. Trustee Khan:

1. Trustee Khan presented **Ordinance 25-37, Authorizing An Amendment To The Village Of Morton Grove 2025 Adopted Budget.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Khan explained that the Budget for Calendar Year 2025 was adopted on November 27, 2024, which was prior to when the Village purchased property for a new Village Hall and Police Station. Title 1, Chapter 9D, Section 6 of the Municipal Code allows the adopted budget to be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Corporate Authorities. Architectural services were needed to draft plans for the remodel and an addition to the new Village facilities. These costs were dependent on the purchase of the property, which was not certain at the time the budget was passed. The Village has also become aware of grant opportunities to reimburse the Village for the purchase of additional parkway trees. This ordinance will approve an amendment to the 2025 Adopted Budget to reflect these 2025 expenditures.

Trustee Khan moved to adopt Ordinance 25-37, seconded by Trustee Minx. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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 Khan thanked the Public Works Department for doing amazing work with our snowstorms thus far.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening, but echoed Trustee Khan's praise for the Public Works Department. She also reported that the event Santa Comes to Town, sponsored by the Special Events Commission and the Park District, was very successful, with 325 children visiting with Santa and the Prairie View Center. She thanked the staff of the Park District and everyone who volunteered to help with this event, and wished happy, healthy holidays to all.

C. Trustee Shiba: *In the absence of Trustee Shiba, Trustee White provided his report.*

1.

Trustee White introduced **Ordinance 25-39, Amending Title 7 Entitled “Public Property And Utilities,” Chapter 2 Entitled “Tree Preservation” Of The Village Of Morton Grove Municipal Code.**

a.

He 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 said, as this is a first reading, no action will be taken this evening.

2.

Next, Trustee White presented **Resolution 25-82, Authorizing A Contractual Agreement With Dell, Inc. To Renew The Microsoft Enterprise Agreement For Microsoft Software Licensing For Operating And Productivity Software For Village Staff And Users.**

a.

He explained that the Village is required to maintain licensing for the software it uses in daily operations. The operating system, individual applications, cloud services, and connectivity to servers all maintain their own licensing scheme. The Enterprise Agreement licensing structure and software maintenance structure was originally established in 2008. The use of an Enterprise Agreement has advantages over individual purchases, including lower platform costs, distributed payments, anniversary period renewals, and software upgrade assurances. The pricing and licensing structure for 2026 was competitively reviewed to ensure the fiscal responsibility of this agreement, and the IT Department Manager has recommended the Village renew its contract with Dell, Inc. of Round Rock, Texas, a large account reseller of Microsoft Software products, and maintains the current pre-negotiated State of Illinois reseller master blanked purchase order 25-448DOIT-INFOT-P-69783 for Microsoft Enterprise Agreement licensing.

b.

The Enterprise Agreement renewal includes an annual maintenance fee for updates and upgrades (Microsoft Software Assurance) and license costs. The license pricing is held stable for three (3) annual renewal periods if there are no adjustments to license quantity. The 2026 renewal is the third renewal period of the three stable pricing periods through the State of Illinois contract. This payment covers the license and maintenance period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and the Resolution is prepared before the expiration date for business continuity. The fiscal impact of this resolution for 2026 is \$63,249.05 for licensing and software maintenance expense.

Trustee White moved to approve Resolution 25-82, seconded by Trustee Thill. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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 presented **Resolution 25-83, Authorizing A Contract With Advanced Tree Care, Inc. Of Lincolnshire, IL, For The 2026 Tree Trimming Program.**
 - a. He explained that the annual tree trimming program is necessary to maintain the health and appearance of the Village’s tree canopy, and to maintain a safe passageway for the public traveling beneath trees with the Village’s rights-of-way. The Village annually contracts with tree experts to assist in trimming parkway trees. The contract being considered, as permitted under the Village Municipal Code, is a joint bid through the Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI). MPI is a group of Cook, Lake, and DuPage County municipalities that have successfully leveraged bulk purchasing and workload sharing to reduce the cost of municipal services. Village staff consider it advantageous to contract the service through this method for cost and contractor qualifications.
 - b. The bid amount is based on unit pricing, and the final contract price will be determined by the number of units the Village determines necessary and authorizes. This resolution will authorize a contract with Advanced Tree Care, Inc. of Lincolnshire, IL, for the 2026 Tree Trimming Program, and, if circumstances warrant, will approve the Village Administrator to extend this contract for the 2027 Tree Trimming Program.

The fiscal impact of this resolution is \$60,781.00.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 25-83, seconded by Trustee Travis. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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.
 - a. Next, Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 25-84, Authorizing The Appropriation Of The 2026 Motor Fuel Tax Funds For The Maintenance Of Streets And Highways.**

He explained that each year, the Village receives a portion of the motor fuel tax collected by the State. These funds must be spent on eligible roadway improvements. The State requires an estimate and statement of the maintenance expenses for each program year. For 2026, the estimate is \$771,000.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 25-84. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

Lastly, Trustee Thill encourages residents to move their cars after the plows come through. He said the plows often come back to get the snow they were unable to clear when the cars were parked there. Trustee Thill also complimented the Park District for their work in lighting up the Harrer Park gazebo. He said seeing what they did there really could put you in the Christmas spirit.

E. Trustee Travis:

Trustee Travis had no formal report this evening but said she really admires snowplow drivers who keep coming back till the road is clear. She wished everyone happy holidays, and a healthy and happy New Year.

F. Trustee White:

Trustee White had several Ordinances to introduce this evening. As each is a first reading, no action will be taken on them tonight.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee White: (continued)

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).

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.

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 located directly west of 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 of Village-owned property and the 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 proposes 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.
- f. Mayor Witko asked if representatives from the developer would come to the podium and address some of the concerns mentioned by Morton House Condominium neighbors earlier tonight.
- g. Bernard Citron referenced the existing wall the neighbors had spoken about. He said they had looked at it, and honestly felt there were some places that would need to be worked on. They want to be good neighbors, but they felt that requiring this would be the Village's call.

XI.

- F. Mr. Citron said that this is the first time he's appeared before this Board as a resident. He said he's lived in Morton Grove for about 3 years now, and anecdotally mentioned that when he moved here,
 - h. he promptly broke the rules by doing work on his house without a permit. Ultimately, he did get the required permit. He also commended the Village's police and fire services, noting that his nephew had been in a serious accident a couple of months ago, and was rushed to Lutheran General by ambulance. He said the police on the scene were very kind and caring.
- Joe Masik, one of the developers, came to the podium and thanked June Mire for the letter she had sent him. He also thanked Ms. Corelli for coming out tonight and for her comments earlier. He said he wants this development to be a good neighbor. To that, he told the assemblage that he had said to the Appearance Commission and Plan Commission about the development's intent to swap out non-native vegetation for native vegetation. The trees planned for the development would be replaced with oak trees. He also said they would completely comply with shielding parking lot lighting as requested by the Plan Commission.
- i.
 - j. In speaking about the existing brick wall, Mr. Masik said they really need to make sure it's stable and will hold up to all the construction that will be going on. He mentioned that part of it would likely

need to be removed to provide fire access. They will be providing a 3-foot board-on-board fence to completely screen headlights from the forest preserve at the west end of the parking lot.

He said that, if they can save the wall, they'd like also to install a matching 3-foot board-on-board fence on the north end of the property to ensure there is no "cut-through" access to the Morton House site.

- k. Mayor Witko thanked both men for their time and willingness to answer questions with no prior notice. She said they're already demonstrating that they want to be good neighbors. She said the Village is looking forward to a very successful project.
- l. Trustee Thill asked if they had a start date and a completion date. Mr. Citron said they are working with Village staff right now on a redevelopment agreement and would like start as soon as the project has been approved—realistically, starting in spring with about 16 months to completion.

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, 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 concluded his report by wishing everyone happy holidays and a safe new year.

XII.

WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for December 9, 2025 in the amount of \$805,454.25. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Thill. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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. **Clara, a resident from Callie Avenue** wanted to specifically call attention to the notes on the Village’s Know Your Rights webpage, where people are directed to call 911 if they witness unsafe or suspicious activity in the Village. It is noted that the Police Department will respond to reports involving individuals claiming to be federal agents just as it responds to any other incident. The next bullet point, however, states that if federal agents are still present, officers, while not able to intervene in civil immigration enforcement activities, will document the incident. She said this is not a sufficient response to the issue at hand, and, not what the Trust Act says. The Trust Act says that officers cannot participate, support, or assist with immigration enforcement operations. Another bullet point reads the police may not obstruct federal law enforcement agents in performance of their immigration enforcement activities. She said that language is not listed in the Trust Act.
 - a. The crux of the matter is that ICE agents are frequently acting outside the law. Police are absolutely required to stop law-breaking, such as kidnapping, regardless of who’s doing it, or they become an accessory to the crime. The police should be trained to spot the difference between the invalid monopoly money warrants often used by ICE and a valid, signed, judicial warrant. When ICE is acting outside the law, our police should be empowered to stop them, not just document the incident. It is critical for us to recognize that Trump’s deportation numbers are lower than his predecessor’s, who managed to use due process and procedures that weren’t designed to terrorize people. It proves that cruelty is the point. She said real leaders don’t kowtow to terrorists out of fear. She felt the Board should lead, follow, or get out of the way.

2. **Andrea Cordts** wanted to address the Board’s response to their requests. She said she’s never really been involved at the Village Board level, until recently when she and some others began speaking out. She felt that the requests they’ve been making have been reasonable and well thought out, but said that, other than the Board taking a few small steps and some feedback from Mayor Witko, she said it has felt like they’ve been talking to a brick wall. They have been peaceful and trying to do things the right way. In a time where so many feel powerless against the federal government, it feels that much more hopeless when the Village government also fails to help. She said she doesn’t mean that all of their asks to be immediately granted—that would be unreasonable. But it is reasonable to expect a dialogue. She said that she’s emailed each of the Board members, some more than once, asking questions and requesting to learn more about how the Board works with the community. She

said she's received almost no response. She reiterated that something that was said at a previous meeting was to do better, and added that the residents who elected you demand it.

3. **Janice Cha** spoke regarding the signage. She thanked for making progress in that area as regards prohibiting ICE agents from using Village-owned property. She requested that the Village post signage (whether temporary or permanent) on Village property that would include language that specifically prohibits civil immigration enforcement activity on Village property. This is what our neighboring suburbs have done and what was requested at previous meetings. She said she feels the signs the Village currently has ordered are insufficient for the purpose they were requested. The signs ordered by the Village omit any reference to federal immigration enforcement, and do not provide sufficient notice to federal immigration agents. She said she'd like to submit a written statement to the Board, for the record, giving these and other reasons for why signage must include specific language that the residents have requested of the Village.

4. **Jeremy Pastin** said he noticed that there was nothing regarding the ongoing immigration activities on tonight's agenda, which he felt was pretty disheartening. It would be easy to jump to the conclusion that the Board members are doing the minimum required to placate those who have spoken about this matter, himself included. He said he would extend the benefit of the doubt and assume that any action or inaction that may have come from the Board was well-intentioned and that there may concerns at play that he and others are not privy to. He said, while he understands the reasoning behind the structure of these sorts of proceedings, it can also create a disconnect.
 - a. Mr. Pastin said that he and others feel they've been clear in expressing their desires but also feel limited by this format. He said he's sure there is common ground that we can meet on but doesn't see how it can be found currently. He said he believed the Board members have their reasons for handling things the way that they have, but they aren't being made clear—at least, not publicly. He stated that he knows there are several organized groups that had representatives speak tonight and at previous meetings, and maybe they've been given a response. However, he said he was not affiliated with any such groups, so he feels he's still in the dark when it comes to the Board's priorities and motives, and he didn't think he was the only one feeling that way. He proposed that some sort of dialogue be opened, where all could express themselves in a constructive and cooperative manner. Something like a Town Hall type of a meeting would be such an opportunity. We could move beyond the rigid structure of a formal meeting, and work together to better understand where we're each coming from. If it was well moderated and narrowly focused, such a dialogue could help bridge the gap, or at least help us in understanding your motivation. He said he is open to a constructive conversation and hopes the Board will consider this proposal.

 - b. The second thing Mr. Pastin wanted to discuss was that he's heard rumors that the alley from Fernald will be closed when the new police station is completed. He said that if it's true, I use that alley daily and would oppose it being closed. It's convenient when big trucks are trying to get around. He hoped the Board would consider that.

