

h

**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
JUNE 23, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Village President Janine Witko convened the Regular Meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 p.m.
- II. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford called the roll. Trustees Saba Khan, Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White were present.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2026 Regular Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Khan.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0 via voice vote.

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Mayor Witko called Fire Chief Dennis Kennedy to the podium.

1. **Presentation Honoring District Chief Dan Gallagher on his Retirement.**

- a. Chief Kennedy thanked Mayor Witko, the Board Members, and staff for allowing him some time on tonight's Agenda to honor District Chief Dan Gallagher, retiring after 28 years on the job. The chief said he'd had every intention of writing a little speech highlighting the many accomplishments and achievements of District Chief Gallagher's 28 years of service. But before he could, members of the Firefighters' Association asked if they could talk. Chief Kennedy said he could think of no better honor than having people Dan's worked with in his career here come up and speak. Before giving up the podium, Chief Kennedy thanked Dan personally. The chief and Dan had come up through the ranks together. Dan was even the interim Fire Chief for a while. Chief Kennedy said he's worked side by side with Dan and said he's going to miss Dan.
- b. Chief Kennedy then introduced Erik Miller and Tom Goodwin to speak on behalf of the Firefighters'

Association. Tom is the President of the Union and Erik is the Vice President.

VI.

SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- c. Lt. Goodwin spoke first and invited Dan to the podium. On behalf of the union, he offered his heartfelt thanks to Dan for everything he's done. Lt. Goodwin said the Vice President Miller is much better at this than he is, so he offered the podium to Lt. Miller.
- d. Erik congratulated Dan on his retirement, and said the MGFD is stronger because of Dan's many accomplishments and his dedication. He said the Department was grateful for Dan's leadership in the purchasing and building of several fire engines and ambulances; in working with the Village administration, the Building Department, and contractors during Station 4 and Station 5 renovations, for promoting fire department policy development, and for serving as interim fire chief. Erik added that the firefighters were also grateful for Dan's 14 years of service as union vice president. He said, "You consistently advocated for members and provided leadership during collective bargaining. Your career has been filled with many memorable moments, but none more profound than the time when you heard the faint whimper of a baby, which turned out to be a newborn, wrapped in a plastic bag, buried under a pile of towels. Your calm demeanor and quick thinking during a chaotic scene helped your crew locate and revive the infant, turning a tragedy into a miracle." Erik thanked Dan for serving as an officer, a mentor, and as a friend. He again congratulated Chief Dan on his retirement as the assemblage applauded him.

Mayor Witko thanked Dan, on behalf of the residents and businesses, for his dedication and service to Morton Grove, and wished him a happy retirement.

2. Swearing in of Firefighter Joseph Zanca by Fire & Police Commission Chairperson Mike Simkins

Mayor Witko introduced Fire and Police Commission Chairman Mike Simkins to swear in a new Morton Grove firefighter.

- a. At the podium, Mr. Simkins asked Joseph Zanca to join him and bring his guests. Joe announced that with him this evening is his grandmother, his father, his stepmom, and his fiancée. Mr. Simkins shared a brief summary of Joe's background:
- b. Joe began his employment with the Morton Grove Fire Department on March 30, 2026. Joe was born and raised on the north side of Chicago. He attended Notre Dame College Prep where he played football, wrestled, and ran track. Joe then attended DePaul University, where he dominated on the gridiron and earned a degree in History. After graduating, Joe was a professional football player, coach, and personal trainer. Joe is honored and excited to begin a new chapter and career with the Morton Grove Fire Department. He will give 100% effort and use his talents to serve the community of Morton Grove.
- c. Mr. Simkins performed the swearing-in, and Joe's fiancée pinned on his badge. Joe was warmly welcomed by the Board and assemblage.

VII.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

NONE

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Mayor Witko said that, this year, the Village has been proactively engaging its federal and state officials for support on community projects. As part of this process, she traveled to Springfield with Trustees Travis and Shiba, Corporation Counsel Liston, and Village Administrator Meyer, to speak with the Village's elected officials. Earlier this month, the State of Illinois approved its Budget, and she was happy to report that, thanks to our elected officials, the Village was able to secure \$1.405 million for Morton Grove. She recognized and thanked the following elected officials for their support for our community:

- a.
 - Senator Villavalam, Senator Fine, and Representative Gong-Gershowitz combined to secure \$900,000 for the new Police Department and Village Hall
 - Representative Kelly helped provide \$355,000 for Opticom signals on traffic lights to help first responders travel throughout our community
 - Representative Cochrane procured \$150,000 in support of our Traffic Study for Lincoln and Menard.

She asked the community to join her in thanking these legislators for their continued support for Morton Grove.

