

**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
MAY 26, 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 Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White were present. Trustee Saba Khan was absent with notice.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Regular Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee White.

Motion passed unanimously (with one absent) via voice vote.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

NONE

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

NONE

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

1. **Jon Cole, 6023 S. Park**, said he was one of the founders of the Morton Grove Pride group. He said he hoped the group's efforts were helping to keep LGBTQ+ rights from being erased, and that they were providing young LGBTQ+ people a sense of community, of belonging.

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

- a. Mr. Cole said the Pride Group is seeing progress coming from organizing, and having allies joining them. He thanked the Village for the proclamation and for their collaboration with the group.
- b. Mr. Cole noted that the Pride Group is having several events during the month of June, for example, a free concert in Harrer Park from 5:00 to 8:00pm on June 18, which will include line dancing and activities for kids. And on June 12 there will be a Mama Mia sing-along. He said the Morton Grove Pride Group is selling lawn signs in support of Pride Month. The signs are \$10 each and are being sold at the Morton Grove Library and Prairie View Center.
- c. Mayor Witko thanked Mr. Cole for his remarks and asked him to stay at the podium while she reads the Pride Month proclamation, which she then wants to give to Mr. Cole.

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mayor Witko began her President's Report noting that June of 2026 marks the 57th annual celebration of Pride Month throughout the United States to embrace diversity and recommit our efforts to advance inclusion and prevent discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, who are important and respected members of our community.
 - a. Mayor Witko said that LGBTQ+ people are family members, friends, neighbors, and they make invaluable contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic success of the Village of Morton Grove. The Village's tagline "Incredibly Close and Amazingly Open" underscores our collective resolve to work together with all members of our community to facilitate open relationships and foster a safe and welcoming environment for our residents and visitors regardless of age, race, religion, marital status, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or physical challenges.
 - b. Mayor Witko said she and the Village Board believe all our residents should feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers, educators, community leaders, and the community at large, without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. She said the Village salutes "Morton Grove Pride," a group of residents who have planned a series of events this month celebrating the diversity of our community.
 - c. Mayor Witko proclaimed the month of June 2026 as "Pride Month" in the Village of Morton Grove, and urged all residents to join Village leadership in eliminating discrimination wherever it exists, in accepting all people for who they are and who they love, and in honoring our diversity by celebrating our LGBTQ+ family, friends, and neighbors. She thanked and applauded Mr. Cole as she passed the proclamation to him.
2. Mayor Witko encouraged residents to attend the American Warrior Initiative fundraiser on Friday, June 12. This is a fundraising event to provide veterans with service dogs. The event starts at 5:30 pm at the American Legion Civic Center and will feature live music and entertainment.

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

3. Lastly, Mayor Witko said to community members who observe this, happy Eid Al-Adha which will be celebrated tomorrow within our community.

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Scanlon Harford had no formal report this evening.

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

Mr. Meyer had an informal report this evening. He wished to thank Allison Hardy and her 5th grade students from a local elementary school. She brought them to Village Hall last Friday as the classes were doing a presentation on democracy and local government.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

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

Trustee Khan was absent, but had no formal report on the Agenda this evening.

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report, but wanted to promote lawn signs that support Morton Grove Days. The signs cost \$30 and can be purchased online and picked up at Village Hall.

C. Trustee Shiba:

Trustee Shiba had no formal report this evening.

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

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had two resolutions this evening:

1. **Resolution 26-35, Authorizing a Professional Service Agreement with HR Green, Inc. For Third-Party Review Services for Clearwave Fiber Development.**
 - a. Clearwave Fiber is authorized by Resolution 25-59 to install a telecommunication system within the Village. Clearwave intends to apply for permits to install 34 miles of fiber optic cable initially to provide internet services to residential customers and later, possibly, to businesses. Clearwater has advised the Village that it plans to divide the installation work into nine permit applications of approximately equal length. The review, approval, and inspection of 34 miles of fiber optic cable exceeds the capacity of the Public Works Engineering Division to complete in a timely manner. The telecommunications use agreement requires Clearwater to reimburse the Village for third-party permit review and construction inspection service costs.
 - b. Public Works staff solicited proposals from three engineering firms to provide design review and construction inspection services. Two proposals were received. HR Green, Inc. was selected based on their project approach and experience with working with Clearwave on three projects in the Chicagoland area, and their capacity to manage and complete the scope of work required. The current scope of work for HR Green, Inc. is based on information submitted by Clearwave and reasonable expectations for permit review. It will be refined as needed to accommodate Village requirements and procedures before finalizing.
 - c. There is no fiscal impact to the Village. Estimated fees associated with this contract will be collected from Clearwave prior to incurring costs and the surplus balance refunded to Clearwave following successful completion of their improvements.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 26-35, seconded by Trustee Travis.

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

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

2. **Resolution 26-36, Authorizing the Contract for the Purchase and Installation of a Diesel Generator with Cummins Inc., for the Department of Public Works Facility.**
 - a. The Public Works Facilities Division oversees the emergency standby generators that serve municipal facilities. Public Works utilizes a mobile generator for emergency standby power. This unit has the capability to power both fire stations and pumping stations by hooking up to quick-connect tap boxes installed at each of these facilities if their generator fails during a power outage. Public Works staff identified a need to replace the Public Works mobile generator with a stationary unit dedicated to Public Works.

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- b. This will eliminate the scenario in which Public Works is without emergency power if the mobile unit is needed at another facility. The mobile unit will be retained and staged for operational readiness as needed. The purchase and installation of the new generator was competitively bid through the Sourcewell Procurement Agency. This contract must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act.

The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$233,340.00.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 26-36.

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

Tr. Khan absent
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

3. Trustee Thill noted that about 390 new parkway trees have been planted in the Village. Public Works will bring a watering truck around to water these new trees, but Trustee Thill requested that homeowners where one of these new trees has been planted should feel free to water the new tree as well. He said it's really important for these new trees to be sufficiently watered and thanked people in advance for so doing.
4. Trustee Thill said that, since we will be celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary, he hopes to see many more flags flying at peoples' homes. He urged everyone to fly a US flag this summer!

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis reminded the assemblage to mark their calendars for the Community Garage Sale, which will be held from Friday, June 12 to Sunday, June 14. Visit the Village's website to sign up.
2. Trustee Travis announced that the Community Relations Commission has begun accepting submissions for the summer 2026 photo contest. The contest will run until September 1, with winning photos being acknowledged at a future Board meeting and being displayed at Village Hall. The contest invites residents to capture the spirit of what makes the Village special.

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

F. Trustee White:

1. Trustee White presented **Ordinance 26-11, Approving an Amendment to a Special Use Permit and Authorizing the Construction of a Detached Accessory Structure Serving an Existing Daycare Facility at 5633 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, IL.**
 - a. He explained that David Clatch, on behalf of Poko Loko School, Inc. ("Applicant") had submitted a complete Special Use Permit application to the Village, which was reviewed under Case PC 26-05, requesting an amendment to the existing Special Use Permit to authorize the construction of a detached accessory structure at 5633 Dempster Street, which is part of an expansion of the existing daycare operations located at 5641-49 Dempster. The daycare facility's common address is 5645 Dempster Street.
 - b. The Applicant is proposing to amend the Special Use Permit granted and amended under Ordinances 14-07, 17-25, 25-03, and 26-05 to allow for the construction of a storage building.
 - c. The storage building will complement current daycare operations. In 2024, the Applicant sought amendment under Case PC 24-09 to authorize the installation of a playground, open space, and an accessory parking lot on the subject property to serve the existing daycare. The expansion was approved by Ordinance 25-03. At the time, a storage building was contemplated as part of the project, but no plans were submitted. This request will approve plans for and authorize construction of the accessory storage building. The Applicant is seeking a waiver of 1.81 feet to allow the detached accessory structure to be located within a 5-foot required interior side yard.
 - d. On April 2, 2026, the Appearance Commission reviewed Case PC 26-05, issued an Appearance Certificate, and recommended approval of the Application. The requirement for review by the Traffic Safety Commission was waived due to the project's insignificant impact on the community from a traffic safety perspective, as authorized by Section 12-16-4:A.2. On April 21, 2026, the Application was presented to the Plan Commission, at which time, based on the Application, staff report, and testimony provided at the public hearing, the Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the amendment to the Special Use Permit with conditions relating to final design and permitting.

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 26-11, seconded by Trustee Thill.

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

Tr. Khan absent
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

XII.

WARRANTS

In the absence of Trustee Khan, Trustee Travis presented the Warrant Register for May 26, 2026 in the amount of \$373,972.45. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

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

Tr. Khan absent
Tr. Thill aye

Tr. Minx aye
Tr. Travis aye

Tr. Shiba aye
Tr. White aye

XIII.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

1. **Kim Moldofsky** announced that she and her family will be hosting an "Induction Cooktop Pancake Breakfast" on June 6. This is their 3rd year of hosting this breakfast experience. Attendees are encouraged to give induction cooking a try!
2. **Martin Schosho, 9130 Lehigh Avenue**, is a chicken owner. He bought the chickens without realizing it's against the law in Morton Grove, because he believes that having chickens as a food source is (or should be) a universal right. He said his property is large enough to can easily handle his chickens. But since he learned that having chickens isn't legal in Morton Grove, it's been affecting his life financially and in other ways. He's had these chickens for about 7 months, and the chickens have become kind of a local gathering place. Parents bring their kids to see the chickens. It's a unique point of interaction and a learning experience. They can learn that even a chicken's waste can be used in composting to grow other fruits and vegetables. Mr. Schosho said he shares eggs with his neighbors as well as various plants.
 - a. Mr. Schosho brought with him a petition signed by 20 of his 24 neighbors who are in favor of him being able to keep his chickens. (Three people weren't home, and only one person was not in favor of the chickens.) He said that the Forest Preserve is across the street from his home. It floods and they seasonally do controlled-burn fires. There's also a horse stable fairly near his home. So there's always manure, and yes, rodents. He ended by reiterating his belief that having chickens as a food source is a natural and universal right.

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

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

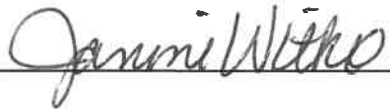
Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

PASSED this 9th day of June 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>absent</u>

APPROVED by me this 9th day of June 2026.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 10th day of June 2026.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar