

**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
MARCH 24, 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 Scanlon Harford called the roll. Trustees Saba Khan, Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White were present.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Mayor Witko announced the winners of February's "Dine Morton Grove" contest. Each of these winners will receive a \$25 gift card. The winners are:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Cindy Tanaka | • Donna Ratner |
| • Jon Cole | • Jacklynne Reaves |
| • Alan Frohlichstein | • Barbara Rusek |
| • Jayson Lawfer | • Lisa Vilchis |
| • Jeremy Wilson | |

Mayor Witko congratulated the winners and thanked everyone who had participated in this year's Dine Morton Grove contest for dining in Morton Grove.

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

NONE

VII. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

NONE

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Mayor Witko proclaimed March 28, 2026, from 8:30 to 9:30 pm as **Earth Hour** in the Village.
 - a. She said that our nation's use of energy continues to increase, which is causing detrimental effects on the world's climate. The sustainability of our nation's energy and the effects it is having on the world's climate is a matter of importance to the residents of Morton Grove, now and in the future. It has been estimated that turning off non-essential lights for one hour could save as much as fifteen percent (15%) of the energy consumed on an average Saturday night. These savings could reduce carbon emissions into the air, preserve the natural resources used to produce this energy, and set a positive precedent for our nation, resulting ongoing reduced costs for the Village's taxpayers and businesses.
 - b. Mayor Witko said that "Earth Hour" began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, where companies, government departments, families, and individuals turned off non-essential lighting for one hour as a step towards reducing that city's greenhouse gas pollution. Earth Hour is an initiative to turn off the lights in cities around the world for one hour starting at 8:30 pm local time on March 28, which will help demonstrate that by working together, each of us can make a positive impact on carbon dioxide emissions and the world's climate. Earth Hour encourages communities, businesses, and individuals to take the simple steps needed to cut these carbon dioxide emissions.
 - c. Participation in Earth Hour would provide the residents of Morton Grove with insights into the impact of light pollution and allow them to witness first-hand the benefits of regulating lighting. Mayor Witko encouraged all residents and businesses in the Village to participate, on a voluntary basis, in Earth Hour by turning off all non-essential lights on March 28 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.
 - d. Mayor Witko presented the proclamation to Georgianne Brunner, who chairs the Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENCR), conveying the Board's thanks for the various initiatives undertaken by this Commission.
 - e. Chairman Brunner thanked the Board and staff for supporting the ENRC's initiatives, and pointed out that Morton Grove has a long history of environmentally sound sustainable actions by being a founding member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). She said the ENRC sponsors several programs to educate residents and help them get involved in having a positive impact on our environment, such as their ongoing Adopt-A-Block program, which empowers residents, businesses, and organizations to beautify our community, starting with their own block, and their "Greener Morton Grove" award program.

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

- e. Ms. Brunner said that the ENRC will be holding its popular Document Destruction and Electronics Recycling event in partnership with SWANCC on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 am to noon at the Public Works building, 7849 Nagle. The Commission has also begun working on its annual Sustainability Expo, which will be held on Saturday, September 19. This event began 5 years ago and each year is more successful and well-attended than the previous year.
- f. The Commission welcomes residents to attend its meetings, which are held on the first Monday of even-numbered month on the second floor of Village Hall at 6:00 pm. Input and comments are appreciated, as well as volunteers to assist with our programs. The ENRC also has a webpage on the Village's website. The webpage has more information on ENRC events and offers useful resources for residents to help in our journey in protecting our environment.
- g. Ms. Brunner closed with a quote from primatologist and environmentalist Jane Goodall:
"We may only be one person and think that our one action is small. Yet when we think of all the billions of people on the planet, and if we all did one small things, that one thing becomes a big thing, and has a positive impact on the health of our planet."

2. Next, Mayor Witko asked for the Board's concurrence with the appointment of Kaitlyn Stone to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Stone is a local business owner and a long-term resident of Morton Grove. She will be filling the vacancy left by Dick Dorgan, who resigned after many years of service to the Village. Mr. Dorgan will be recognized for his years of service at our April 14 Board meeting.

Trustee Thill moved to concur with the appointment of Ms. Stone to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Trustee Shiba. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

3. Mayor Witko said, following a competitive recruitment process earlier this year, she was beyond proud to appoint Zoe Heidorn as the Village's Community and Economic Development Director. She pointed out that Zoe has served the community in various roles since starting with the Village in 2019, having worked most recently as the Assistant Village Administrator. In this capacity, Zoe will oversee the combined functions of the existing divisions of Building and Inspections and Community Development. She asked for a motion and second to approve Zoe Heidorn as the Community and Economic Development Director.

Trustee White so moved, seconded by Trustee Minx. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

4. Mayor Witko said she was honored to meet representatives from Scouting America this past week. She said they discussed the various scouting programs available to our youngest residents. The Scouts are strong supporters of providing character development and leadership training to more than a million young people between the ages of 5 and 21. They are also present in school districts throughout our community. To learn more, please visit www.scouting.org. More to come later in the meeting tonight!

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

5. Mayor Witko said the Niles Township community libraries are engaged in starting a partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to all children from birth to age 5. Please stay tuned to the Village's social media, where we will help promote this existing program in the near future.

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Scanlon Harford had no formal report this evening.

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

Mr. Meyer had no formal report this evening.

B. **Corporation Counsel:**

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**A. **Trustee Khan:**

1. Trustee Khan presented **Resolution 26-23, Authorizing an Agreement with American Printing Technologies, Inc. for Vehicle and Pet License Applications Printing, Vehicle License Tracking Software, and Vehicle License Sticker Fulfillment Services.**
 - a. She explained the Village Code requires all vehicles registered in Morton Grove to have a Morton Grove vehicle sticker. There are approximately 20,000 vehicles registered to Morton Grove. The Village wishes to enter an agreement with American Printing Technologies, Inc. for the printing of vehicle and pet license applications, as well as the software for tracking vehicle stickers and vehicle sticker fulfillment services.
 - b. American Printing Technologies has provided water bill printing services for the Village since 2011. The Village believes that American Printing Technologies' software will provide enhancements for better vehicle tracking than the current software. The cost for these services is determined per mailing or by sticker, so the total cost is not known. The Village anticipates the total cost will be comparable to the cost of our current vendor, or at any rate, not to exceed \$35,000.00.

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

A. Trustee Khan: (continued)

Trustee Khan moved to approve Resolution 26-23, seconded by Trustee Minx.

- c. Mayor Witko asked Mr. Meyer to explain what the benefits to residents would be, upon making this change.
- d. Mr. Meyer said the Village's current system allows residents to purchase stickers or licenses online, and also allows residents to use the drop-box to leave completed forms and payment, should they not want to make this type of transaction online. It was important that the Village be able to keep that flexibility, and the new system will be able to work with that. He said there will also be a better end-user interface, i.e., databases will be up-to-date, especially ensuring that data from the Secretary of State will be properly integrated with the Village's data. Things will run smoother on the back end, with this vendor.

Mayor Witko called for the vote on Resolution 26-23.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening.

C. Trustee Shiba:

- 1. Trustee Shiba presented **Resolution 26-24, Authorizing a Software License Renewal with BS&A Software LLC for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software for the Finance and Building and Community Development Modules.**
 - a. He explained that, in 2024 via Resolution 24-01, the Village entered into an agreement to use BS&A Software LLC Resource Planning (ERP) software for data management, business process workflow, and recordkeeping for the Finance and Building and Inspectional Service Departments. All Village departments also use related business process workflows in their daily operations. The software serves the Village satisfactorily and requires an annual maintenance fee to continue access and to utilize the software. The renewal cost for the term of March 1, 2026 through March 1, 2027 is \$59,832.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

C. Trustee Shiba: (continued)

Trustee Shiba moved to approve Resolution 26-24, seconded by Trustee Thill.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had three (3) resolutions to present this evening:

1. **Resolution 26-25, Authorizing an Amendment to a Contract with Ciorba Group, Inc. for Construction Engineering Services for Austin Avenue Improvements Project.**
 - a. This Resolution authorizes the Village Administrator to finalize negotiations and execute a scope and fee amendment to a task order for the Austin Avenue Improvements Project.
 - b. Resolution 24-04 authorized construction engineering services by Ciorba Group, Inc. for the Austin Avenue Improvements Project. The estimated construction timeline was 165 days, but it extended to 187 days.
 - c. Construction engineering accompanies the construction work and requires additional administrative and coordination efforts. The construction engineer has completed some of the administrative tasks more efficiently than originally planned. These administrative savings helped offset some of the extra construction time, but there are still 242 staff hours of additional work.
 - d. Construction engineering qualifies for federal funding. The Village pays 100% of the costs, while federal funds reimburse the Village for 70% of the eligible expenses. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approved the agreement with Ciorba Group, Inc. and would also need to approve the supplemental work included in this resolution.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$34,206.00, of which \$23,944.20 is reimbursable by IDOT.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 26-25, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

2. **Resolution 26-26, Guaranteeing Municipal Work Performed on State of Illinois Rights-of-Way Within the Village of Morton Grove.**

- a. This Resolution provides a guarantee to the State of Illinois that all work performed by the Village within the State's rights-of-way in 2026 and 2027 will conform to the conditions on the permit granted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- b. This is a routine guarantee provided by many municipalities. The Village maintains its utilities within state rights-of-way on a regular basis and needs permission from IDOT to do so. IDOT requires a permit and financial security, in the form of a bond, for work performed within the state rights-of-way. This is similar to the Village's permit process for work performed within the Village's own rights-of-way.
- c. Municipalities have the option of either providing the financial security for each repair or may provide a written guarantee that all work performed by the Village within the State's rights-of-way will conform to their requirements of the performance for the work. Providing this guarantee will eliminate the time and cost of procuring a bond for each permit. The guarantee must also hold harmless the State of Illinois while performing permitted work. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$0.00. There is no cost associated with this guarantee.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve Resolution 26-26.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

3. **Resolution 26-27, Authorizing the Village Administrator to Execute Proposals with Ciorba Group, Inc. for Developmental Plan Reviews.**

- a. The Public Works Department is responsible for reviewing site improvement plans for private properties for nearly all permits submitted to the Village. The level of staff effort and time needed for these reviews at times exceeds the Department's capacity to complete them within the required review period. To address this, the Village has engaged Ciorba Group, Inc. as its engineering consultant to provide additional plan review capacity. These reviews are usually limited to larger or more complex developments.
- b. Ciorba Group, Inc.'s previous contract with the Village has ended, and this new agreement will authorize the Village to contract with Ciorba Group to provide the necessary engineering plan review services. A review of qualified engineering firms for general engineering services is planned for August 2026 as part of the Capital Improvement Plan development and long-term planning for engineering consultant requirements.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- c. In the interim, an agreement for engineering plan review services is needed. Several planned developments within the Village will require engineering design reviews before August 2026. A contract for engineering design plan review services is required to maintain the expected level of plan review services for these developments. The review process by an outside engineer involves the Village charging the developer in advance for an estimated annual review cost. The final cost is determined at permit approval, and any surplus payment is refunded to the developer.
- d. There is no cost to the Village for outside reviews of private developers. Private developers cover the actual expenses, but this resolution will authorize the Village to engage Ciorba for up to \$70,000 in costs, which will be reimbursed by private developers.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 26-27, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

E. Trustee Travis:

Trustee Travis noted that the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) is a non-profit agency that serves Morton Grove families with children ages 0 to 5 with a variety of programs and services. Due to FY 2026 State of Illinois budget error, they are in need of immediate financial support to continue operations. Please consider attending the 5th annual ECA Early Childhood Fun Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Oakton College from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. To learn more, please visit nilestownshipeca.org.

F. Trustee White:

Trustee White had no formal report, but offered his sincere congratulations to retiring Plan Commissioner Dick Dorgan for his 37 years of service to the Village. Trustee White wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

XII.

WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for March 24, 2026 in the amount of \$1,539,131.97. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passes: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan aye
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

XIII.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

1. **Robert Erickson** and his friend and colleague **Al Zara**, both residents of Morton Grove, and volunteers for Scouting. Mr. Zara is the Scoutmaster for Troop 228 and Mr. Erickson is the Finance Chair for the District. Mr. Erickson said they were here tonight for two reasons: first, to publicly acknowledge all the support they've received over the years from Morton Grove, everything from finding a meeting space for them to the residents who participate in their fundraisers and volunteer for various events.
- a. Mr. Erickson said he's hoping the Village can help get the word out about an upcoming scouting event, called the Boy Scouts' Pathway to Adventure. This is basically a Scouting Showcase that will take place on May 21 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at Rivers Casino. Only adults age 21 or older will be admitted. They are inviting business and community leaders to attend, and Mr. Erickson thanked Mayor Witko because she has committed to attend. Individual tickets are \$85 per person. There are also sponsorship opportunities, starting at \$600.00. Anyone interested in sponsoring should go to tinyurl.com/rivers26 and click on "sponsorship." This event will demonstrate to people what scouting is currently about—they're coeducational now! There will even be a Pinewood Derby for adults!

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.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

PASSED this 14th day of April 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 14th day of April 2026.

Janine Witko

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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 15th day of April 2026.

Eileen Scanlon Harford

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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar