

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M., AUGUST 17, 2026**

After calling the meeting to order, President Kaufman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll, with the following members present: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

PRESENTATIONS – Police Chief Darche presented Karter Richardson as a new full-time police officer. He noted that Officer Richardson is a native of Manito, Illinois, a graduate of Southern Illinois University, and will begin training at the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois on August 30. Clerk Ritthaler administered the Oath of Office. President Kaufman commended the police department's positive culture and noted that the county prosecutor praised the Morton Police for having over 90% perfect paperwork, leading to successful court outcomes.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sally Hanley of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council thanked the Village for its support in attracting Crane Equipment & Service to the community. She highlighted that Core Construction completed leasehold improvements to the Flint Avenue building, including a new entrance, ramps, and a customer viewing area. She also shared that Crane Equipment & Service installed new crane stall bays to support builds for Caterpillar and Komatsu and is currently preparing a crane system shipment for a military base in Italy. President Kaufman added that the company specifically chose the location for its immediate expressway access, allowing heavy semis to bypass driving through town, and noted the added benefit of the recent Flint Avenue additions.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes.
 - 1. Regular Meeting – August 3, 2026
 - 2. Closed Session – August 3, 2026
- B. Approval of Bills

Trustee Parrott moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6
No: None
Absent: None

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

President Kaufman presented the appointment of Jessica Vasquez to the position of Village Administrator. He welcomed her and noted that she has been with the Village for 14 years. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6
No: None
Absent: None

President Kaufman then requested Acceptance of bid for Fire Station No. 2 at 191 E. Queenwood Rd. in the amount of \$7,248,000.00 and award of contract for same to Hein Construction Co., Inc. DPW Loudermilk reported that the bidding was highly competitive, with six of the seven bids coming in the \$7 million range. Trustees emphasized that this is a "need" project, allowing the department to vacate its leased downtown facility, which is no longer conducive to modern fire engines. President Kaufman highlighted the safety features of the new four-bay design, which includes poured concrete walls with a concrete cap and a dedicated storm shelter. Trustees noted the strategic location at the former nursing home site on Queenwood Road provides rapid interstate access and balances coverage on both ends of town. It was also noted that while the project requires financing, the Village has a forward-looking plan to minimize debt and pay it off as quickly as possible. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6

No: None

Absent: None

CORPORATION COUNSEL

Attorney McGrath expressed his appreciation for retiring Village Administrator Julie Smick, highlighting their 10 years of working closely together.

DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

DFE Hale noted the swearing-in of a new firefighter earlier in the day, bringing the department up to nine full-time firefighters, with one remaining vacancy expected to be filled soon.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Loudermilk requested acceptance of bid for the Bull Run Creek at Jackson Street Sidewalk Project in the Amount of \$106,900.00 and award of contract for same to Otto Baum Co., Inc. He explained that the project addresses settling at all four corners of the Jackson Street bridge over Bull Run Creek to eliminate trip hazards and also includes a planned extension of the sidewalk in front of the park district facility. Trustee Menold moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Cirilli and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6

No: None

Absent: None

DPW Loudermilk then presented Ordinance 27-12 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Title 4 of the Morton Municipal Code Regarding Flood Damage Prevention. He clarified that passing this Ordinance update by September 7 is required by the DNR to keep the Village in the National Flood Insurance Program. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Leitch, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 6

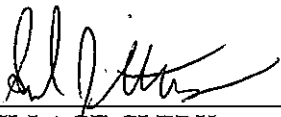
No: None

Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Leitch moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Menold and followed by a unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:



VILLAGE CLERK



PRESIDENT

