

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M., MAY 18, 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, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

PRESENTATIONS – President Kaufman recognized National Police Week, thanking the Morton Police Department for their continued service to the Village as well as the Police Commissioners, one of whom was in attendance.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Darche presented Ordinance 27-04 – An Ordinance Making Amendments to Chapter 1 of Title 6 of the Morton Municipal Code to Remove the Rank of Lieutenant and Create a Second Deputy Chief Position. He noted this change aligns the department's command structure with other large Tazewell County police departments. Trustee Hilliard moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Officer Jason Cabell was promoted to the rank of Patrol Sergeant, and the oath of office was administered by the Village Clerk.

Sergeant Jonathan Johnson was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, and the oath of office was administered by the Village Clerk.

Chief Darche presented Officer Awards for exceptional service. Letters of Commendation and Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Detective Jason Cabell (for an extensive investigation leading to a 10-year conviction for child exploitation material), Officer Jake Klyber (for identifying a masked burglary suspect), Officer Grant Hodel (for a proactive traffic stop that solved a regional burglary ring), Sergeant Logan Noble (for swiftly coordinating the apprehension of fleeing suspects), and Sergeant Eric Herman and Officer Brycen Stein (for utilizing Flock cameras to apprehend a burglary suspect). Chief Darche also presented an Exemplary Citizen Award to Jonathan Turner for his prompt reporting of the digital evidence that initiated the child exploitation material investigation.

Chief Darche then requested waiver of formal bidding and acceptance of proposal through Sourcewell and from Lincoln Office for purchase of office furniture for Police Department Sergeants' offices in the amount of \$52,340.03. He explained that the recent expiration of the lease with the Tazewell County Consolidated Communications Center provided space to consolidate the Sergeants' offices and accommodate the new Deputy Chief, noting the Sourcewell contract reduced the final price by approximately \$17,000. Trustee Blunier moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

A ten-minute recess was then taken to celebrate the promotions and awards.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes.
 - 1. Regular Meeting – May 4, 2026
- B. Approval of Bills

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

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

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

President Kaufman thanked Chief Darche and Attorney McGrath for their work regarding the police department structuring.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Smick presented Building Improvement Grant recommendations from the Business District Commission for GNW Enterprises (107-109 W. Jefferson) in the amount of \$10,000 to replace the upper-level brick facade with siding, and for Elita 1989 Inc. (25 E. Adams) in the amount of \$3,027 to update existing signage. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

DFE Hale presented Ordinance 27-03 – An Ordinance Making Amendments to Title 5 of the Morton Municipal Code Regarding the Adoption of Fire and Life Safety Codes. He noted this officially adopts the 2021 NFPA Life Safety Code 101, NFPA 855 to address increasing regulations on energy/battery storage systems, and the 2024 International Fire Code. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Loudermilk presented Ordinance 27-05 – An Ordinance Making Amendments to Section 8-20-6 of the Morton Municipal Code Regarding Fuel Surcharge for Garbage Utility Service. He explained that the GFL agreement includes a 10% surcharge if diesel prices exceed \$5.00 per gallon for 30 consecutive days, resulting in a \$2.20 monthly increase for enrolled citizens. He noted the agreement also includes a protective price reduction if diesel falls below \$2.50 per gallon. Trustee Parrott moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

DPW Loudermilk then requested waiver formal bidding and acceptance of proposal through Sourcewell and from Altorfer, Inc., for a new 2026 Cat 926 Wheel Loader for the Streets, Gas, Water Distribution & Wastewater Departments in the amount of \$220,227.28. He noted this equipment is critical for loading salt and landscape waste, and the agreement includes a trade of 2022 Cat Wheel Loader for \$115,856.70 and 60-month/3,000-hour buyback for \$120,000. Trustee Parrott moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

DPW Loudermilk then presented Ordinance 27-06 – An Ordinance Authorizing Fourth Amendment to Water Tower Lease Agreement. He explained this authorizes an agreement with Verizon Wireless for a 20-year term starting at \$31,680 annually with a 3% yearly increase. Trustee Leitch moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parrott and approved with the following roll call vote:

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

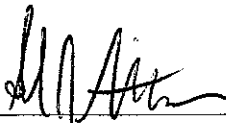
VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Trustee Menold complimented the Public Works Department for maintaining the clean appearance of the Village water towers.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:



VILLAGE CLERK



PRESIDENT