5. **Mike Baker, 6427 Elm Street**, said he had spoken at the last meeting. He said basically, his problem is that he has a gravel road butting up to his property. The road is owned by the Forest Preserve District. They sent him a letter, through the Village, indicating they were going to fence the

road, which would give him and his tenants no access to the garage, and that this would happen around January 15, 2026. Further, the Village is telling him he has to build a driveway on the east side of his property. Tonight was the first time he'd heard of the Village's tree conservation program. He found it interesting because putting a driveway on the east side of his property would require him to cut down a 40-foot pine tree. The fence would also prohibit snowplows from going all the way to the end of Elm Street, where the plows usually go to put all the snow from the commuter and resident parking into the Forest Preserve.

- a. Mr. Baker said it's his understanding that the previous owner used that road to get to his garage for 50 years without any problems, so he couldn't understand why it's a problem now. Putting a driveway on the east side of the house would be far more problematic because the ingress/egress for two of the three units in the building is on the east side, and those families have small children. He said he was having nightmares imagining a child darting out and getting hurt (or worse) from a car driving in on the east side of the building, where there's only room for a 9-foot driveway. Mr. Baker said he did not want to take on that liability.

- b. Mr. Baker said he's been working with Mr. Meyer and appreciates his help. He's also been working with Cook County Board Commissioner Josina Morita. She is trying to get the timing of the fence postponed till the spring. He mentioned that he had submitted several FOIA requests to the Village for plats of survey of the property, but there's only been one.

- c. Mr. Baker said he's asking the Village for help. He said he needs a 4-inch variance in order to put a driveway in on the west side of his building, which would save time and money, and would offer his tenants more protection than a driveway on the east side of the building. He said he's starting to feel like his only option is to sell the building.

Mayor Witko asked Mr. Baker if he was still working with Mr. Meyer or with Cook County. He said Mr. Meyer really can't help because it's the Forest Preserve District's land.

6. **June Mire** came to the podium to say how thankful she was for the ambulance service. She had taken a fall earlier this year and said the police and fire departments were there instantly and took very good care of her. She said she's very glad to live in Morton Grove.

7. **Esmerelda**, who has lived in the Village for the past six years, said that she, too, was disappointed in the Village for the way it's handled residents' requests regarding dealing with federal immigration enforcement. She added that, with the recent property tax hike, she and her husband are now debating about whether they want to continue living in Morton Grove. She said she loves Morton Grove; she loves the Morton Grove Library; her son has lots of friends here; but when looking at the perceived lack of support and protection as compared to the things that Skokie, Niles, and Evanston are doing, it's really weighing on them and making them feel they don't want to live here anymore. She said she's sure theirs isn't the only family considering a possible move. She also mentioned a Morton Grove Facebook page has become more vocal and critical, complaining about Muslims moving in, Muslim businesses and restaurants, etc. She said that it just seems like the lack of conversation is emboldening these people.

8. **Mayor Witko** said she hopes you stay and noted she had used the word perceived. And Mr. Pastin used the phrase minimum required. She said she wanted to clarify a few things, because the Board

has taken six steps toward getting the word out and letting people know what they're doing. She wanted the people at home, people who may be afraid to go out or who are hearing that Morton Grove's not safe, or not doing enough to keep people safe, to know that Morton Grove has provided a confidential dedicated line to our social worker so that those people can call and say they can't leave their house to take my child to school, or I can't leave my house to get groceries. Mayor Witko stated we are providing resources for those people and not another municipality has done that. We also are putting up the signs to show that the Village properties stating For Village Business Only. That's all they need to say, but they do point to state and local laws. She commented that we feel that we're absolutely covering our residents who are most in need, we are protecting them, we have resources, we have sent all this information out to religious institutions in the community for them to discuss with their congregations; we're working with the Township, and we have communicated with our congressional representatives because we genuinely believe that's the only way we're going to get anywhere. She said some people might be confused if they're looking for formal action from the Board. We've re-enforced how the police work with the Trust Act and other acts, and also within our own Code and our Personnel policy. None of that needs to be in an ordinance because if our staff steps out of line or asks someone their status, we aren't going to ticket them and bring them to adjudication, because that's not the right mechanism for managing staff. She said she hoped that would clear things up for those who may be waiting for an ordinance or a resolution.

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion passes unanimously via a voice vote, with 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

PASSED this 13th day of January 2026.

Trustee Khan	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Shiba	<u>absent</u>
Trustee Thill	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Travis	<u>aye</u>
Trustee White	<u>aye</u>

APPROVED by me this 13th day of January 2026.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 14th day of January 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Harford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar