

**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
FEBRUARY 10, 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. Trustees Rita Minx, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White were present. Trustees Saba Khan and Ashur Shiba were absent with notice.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Regular Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee White.

Motion passed unanimously via voice vote with 2 absent.

2. Mayor Witko then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board, also held on January 27, 2026. Trustee Minx made the motion, which Trustee Travis seconded.

Motion passed unanimously via voice vote with 2 absent.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

NONE

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI.

PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

Mayor Witko said Community Development Administrator Brandon Nolin had several cases to present this evening.

1. **PC 24-09, Request by Poko Loko School Inc. for Approval of an Extension to a Special Use Permit Authorizing the Expansion of an Existing Daycare Facility at the Property Commonly Known as 5633 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin said, in January of 2025, the Village Board approved a Special Use Permit for the expansion of an existing daycare facility at 5633 Dempster Street. At the time of the approval, the special use permit was valid for a period of no longer than 12 months from the date of approval, unless a building permit was issued and construction had begun and actively pursued to completion. In April of 2025, the timeline for action on a special use permit was extended to 18 months.
 - b. The Village received correspondence from David Clatch, the authorized applicant of Poko Loko School, on January 22, 2026, requesting an additional eight month extension to September 28, 2026, to allow additional time to obtain all necessary permits and begin construction. The applicant has been working diligently with Village Staff to obtain required permits. Staff provided comments on initial permit materials as well as a revised set of material, and the applicant is working to address outstanding comments issued by the Public Works Department.
 - c. Section 12-16-4:B of the Unified Development Code allows minor amendments to existing special use permits upon review of a request by the Building Commissioner or his/her designee, the Plan Commission Chairperson, Village Administrator, and Corporation Counsel. Since the proposed amendment would not change any aspect of the approved use or site plan, the proposed request for an extension is eligible for approval as a minor amendment to Ordinance 25-03.
2. **PC 25-14, Request for a Special Use Permit for Parking Variation for an Existing Shopping Center in a C-1 General Commercial District in Accordance with Section 12-7-3:k at the Property Commonly Known as 9428-38 Waukegan Road in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin explained that the applicant, Naser Hosseini, the owner of Cultura Persian Subs, had submitted a complete Special Use Permit application requesting a parking variation to expand their existing restaurant into a space previously occupied by a non-restaurant space with a lower parking requirement, which requires approval of a parking variation to allow a reduction in the shared off-street parking requirement for the multi-tenant property at 9428-28 Waukegan Road.
 - b. Applying the shared parking calculation as per the Village code, the minimum off-street parking requirement for the current mix of uses is 21 spaces. The property has 14 spaces. Since the requested parking variation is greater than 35% and the shopping center is less than 10,000 square feet, the request is considered a special use and requires Plan Commission recommendation and Board of Trustees approval.

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS** (continued)

- c. Mr. Nolin continued. In reviewing the case with the Village Engineer, review by the Traffic Safety Commission was not requested as no changes are proposed for parking configuration, access, or snow storage. The Plan Commission review Case PC 25-14 on January 20, 2026. Based on the application, staff report, and testimony presented at the public hearing, the Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit with conditions related to employee parking.

3. **PC 26-01, Request for Approval of an Amendment to a Special Use Permit to Eliminate the Automotive Maintenance and Repair Use and Expand the Retail Sales Area within an Automobile Minimart Station in an M-2 General Manufacturing District for the Property Commonly Known as 6000 Oakton Street in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. Mr. Nolin said that Proyejt Studio LLC on behalf of St. Mary's Petroleum Inc. (the applicant) had submitted a complete Special Use Permit application requesting to amend a Special Use Permit that had been granted under Ordinance 10-26, to authorize the renovation of an existing automobile minimart station at 6000 Oakton Street. The proposed project consists of the elimination of the automotive maintenance and repair use and expansion of the retail sales area, including the addition of a walk-in cooler, a work room, two restrooms, and expanded sales area, as well as exterior façade changes. The applicant has also requested to be allowed to operate twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.
 - b. Give the limited impact of the proposed use and changes to parking lot striping, the Traffic Safety Commission Chairperson waived the requirement for review of the proposed special use amendment. On January 6, 2026, the Appearance Commission reviewed Case PC 26-01 and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the application. The applicant made modifications related to lighting levels, landscaping, and window opacity in response to staff and Appearance Commission feedback, and revised materials were presented to the Plan Commission.
 - c. The applicant appeared before the Plan Commission of January 20, 2026, to present the request for approval of the application made under Case PC 26-01. Based on the application, staff report, and testimony presented at the public hearing, the Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit with conditions relating to building materials, lighting, business operations, and operating hours.