2. Mayor Witko reminded everyone to come out next week for our annual Morton Grove Days Celebration. Starting Thursday, July 2 and continuing through Sunday, July 5, there is a packed schedule this year and fun for everyone!
 - a. Headliners include Buckle and Hi Infidelity on July 2; Face the Music followed by Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press on Friday, July 3; and Semple on Saturday, July 4. The carnival is open on July 5 and the food vendors will be available, but no beer garden and no live music. This is an opportunity for families to have one more day to enjoy the weather and the rides.
 - b. This year's event also includes our Fourth of July Parade, which kicks off at 2:30pm at Dempster and Central and ends at Dempster and Ferris. Fireworks will take place at dusk that night. To see the complete schedule, please visit the Village's website.
3. Mayor Witko noted that she has been fortunate enough to have served as Mayor of Morton Grove over the last year. She wanted to take an opportunity to recap what's been accomplished during her first year. Some highlights for her are the continued investment in the town's infrastructure with four major roadway resurfacing projects, and development of a capital improvement plan.

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

- a. She said other highlights include updates to the Village's Code, a focus on economic development, and creating a program to allow seniors to stay within their homes. Mayor Witko encouraged people to visit the Village's website or its social media sites tomorrow to see her letter to the community about the accomplishments made by the Village Board and staff over the last year.

IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Scanlon Harford had no formal report this evening.

X. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. **Village Administrator:**

Mr. Meyer had announced that Village offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

B. **Corporation Counsel:**

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

A. **Trustee Khan:**

Trustee Khan had no formal report, but wanted to wish her colleagues on the Board and the community a happy Independence Day.

B. **Trustee Minx:**

1. Trustee Minx presented **Resolution 26-37, Authorizing the Sale of Village Fire Apparatus.**
 - a. She explained that Ordinance 05-27 authorizes the Village to sell by Resolution of the Village Board obsolete or surplus vehicles and personal property that has an estimated value exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), which is, in the opinion of the Finance Director and the Village Administrator, no longer necessary or useful to the Village. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Fire Department and the Public Works Vehicle Maintenance Division, it is determined that the 2006 Smeal Sirius fire engine, designated Quint 4, is no longer useful for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, age, cost of maintenance, parts availability, and obsolescence, and is deemed to be surplus.

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

B. **Trustee Minx:** (continued)

- b. Trustee Minx said the Village has sole surplus vehicles and equipment through the Northwest Municipal Conference's joint municipal vehicle auctions in the past and has found this process to be cost-effective. The Village Administrator has recommended that the Quint 4 be sold at the joint municipal vehicle auction conducted by the Northwest Municipal Conference in conjunction with America's Auto Auction Chicago, which is scheduled to take place in Crestwood, IL on July 16, 2026. This Resolution will approve the sale of these surplus vehicles and equipment at the joint municipal auction organized by the Northwest Municipal Conference.

Trustee Minx moved to approve Resolution 26-37, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

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>

2. Next, Trustee Minx reinforced what the mayor had said earlier by reminding the assemblage that Morton Grove Days starts on July 2 and ends on July 5, and features carnival rides and live entertainment. She said that parade participants are still welcome, so if you're able to join with your family and friends to walk, drive, or bike in the parade, please sign up on the Village's website.

C. **Trustee Shiba:**

Trustee Shiba announced the upcoming 2026 Greener Morton Grove Award Program. Sponsored by the Village's Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC), this program encourages and invites residents and local businesses to participate in making meaningful efforts that support a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable community.

Winners will be announced at the 2026 Morton Grove Sustainability Expo on Saturday, September 19. Please visit the Village's website to sign up today.

D. **Trustee Thill:**

1. Trustee Thill presented **Ordinance 26-12, Amending Title 5, Chapter 13, Article F, Section 4 Entitled "Restricted Parking Streets" of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- a. Trustee Thill explained that residents nearest to Niles West High School have asked the Village to address the large amount of on-street parking in their area. Village staff has confirmed a problem with on-street parking by the school's students and visitors and has recommended breaking the large parking zone into three smaller parking zones. No change is recommend for the properties that are currently eligible for special permit parking with residents continuing to be able to park on their own block, only that the parking zone will change for some residents.
- b. Two public information meetings were held to introduce the proposed solution and solicit feedback from affected residents. The Traffic Safety Commission reviewed the proposal and recommended approval as presented.
- c. Village staff also identified some defects with parking restrictions in the Municipal Code. This resolution eliminates those defects with no discernable effect on the ability for abutting residents to park in the street near their property.

The fiscal impact of this Ordinance would be \$5,000 to modify approximately 150 sign panels.

Trustee Thill moved to adopt Ordinance 26-12, seconded by Trustee Travis.

- d. Trustee Khan asked Mr. Meyer to explain the process the Village used in breaking the large parking zone into three smaller parking zones. He responded that the Zone 1 is the oldest parking zone in the Village and one of the largest. The Village provided notice to residents in that area making them aware of the change, and residents were allowed to provide feedback before the matter went to the Traffic Safety Commission.
- e. Trustee Khan asked how breaking the large zone into three smaller zones helps. Mr. Meyer said there are time limits built in because the police noticed that when students from the high school parked, their cars were often there longer than an hour. The police also noticed that people who didn't live in the area had access to guest passes and used them day in, day out. Also, often vehicles parked in the area displayed vehicle stickers from other municipalities.
- f. Mr. Meyer said the problem wasn't so much drop-offs at Menard, as it was homeowners complaining about not being able to park near their home or even on their block. As a courtesy, the Village provides residents who live in a zoned parking area a guest pass or two, so if they have visitors, the guests won't be ticketed. He said new language was going to be added to guest passes to emphasize that they are not transferrable to anyone else. He complimented the police department for doing a terrific job of running down all the instances where people were using guest passes they were not entitled to.
- g. Trustee Thill asked if the Village is going to start ticketing in that area, and he asked if the high school has been notified of these changes. Mr. Meyer responded yes, the police will begin ticketing, and yes, the school has been notified.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- i. Trustee Minx commented that this area's parking problems have been around for a very long time. Part of the problem is that what the school charges for parking privileges is higher than most students want to pay. She said this seems to be a fair way of handling the problem. Trustee White agreed, noting that he was on the Traffic Safety Commission twenty years ago when this was a problem.

Mayor Witko called for the vote.

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>

2. Next, Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 26-38, Authorizing a Contract with Hoerr Construction, Inc. of Goodfield, IL for the 2026 Sewer Lining Program.**

- a. The Village has an annual program to rehabilitate older sanitary, storm, and combined sewer pipes to improve flow capacity and eliminate groundwater infiltration and inflow in the Village's sewer infrastructure. The Village advertised for bids on its website in May, and three bids were received. The bids were opened on June 5, 2026, with Hoerr Construction, Inc. submitting the lowest responsible bid. The contract is based on estimated quantities and unit prices proposed by the contractor. This project must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act.
- b. This Resolution also authorizes the Village Administrator to approve contract change orders not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the original contract amount, or \$39,720, to accommodate unforeseen conditions and necessary project modifications while maintaining the construct schedule. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is not to exceed \$436,820.00

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 26-38, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passed: 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>

3. Trustee Thill ended his report with two reminders: "Fly the Flag" and "Water the Newly-Planted Trees."

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)E. Trustee Travis:

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.

F. Trustee White:

1. Trustee White presented **Ordinance 26-13, Amending Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 4, Entitled "Fees for Specific Permits, Licenses, Certificates, and Services" and Title 10, Chapter 5, Entitled "Property Maintenance Regulations" to Establish a Structural Integrity Inspection Program for Select Multi-Family Residences.**
 - a. He explained that, in March of 2026, a partial building collapse occurred at a condominium building in the Village that resulted in the long-term displacement of its residents. Multi-family residential buildings in Morton Grove and other communities are aging, and due to deferred maintenance, may have structural deficiencies that pose a safety risk to residents and the general public. The 2026 incident suggested a local need for additional oversight of structural integrity and property maintenance for larger multi-family residential buildings to prevent similar incidents. Other communities and states have passed similar structural integrity programs to address the same issue, which served as models for the Village's proposed program.
 - b. Village staff has prepared a memorandum outlining its proposal to establish a Structural Integrity Inspection Program for select multi-family residential buildings ("Program"). Specifically, the Program would apply to multi-family residential buildings with ten (10) or more residents or three (3) or more stories. The Program is largely based on the State of Florida program established in the wake of the Surfside, FL condominium building collapse in 2021. The proposed Program requires periodic, proactive assessments of building structural systems by qualified professionals, at the expense of the building owner(s), to identify potential deficiencies before they pose a safety risk. The Program is designed to enhance resident safety, preserve building integrity, and support building owners in maintaining compliance with applicable code through early detection and timely remediation of structural deficiencies.
 - c. Under the proposed Program, the first structural integrity report for covered buildings greater than 30 years in age will be due July 1, 2027. Staff will begin communicating the new Program requirements to covered building owners upon Ordinance adoption to provide adequate time for owners and associations to plan accordingly for their required third-party inspections.

Trustee White moved to adopt Ordinance 26-13, seconded by Trustee Thill.

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

F. Trustee White: (continued)

Upon the vote, the **motion passed: 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>

2. Trustee White noted that on tonight's Agenda was **Ordinance 26-14, Approving a Preliminary Plat of Subdivision and Special Use Permit with associated waivers for a Warehouse and Light Manufacturing Use at the Property Commonly Known as 8125–8145 River Drive and 8120–8140 Lehigh Avenue in Morton Grove, IL.**

- a. Trustee White moved to postpone the second reading of this Ordinance to July 14, 2026. Trustee Khan seconded the motion.

Upon the vote, the **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>

XII. **WARRANTS**

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for June 23, 2026 in the amount of \$810,355.93. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

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>

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 Khan.

Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.

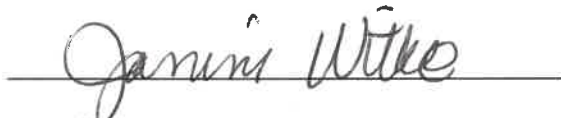
The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

PASSED this 14th day of July 2026.

Trustee Khan
Trustee Minx
Trustee Shiba
Trustee Thill
Trustee Travis
Trustee White

aye
aye
absent
aye
aye
aye

APPROVED by me this 14th day of July 2026.



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

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



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar