

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON, ILLINOIS
7:00 P.M.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026
FREEDOM HALL, 349 W. BIRCHWOOD, MORTON, ILLINOIS

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
- IV. PUBLIC HEARING**
- V. PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS**
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - A. Public Comments
 - B. Requests for Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular Meeting – February 2, 2026
 - B. Approval of Bills
- VIII. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**
- IX. VILLAGE PRESIDENT**
- X. VILLAGE CLERK**
- XI. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**
- XII. CHIEF OF POLICE**
 - A. Resolution 32-26 – A Resolution Approving Eligibility Under Education Assistance Policy to Sergeant John Johnson for Master of Public Administration Program at Dordt University.
- XIII. CORPORATION COUNSEL**
- XIV. DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**
- XV. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**
 - A. Ordinance 26-27 – An Ordinance Authorizing IEPA Loan Agreement.
- XVI. ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
- XVII. VILLAGE TRUSTEES**
 - A. Trustee Blunier
 - B. Trustee Cirilli
 - C. Trustee Hilliard
 - D. Trustee Leitch
 - E. Trustee Menold
 - F. Trustee Parrott
- XVIII. CLOSED SESSIONS**
- XIX. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSIONS**
- XX. ADJOURNMENT**

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes.
 - 1. Regular Meeting – January 19, 2025
- B. Approval of Bills

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

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

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Smick presented Ordinance 26-26 – An Ordinance Amending the Village of Morton Personnel Policy Manual. She explained that the ordinance adds a new policy for return-to-work, alternate, and light duty assignments to encourage injured employees to return to work on a restricted basis rather than staying on workers' compensation. The ordinance also updates various leave policies to align with state law changes. During discussion, Trustee Leitch requested clarification on the difference between "light duty" and "alternate duty". Administrator Smick explained that light duty is performed within the employee's own department, while alternate duty is performed in a different department. Trustee Leitch expressed concern regarding the alternate duty provision, questioning the efficiency of training employees for temporary roles outside their department. Chief Darche provided an example where a light-duty officer successfully assisted the records department with FOIA requests, describing it as mutually beneficial. Administrator Smick clarified that while the program is optional for the Village to offer, it is not voluntary for an employee to decline if they are medically cleared and an offer is made. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Menold and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Cirilli, Hilliard, Menold, Parrott – 5
No: Leitch – 1
Absent: None

CORPORATION COUNSEL

Attorney McGrath presented Ordinance 26-25 – An Ordinance Authorizing Purchase of 12 E. Jackson Street Under Terms of Amended Contract. He explained that the Board had previously authorized the purchase, but further negotiations with the Bank of Pontiac resulted in the elimination of a clause that would have held the Village liable for certain environmental cleanup costs. He recommended approval of the amended contract. Trustee Menold moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Administrator Smick, filling in for DPW Loudermilk, presented Ordinance 26-24 – An Ordinance Making Amendments to Section 8-2-4 of the Morton Municipal Code Regarding Fees for Service Line Installation. She explained that this ordinance updates gas installation fees to recoup increased costs for meters, supplies, and labor. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Menold and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administrator Smick then presented Resolution 29-26 – A Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code (IDOT MFT Funds for Sealcoat). She noted a map in the meeting agenda packet outlining the areas to be treated this summer. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administrator Smick then presented Resolution 30-26 – A Resolution Authorizing Agreement with R&R Services of Illinois, Inc. for Landscape Waste Program. She noted that the cost for the grinding and mulch service will increase by 3% to \$44,034.97. Trustee Menold moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administrator Smick then presented Resolution 31-26 – A Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Keach Architectural Design, Inc. for Design and Construction Services for Queenwood Fire Station. Chief Hale added that this agreement brings in engineers to finalize the structural design and prepare the project for bidding, with a bid opening anticipated in May. Trustee Cirilli moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administrator Smick then announced that GFL's Bulky Item Pickup will take place May 4-8, 2026, on regular garbage collection days.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

ZCO Davis presented the Q3 FY26 and FY26 year-to-date permit reports.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 32-26

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ELIGIBILITY UNDER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
POLICY TO SERGEANT JOHN JOHNSON FOR MASTER OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM AT DORDT UNIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton has adopted a Personnel Policy Manual, which includes an Education Assistance Policy; and

WHEREAS, the adopted Education Assistance Policy provides master's level courses and degree programs may only be reimbursed under the Education Assistance Policy with the approval of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Johnson of the Morton Police Department has been accepted for admission to a Master of Public Administration program at Dordt University; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton finds and determines the pursuit of the aforesaid program of study by Sgt. John Johnson will be for the betterment of the Village of Morton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON, Tazewell County, Illinois, as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and approve reimbursement to Sgt. John Johnson in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Education Assistance Policy as set forth in the Village of Morton Personnel Policy Manual Section 3.26 for studies in the Master of Public Administration program at Dordt University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton, Tazewell County, Illinois, this ____ day of _____, 2026; and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

ORDINANCE NUMBER 26-27

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING IEPA LOAN AGREEMENT

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Village of Morton, of Tazewell County, Illinois to borrow funds from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton, of Tazewell County, Illinois operates its sewerage system (“the System”) and in accordance with the provisions of 65 ILCS 5/11-141-7 and the Local Government Debt Reform Act, 30 ILCS 350/1 (collectively, “the Act”), and

WHEREAS, the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton (“the Corporate Authorities”) have determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the best interests of public health, safety and welfare to improve the System, including the following:

For Plant #2, the project includes miscellaneous improvements, primarily including the construction of a new headworks facility, new secondary treatment aeration basins and final clarifiers, a new tertiary disc filter facility, a new sludge dewatering facility, a new sludge storage building, a new administrative-lab building, demolition of existing structures, and other site, process, electrical, HVAC, and control improvements.

For Plant #3, the project includes miscellaneous improvements, primarily including the construction of a new screening facility, new closed loop reactor aerator/mixers, new RAS/WAS pump stations, a new UV disinfection system in the existing disinfection contact tank, demolition of existing structures, and other site, process, electrical, and controls improvements.

together with any land or rights in land and all electrical, mechanical or other services necessary, useful or advisable to the construction and installation (“the Project”), all in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by consulting engineers of the Village of Morton; which Project has a useful life of 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of construction and installation of the Project, including engineering, legal, financial and other related expenses is \$45,820,000 and there are insufficient funds on hand and lawfully available to pay these costs; and

WHEREAS, the loan shall bear an interest rate as defined by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 365, which does not exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond Authorization Act, as amended, 30 ILCS 305/0.01 et seq., at the time of the issuance of the loan; and

WHEREAS, the principal and interest payment shall be payable semi-annually, and the loan shall mature in 20 years, which is within the period of useful life of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the costs are expected to be paid for with a loan to the Village of Morton from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the loan to be repaid from revenues of the System and the loan is authorized to be accepted at this time pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Village of Morton is authorized to borrow funds from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program in the aggregate principal amount of \$42,427,000 to provide funds to pay the costs of the Project;

WHEREAS, the loan to the Village of Morton shall be made pursuant to a Loan Agreement, including certain terms and conditions, between the Village of Morton and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Morton of Tazewell County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLES

The Corporate Authorities hereby find that the recitals contained in the preambles are true and correct, and incorporate them into this Ordinance by this reference.

SECTION 2. DETERMINATION TO BORROW FUNDS

It is necessary and in the best interests of the Village of Morton to construct the Project for the public health, safety and welfare, in accordance with the plans and specifications, as described; that the System continues to be operated in accordance with the provision of the Act; and that for the purpose of constructing the Project, it is hereby authorized that funds be borrowed by the Village of Morton in an aggregate principal amount (which can include construction period interest financed over the term of the loan) not to exceed \$42,427,000.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION

This Ordinance, together with a Notice in the statutory form (attached hereto as Exhibit A), shall be published once within ten days after passage in the Peoria Journal Star, a newspaper published and of general circulation in the Village of Morton, and if no petition, signed by electors numbering 10% or more of the registered voters in the Village of Morton (which is 1,168 registered voters) asking that the question of improving the System as provided in this Ordinance and entering into the Loan Agreement therefore be submitted to the electors of the Village of Morton, is filed with the Village of Morton Clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of this Ordinance and notice, then this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect. A petition form shall be provided by the Village of Morton Clerk to any individual requesting one.

SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES

If no petition meeting the requirements of the Act and other applicable laws is filed during the 30-day petition period, then the Corporate Authorities may adopt additional ordinances or proceedings supplementing or amending this Ordinance providing for entering into the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, prescribing all the details of the Loan Agreement, and providing for the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of the System, so long as the maximum amount of the Loan Agreement as set forth in this Ordinance is not exceeded and there is no material change in the Project or purposes described herein. Any additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective in accordance with the Act or other applicable law. This Ordinance, together with such additional ordinances or proceedings, shall constitute complete authority for entering into the Loan Agreement under applicable law. However, notwithstanding the above, the Village of Morton may not adopt additional ordinances or amendments which provide for any substantive or material change in the scope and intent of this Ordinance, including but not limited to interest rate, preference, or priority of any other ordinance with this Ordinance, parity of any other ordinance with this Ordinance, or otherwise alter or impair the obligation of the Village of Morton to pay the principal and interest due to the Water Pollution Control Loan Program without the written consent of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

SECTION 5. LOAN NOT INDEBTEDNESS OF VILLAGE OF MORTON

Repayment of the loan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by the Village of Morton pursuant to this Ordinance is to be solely from the revenue derived from revenues of the System, and the loan does not constitute an indebtedness of the Village of Morton within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation.

SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR LOAN

The Village President is hereby authorized to make application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a loan through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program, in accordance with the loan requirements set out in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 365.

SECTION 7. ACCEPTANCE OF LOAN AGREEMENT

The Corporate Authorities hereby authorize acceptance of the offer of a loan through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program, including all terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement as well as all special conditions contained therein and made a part thereof by reference. The Corporate Authorities further agree that the loan funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes of the project as approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement.

SECTION 8. OUTSTANDING

The Village of Morton has no outstanding bonds that are payable from revenues of the system.

SECTION 9. AUTHORIZATION OF PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE LOAN AGREEMENT

The President is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The Corporate Authorities may authorize by resolution a person other than the President for the sole purpose of authorizing or executing any documents associated with payment requests or reimbursements from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in connection with this loan.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY

If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. REPEALER

Ordinance 26-25 previously authorizing the Village of Morton to obtain an IEPA loan for this sewer project is hereby repealed. Additionally, all ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, which conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE OF MORTON PRESEIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES _____.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Trustee Blunier	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Hilliard	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Leitch	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Menold	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Parrott	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Cirilli	_____	_____	_____	_____

Presiding Officer

Attest

Jeffrey L. Kaufman, Village President,
Village of Morton

Sam Ritthaler, Village Clerk, Village
of Morton

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO BORROW FUNDS AND RIGHT TO FILE
PETITION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Ordinance Number 26-____, adopted on _____, 2026, the Village of Morton of Tazewell County, Illinois (the “ENTITY”), intends to enter into a Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$42,427,000 and bearing annual interest at an amount not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of execution of the Loan Agreement, for the purpose of paying the cost of certain improvement to the sewerage system of the Village of Morton. A complete copy of the Ordinance accompanies this notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that if a petition signed by 1,168 or more electors of the Village of Morton (being equal to 10% of the registered voters in the Village of Morton), requesting that the question of improving the sewerage system and entering into the Loan Agreement is submitted to the Village of Morton Clerk within 30 days after the publication of this Notice, the question of improving the sewerage system of the Village of Morton as provided in the Ordinance and Loan Agreement shall be submitted to the electors of the Village of Morton at next consolidated election to be held on April 6, 2027. A petition form is available from the office of the Village of Morton Clerk.

s/ Sam Ritthaler

Village of Morton Clerk

Village of Morton of Tazewell County, Illinois

CERTIFICATION

I, Sam Ritthaler, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected, qualified and acting Clerk of the Village of Morton. I do further certify that the above and foregoing, identified as Ordinance Number 26-_____, is a true, complete and correct copy of an ordinance otherwise identified as Ordinance Authorizing IEPA Loan Agreement passed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton on the ____ day of _____, 2026, and approved by the President of the Village of Morton of Tazewell County on the same said date, the original of which is part of the books and records within my control as Clerk of the Village of Morton of Tazewell County.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Sam Ritthaler, Village Clerk, Village
of Morton

NO REFERENDUM CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified, and acting Village of Morton Clerk of the Village of Morton of Tazewell County, Illinois (the “ENTITY”), and as such officer I am the keeper of the books, records, files and journal of proceedings of the Village of Morton and of the PRESIDENT and BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Village of Morton. I do further certify that Ordinance Number 25-_____, being the Ordinance entitled: Ordinance Authorizing IEPA Loan Agreement (the “Ordinance”) was presented to and passed by the PRESIDENT and BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Village of Morton at its legally convened meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by the PRESIDENT of the Village of Morton on said day. I do further certify that the Ordinance was duly and properly published in the _____, a newspaper published and of general circulation within the Village of Morton, on the ____ day of _____, 2026, being a date within ten days from the date of passage of the Ordinance. I do further certify that publication of the Ordinance was accompanied by a separate publication of notice of (1) the specific number of voters required to sign the petition requesting the question of constructing improvements to the sewerage system as provided in the Ordinance; (2) the time in which such petition must have been filed; and (3) the date of the prospective referendum. I do further certify that I did make available and provide to any individual so requesting a petition form, which petition form provided for submission to the electors of the Village of Morton of the question as set forth therein. Such petition forms were available from me continuously from _____, _____, 2026, up to and including _____, _____, 2026. I do further certify that no Petition has been filed in my office within 30 days after publication of the Ordinance or as of the time of the signing hereof as provided by statute asking that the question of improving the sewerage system as provided in the Ordinance and the Loan Agreement therefore be submitted to the electors of the Village of Morton.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the corporate seal of the Village of Morton of Tazewell County, Illinois this ____ day of _____ 2026.

Village of Morton Clerk Village of Morton
of Tazewell County, Illinois

(SEAL)