Mayor Witko asked what the applicant would be selling. Mr. Nolin was unsure, but said he'd find out.

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

1. **Randy Erickson** addressed the Board regarding the disposition of the property where the current Village Hall and Police Department are located. He read from prepared remarks. "The issue at hand here is whether this historic property, the site of the first school building in Morton Grove, which was school grounds for 85 years and which has continued that dedication to public use by the

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

citizens of the Village for another 45 years as Village Hall, should be retained for future public use by residents as it has been for the entire 130-year history of Morton Grove, or sold to a private developer for a minor boost in equalized assessed valuation and a profit for the developer.”

- a. Mr. Erickson continued, “I grew up and have grown old in Morton Grove, and I love this town. The village has long been run as a model government providing fine public services—public works, police, fire, administration—and with fiscal responsibility. I believe, however, that this is a case where dedication to fiscal responsibility has narrowed the focus of the administration, restricting the vision of what should be done for the wider benefit of the residents of Morton Grove.”
- b. “I believe that the main reasons for advancing this project are to cover the cost of demolishing a building that does not need to be demolished and to facilitate getting the site on the tax rolls to increase the Village-wide EAV, which also is the reason for all the transit-oriented development. Building 100 homes on underdeveloped property raises the EAV, but is also means adding students to the school systems, and providing Morton Grove’s high level of public service to the new residents is costly, so the solution becomes building another 100 homes, which creates a vicious cycle. A village can have both a stable population and be prosperous long-term.”
- c. “The property tax revenue that is projected to come from 20 or 30 homes on this site is not significant to Village finances, and a modern-designed development of that density, no matter how attractive the homes are, would ‘stick out like a sore thumb,’ in this historic neighborhood of old homes and would not enhance the value of the other 300-plus residences in this area, but would restroom their value, as opposed to increased green space, which would very much enhance the value of all the other homes. An article in the February 5th *Champion* describes what the Village of Niles is doing with a vacant village-owned property at 7421 N. Waukegan Road, creating a Niles Nature Nook ‘that promotes recreation, conservation, and environmental education (for students of Niles School District 71) for generations to come.’ That, I believe, is showing vision, and they’re doing it on a site one-third of the size of our Village Hall property.”
- d. “Once again, our school systems are running out of room. Common advice is to never sell a school facility because you may need it someday. Many people still regret the sale of Borg School, which was done as an act of fiscal prudence at the time, but which has forced Park View School into its present overcrowded predicament. Reconverting the Village Hall building for school use would be costly, but much less so than building a new school, and if you’re looking down the road at the Village benefitting from the increased EAV bump from the Village Hall site 23 years after the TIF district would be created, then certainly a 25-year vision for the future needs of our school communities is in order. I assume the utility for the current building are as up to date as any and they can be maintained for future use at minimal cost.”
- e. “If the site was land-banked and all you did was remove any unnecessary parking lot, seed the open space, and fence off the building, the grassy area would be full of kids the first summer. More and more young families with children are moving into this beautiful neighborhood of 80– and 100–year old homes, including couples buying a grandparent’s home because they love it here, as my generation bequeaths our homes to the next generation, but we have no green space.”

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

- f. Mr. Erickson at this point ran out of time in his presentation. The following remaining remarks of Mr. Erickson are included so as to be represented in the record of tonight's meeting.
 - g. "This site provided a large grassy area with a ball field for kids after school until it was largely paved over after the Village purchased it from District 70. Using the building for any educational use, including as a Park District facility, would allow restoration of that former open space. The intention to redevelop this property for private use for the first time in our history is why it was included in the plan for Dempster Street redevelopment, but approval of that project has nothing to do with the future of this property, and it can go forward even if it means delaying approval for a short time as the legal description of the project area is amended. Any potential contractors for work on Dempster have already begun informal planning."
 - h. "The creation of the Dempster Street TIF District for the corridor's redevelopment is to be lauded, as are the present and past village administrations and trustees for the creativity and fiscal prudence involved in converting yet another facility into a new Village Hall after coping with this facility for 45 years, and getting a modern police station that's so badly needed in the bargain. Those are entirely appropriate uses for TIF district funds. Selling an historic public property for the profit of a private developer and a bump in EAV are not."
 - i. "Retaining this site for public use is the only thing that makes sense for all the residents of Morton Grove. This Grove property is at the very core of the 130-year existence of the Village. There is no need to sell the property. The mayor has said that including the property in an entirely unconnected commercial corridor 'help us control what happens on the site.' You, as a Village Board, already have entire control of what happens on the site, with or without including it in the Dempster Street project. It is as historic a site as there is in town, and it should be retained for public use in one way or another. Issues like this are what cements a given village board's legacy for the future, and I hope our legacy as a board will be preservation of this historic and useful site for the benefit of residents rather than as the board that sold off this property for the profit of a private developer and negligible economic benefit for residents. I ask you to use your broad vision for the future and remove the Village Hall property from the Dempster Street Corridor economic redevelopment project. Thank you."
2. **Janice Cha** thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She asked, "as you consider the proposed TIF district along Dempster, I want to emphasize several priorities that are essential for responsible planning: green space, school capacity, and housing size." She continued, "First, our community needs a meaningful green space between Dempster and Lincoln—large enough for a softball field, a playground, and open space for families. This area is under-served, and with new development nearby, the need for accessible recreation space is only increasing. Second, the Village must plan proactively for school capacity. As the Park View Superintendent said at their last Board meeting, the new condos along Lehigh will bring additional families, and our existing schools are already strained. Any redevelopment plan should include a realistic assessment of enrollment growth and a strategy for expanding school facilities accordingly."

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

- a. Ms. Cha said, "Finally, if the TIF encourages new single-family home construction, zoning should ensure a balanced and sustainable mix of housing sizes." She urged the Board to "set a maximum home appropriate to the homes in the area," and said her own home is 1,300 square feet, and two doors away is new home—a 3,500 square foot home that dwarfs everything around it. She pointed out that "many families in Morton Grove value modest, attainable homes that fit the character of our neighborhoods." Ms. Cha also asked the Board to "ensure that any TIF district strengthens quality of life for current and future residents by prioritizing green space, school capacity, and thoughtful zoning." She thanked the board for their time and consideration.

3. **Laura Frisch** said she and her family have lived at 5830 Crain Street in Morton Grove for the past 22 years. They moved here to raise their family in a diverse community where people walked the street and children played in the parks. She said she has been a volunteer at various community events; has served on the PTO for Park View School, the MG Public Library Board; the Niles West Music Parent Association President, the MG Farmers Market Committee, and helps to administrate the MG Women Who Drink Tea friends group. She said she wasn't "tooting her own horn," but rather, "an example of what so many of us in this room are: active community members." Sadly, she said, many of the members of the Village who came to the last meeting, that she spoke with, were discouraged and have not come back this evening. Ms. Frisch said that she and her husband decided, when their children graduated from D70 and D219, that they would stay here "into our golden years," because they love this community and their neighbors.

- a. Ms. Frisch said her concern this evening is "what this neighborhood will become when a TIF allows for million or multi-million dollar homes to be built and businesses on Dempster to be squeezed out for higher rents. She had several proposals to help make this "a TIF that works for all of Morton Grove."
 - 1) Cut out the open space along Dempster where the Cook County Forest Preserve land is included in the TIF. We do not own that land.

 - 2) Replace that land with Moody Avenue from Dempster to Lake Street west to the Park View School District building and surrounding grounds. That will allow the school district to benefit instead of losing tax dollars from the Dempster TIF.

 - 3) Due to the need for TIF money to pay for the demolition of the current Village Hall and police department, include this space with the following caveats:
 - a. The R-1 Single Resident Housing zoning remains, with lots being no less than 50 feet and no more than 75 feet wide and 125 feet to 160 feet deep. Houses to be no more than 5,000 square feet and ensure that 20 percent of the housing stock will be no more than 2,500 square feet.

 - b. One acre of that land will be turned over to the Park District to create a park with a basketball court, open fields, and play structures.

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

- 4) Grandfather in all current businesses that do not own their own building, to a rent freeze with an increase yearly that is equal to the percentage increase each year before the TIF. (Example: if the rent for Business A was \$10,000 a month in 2024, and increased to \$10,200 in 2025, then the new increase each year could be no more that 2%.)
- b. Ms. Frisch told the Board, "You can still include all of these items into the TIF District through zoning and ordinances by this Village Board. I urge you to keep our village what it has been—open to new people and supportive of those who have been here."

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mayor Witko sought the Board's concurrence with her appointment of Randy Israel to serve as a Commissioner on the Appearance Commission. Trustee Thill so moved, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passed unanimously with 2 absent.

2. Next, Mayor Witko announced that she has appointed Ninous Chalabi as the next Chairman of the Traffic Safety Commission. He has served on the Commission for the past three years and will be filling the vacancy of Amit Shah. No motion or second is needed for this.
3. Mayor Witko next invited Chief Pat Kreis of the Vernon Hills Police Department to the podium to present a Tier II reaccreditation plaque to the Morton Grove Police Department. Chief Kreis is representing the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, which oversees the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP). Chief Mike Weitzel and Sgt. Konstantinos "Gus" Fasos, who is the MGPD's Accreditation Manager, proudly accepted the plaque on behalf of the Department. ILEAP's Tier II accreditation is the program's most comprehensive distinction, evaluating departmental policies and procedures against 181 rigorous standards (compared to 69 standards for Tier I.) As of November 2025, 68 law enforcement agencies in Illinois were accredited through ILEAP, with only 25 reaching the Tier II designation. Chief Kreis said it's important to the program to publicly single out departments that achieve this designation. He congratulated Chief Weitzel and Sgt. Fasos and the entire Morton Grove Police Department.
 - a. Chief Weitzel thanked Chief Kreis for taking the time to be here tonight to present us with this Tier II Reaccreditation Plaque. He said Chief Kreis is held in high regard by this department; his career reflects his commitment, not only to serving his own community, but to strengthen policing standards across Illinois by his leadership, mentorship, and a clear dedication to professionalism. His involvement with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Initiatives reflect his belief that accreditation is about building agencies that are consistent, accountable, and worthy of the public's trust. We appreciate his time this evening, and the example he sets for departments throughout the State.

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

- b. Chief Weitzel said that tonight really belongs to Sgt. Gus Fasos. In addition to being a tremendous asset to the MGPD as a leader in the Patrol Division, he's also tasked with managing the department's reaccreditation processes. This responsibility requires attention to detail, persistence, and a strong understanding of how policy, training, and daily operations align. It is important work that often happens "behind the scenes," and Sgt. Fasos has handled it with professionalism, and takes great pride in our organization.
- c. Chief Weitzel thanked Chief Kreis and Sgt. Fasos once again, and thanked the Board and the Morton Grove community for supporting the Morton Grove Police Department.
4. Mayor Witko announced that the Village would be holding its first Senior Expo on Friday, March 13, from 9:00 am to Noon at the Civic Center. This is a free event with complementary refreshments for residents that will provide opportunities to connect with local service providers and obtain education materials on health, wellness, transportation, housing, and more.
5. Mayor Witko reminded the assemblage that February is "Restaurant Month" in Morton Grove. Participants have a chance to win one of ten \$25 gift cards. To enter, submit a photo of you and your friends or family dining, or receipts totaling \$25 or more showing that you ate in a Morton Grove restaurant in February 2026. For more details, visit mortongroveil.org/dinmg/. Enter to win by March 10.
6. Mayor Witko said, "As we approach the spring, I want to express a blessed Ramadan starting on February 18 as many of our residents and community members observe this sacred month. Also on February 18 will be Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. On behalf of the Village, we want to wish all those who observe these holidays time for reflection and prayers.
7. Mayor Witko reported that the Village was fortunate to join the Northwest Municipal Conference and neighboring villages led by the Village of Skokie to meet with our State Representatives in advance of the upcoming legislative session. She said, "Today I was able to join our staff and Mayor Tennes of Skokie and Mayor Patel of Lincolnwood to meet with Senator Villivalam, Representative Kelly, and Representative Olickal to discuss issues like pensions, funding for 9-1-1 centers, and zoning considerations." She said she looked forward to working with our partner governments this year down in Springfield.

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Clerk Harford said she had attended today's meeting of the Advisory Commission on Aging. There are many wonderful things going on at the Senior Center, including monthly senior lunches, classes, AARP senior tax assistance, and a vaccine clinic the first Friday of the month, sponsored by Mariano's.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT (continued)

2. Clerk Harford encouraged folks to attend the Village's first Senior Expo on March 13 from 9:00 am to Noon. Admission is free and there will be complementary refreshments. Seniors will be able to connect with local senior service providers and receive educational materials on health, wellness, transportation, and housing.
3. Clerk Harford noted that the Morton Grove Community Church continues to supply fresh fruits and vegetables for homebound senior residents through their Abundant Harvest Program. They are always looking for volunteers to help pack and deliver groceries on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Rev. Beth Guzman at revbethguzman@gmail.com or call 847-965-2982.

X. STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Mr. Meyer had three Ordinances to present this evening; all are first readings and no action will be taken on any of them this evening:

1. **Ordinance 26-02, Approving an Ordinance of the Village of Morton Grove Approving the Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.**
 - a. He explained that Dempster Street from Central Avenue to the Forest Preserve District and School Street from Dempster Street to South Park Avenue property has not been subject to maximum growth and redevelopment through investment by private enterprise and is not reasonably anticipated to continue to produce property taxes of the same level as it previously had without certain public assistance by the Village.
 - b. The Village therefore considered designating the area as a "Redevelopment Project Area" or "TIF District" as contemplated by the TIF Act. On August 12, 2025, pursuant to Resolutions 25-57 and 25-58, the Village engaged the firm of Johnson Research Group, Inc. (JRG) to conduct an eligibility study. JRG prepared an eligibility survey and concluded that the proposed Redevelopment Project Area qualifies as a "Redevelopment Project Area" as defined in the TIF Act. JRG also prepared a Plan and Project, which have been available for public inspection since on or before November 14, 2025. The Plan and Project were considered and recommended to be approved by the Joint Review Board (JRB) on December 16, 2025, and were also considered at a public hearing on January 27, 2026, pursuant to proper notice as required by the TIF Act. The Corporate Authorities have reviewed the Plan and Project, the JRB's recommendation, and the information presented at the public hearing and concur with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the report prepared by JRG, including that: at least the minimum requirements for a finding of conservation area are present in the proposed Area, private investment in the proposed Area has not and will not occur without the adoption of the proposed Plan and Project; contiguous parcel in the proposed Area would be substantially benefited by the proposed Project improvements; and the proposed Plan and Project conform to the Comprehensive Plan of the Village.

- X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)
- A. Village Administrator: (continued)
- b. Mr. Meyer said this is the first of three Ordinances required to create the Dempster Street TIF District and will adopt and approve the Plan and Project for the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.
2. Next, Mr. Meyer presented **Ordinance 26-03, An Ordinance of the Village of Morton Grove Designating the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.**
- a. He said this is the second of three Ordinances required to create the Dempster Street TIF District and will designate the area legally described in Exhibit A, and generally described in Exhibit B, and depicted in the map as Exhibit C named the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.
3. Then Mr. Meyer introduced **Ordinance 26-04, An Ordinance of the Village of Morton Grove Adopting Tax Increment Allocation Financing for the Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area.**
- a. He stated that this is the third of three Ordinances required to create the Dempster Street TIF District, and will adopt Tax Increment Allocation Financing pursuant to the TIF Act. Property taxes for property in the Redevelopment Project Area (RPA) shall be segmented by allocating taxes attributed to the lower of (i) the current equalized assessed value or (ii) the “initial” equalized assessed value of property in the RPA to the taxing districts, and allocating taxes attributable to the increase in the initial equalized assessed valuation to the “Dempster Street Redevelopment Project Area Special Tax Allocation Fund” to be used for paying redevelopment project costs and obligations pursuant to the TIF Act.
4. Mr. Meyer that a Public Hearing had been held on January 27, 2026, about the proposed Dempster Street TIF District. He wanted to discuss some of the comments and concerns voiced by residents both at the public hearing and earlier this evening regarding the current Village Hall property.
- a. He said the Village is not proposing or entertaining any high density uses such as apartments or condominiums. This property is zoned as R-1. There is no proposal to construct low income housing. The Village is planning to follow the Dempster Street Corridor Plan, which did not include acquiring property or increasing lot depths. Safety enhancements are being researched for the trail crossing at Dempster Street and the railroad tracks.
- b. Mr. Meyer said the national standard of a quality green space is within a half-mile or a ten-minute walk from your home. 94% of the Village falls into this category. There are two neighborhood parks within a half-mile of this property: Harrer Park and Austin Park. There are also Forest Preserve entry points within a half-mile.

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

- c. Mr. Meyer said that school district enrollment for both District 70 and District 67 show fluctuations, with the high for District 70 being 960 students in 2019. The mix of students shows that they are coming for the Woodlands, the Crossing, Lexington Walk, Sawmill Station, Metro on Main, and Trafalgar.
- d. Mr. Meyer said the second reading for these Ordinances will be on February 24, 2026. He said, regarding the Village Hall and Police Department move, that this whole process probably won't begin until late 2026 or early 2027. The Village will issue a Request for Proposals and public hearings will be held periodically.
- e. Trustee Thill noted that the Forest Preserve property shown on the map is likely just there for the safety enhancements.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

A. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan was absent with notice this evening. Trustee Travis took care of Trustee Khan's agenda item:

- 1. Trustee Travis presented on Trustee Khan's behalf **Resolution 26-08, Authorizing the Extension of a Contract with Foster & Foster for Actuarial Services for the Village of Morton Grove Police, Fire, and Municipal Retirement Funds and Other Post Employment Benefits.**
 - a. She explained that State law and governmental accounting standards require the Village to contract for actuarial services for its police, fire, and municipal retirement funds, and other post-employment benefits. This allows the Village to assess the assets, liabilities, and annual funding requirements of each plan. This Resolution will authorize the Village Administrator to execute said contract for actuarial services.
 - b. On January 24, 2023, the Board authorized a contract with Foster & Foster for actuarial services for a period of three years, starting with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 through fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Foster & Foster have provided satisfactory services and the Village wished to extend this contract by one year. Foster & Foster's total fees will be \$30,536 for the year ending December 31, 2025; \$7,457 will be paid by the police and fire pension funds.

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

A. Trustee Khan: (continued)

- c. Trustee Travis moved to approve Resolution 26-08, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent.

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</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>

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening, but said, "If you're curious about what Morton Grove Police Officers and Firefighters do, please join us for the Citizens Police and Fire Academy. The Academy runs every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The Academy begins on March 18 and will end on May 20, 2026. To sign up, please visit www.mortongroveil.org.

C. Trustee Shiba:

Trustee Shiba was absent—no formal report this evening.

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no report this evening.

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis presented **Ordinance 26-01, Amending Title 5 Entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," and Chapter 13 Entitled "Traffic Schedules" of the Municipal Code.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Travis explained that the 8000 block of Menard Avenue has been the subject of ongoing traffic and pedestrian safety concerns raised by multiple stakeholders, including area residents, municipal departments, and partner at Niles West High School.

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

E. **Trustee Travis:** (continued)

- b. Drivers associated with school drop-offs have been observed turning from westbound Oakton to northbound Menard, dropping students curbside, and performing U-turns or three-point turns mid-block to return southbound to Oakton. These movements, combined with pedestrian crossing across Oakton and turning movements from southbound Menard to westbound Oakton, contribute to congestion and conflict points. Elevated pedestrian risk has also been noted at Menard and Warren during peak periods. Traffic congestion and safety risks are increased due to parking, standing vehicles, and passenger drop-offs in the 8000 and 8100 blocks of Menard.
- c. Village departments have implemented safety measures, including high-visibility crosswalks at Menard/Warren, pedestrian crossing signage, and targeted enforcement periods by police officers. During the 2023 school year, the Police Dept. worked with the Niles West Security Director to provide materials for crossing guard training. Niles West utilized a contracted security company to staff crossing guards at Menard/Oakton and directed pedestrians to use the easternmost crosswalk.
- d. On December 1, 2025, after consultation with senior staff and with the approval of the Village Administrator, the Police Chief, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 5-1-4, enacted temporary traffic regulations which included no parking, standing, passenger drop-off on school days from 7:30am to 8:30am; no parking, standing, passenger drop-off on school days from 3:00pm to 4:00pm; no U-turns on Menard between Oakton Street and Keeney Street, and no U-turns on Warren Street between Major Avenue and Marmora Avenue. These temporary experimental traffic regulations implemented by the Police Department, resulted in decreased congestion, improved safety, and positive feedback from residents. This Ordinance makes the experimental regulations permanent.

Trustee Travis moved to adopt Ordinance 26-01, seconded by Trustee White.

Motion passes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent.

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</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. Next, Trustee Travis presented **Resolution 26-09, Authorizing a Public Auction for Evidence/Property Recovered by the Morton Grove Police Department.**

- a. She explained that the Illinois Law Enforcement Disposition of Property Act allows a Police Department to sell at public auction property which has been lost, stolen, or abandoned if the property owner cannot be located within six (6) months after making reasonable inquiry and efforts to ascertain or locate the owner. The Morton Grove Police Department has custody of items of property listed in Exhibit A which is reasonably believes were lost, stolen, or abandoned for at least six months. The Chief of Police recommends the property be sold at an on-line auction conducted by Obenauf Auction Service Inc., located at 810 Magna Drive, Round Lake, Illinois. This Resolution will authorize the sale of the property at auction and will require the Police Department to publish notice of the auction at least ten (10) days prior to the sale.

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

E. Trustee Travis: (continued)

Trustee Travis moved to approve Resolution 26-09, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent.

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</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>

- Trustee Travis announced that the next Neighborhood Outreach will take place on Thursday, February 19 at 6:00pm at Melzer Elementary School located at 9400 N. Oriole Avenue in Morton Grove. She encouraged people to attend and interact with Village staff and elected officials.

F. Trustee White:

Trustee White had three (3) Ordinances to present this evening. Each is a first reading with no action being taken this evening:

- Ordinance 26-05, Approving a Minor Amendment to Ordinance 25-03 Granting an Amendment to a Special Use Permit for the Expansion of an Existing Daycare Facility at the Property Commonly Known as 5633 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois.**

This is pursuant to Plan Commission Case PC 24-09, which was reported out earlier in this meeting.

- Ordinance 26-06, Approving a Special Use Permit for a Parking Variation at 9428–9438 Waukegan Road in Morton Grove, Illinois.**

This is pursuant to Plan Commission Case PC 25-14 which was reported out earlier in this meeting.

- Ordinance 26-07, Approving an Amendment to a Special Use Permit (Ord. 10-26) to Eliminate the Automotive Maintenance and Repair Use and Expand the Retail Sales Area Within an Automobile Minimart Station at 6000 Oakton Street in Morton Grove, Illinois.**

This is pursuant to Plan Commission Case PC 26-01, which was reported out earlier in this meeting.

XII.

WARRANTS

In the absence of Trustee Khan, Trustee Travis presented the Warrant Register for February 10, 2026 in the amount of \$454,929.97. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent.

Tr. Khan absent
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba absent
Tr. White aye

XIII.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

NONE

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

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

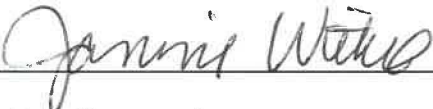
Motion passes unanimously via voice vote with 2 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

PASSED this 24th day of February 2026.

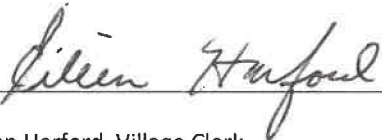
Trustee Khan	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Thill	<u>aye</u>
Trustee Travis	<u>aye</u>
Trustee White	<u>aye</u>

APPROVED by me this 24th day of February 2026.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 25th day of February 2026.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar