

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF STEGER, WILL & COOK  
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

The Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2013 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger with President Peterson in the Chair and presiding and Village Clerk Carmen S. Recupito, Jr. attending.

The Village Clerk called the roll and the following Trustees were present: Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Also present were Village Administrator Mike Tilton, Village Engineer Joseph Schudt, HR/Dispatch Director Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, ESDA Coordinator Tom Johnston, Fire Chief Jeff Roesner, Emergency Management Chief Tom Johnston, Recreation Board President Harry Hammock, Community Center Director Diane Rossi, Police Pension Board President Pat Rossi and Police Chief Greg Rambo.

**AWARDS, HONORS & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

Police Chief Greg Rambo read a letter he wrote to Ronald Johnson. Chief Rambo thanked Mr. Johnson for his involvement as a concerned citizen in the apprehension of a dangerous driver. Mr. Johnson's actions lead to the much needed medical attention for a severely injured infant.

In the same incident, Chief Rambo reported that telecommunicators Ashlee Wathen and Andrew Eagan "operated like a well-oiled machine." Not only did Wathen and Eagan do what was expected of them, they did it very well. Because of them a severely injured 11 month old child received much needed medical attention. Chief Rambo presented Wathen and Eagan with letters of appreciation for their efforts.

Chief Rambo asked that Officer John Napoleon and Sgt. Gerry Ruff come forward. Chief Rambo reported that Officer Napoleon was dispatched to a "suspicious car" in the area of Morgan and Grace. Chief Rambo stated that Officer Napoleon's actions led to the apprehension of a dangerous driver. More importantly, Officer Napoleon observed a severely injured 11 month old infant in the vehicle and summoned the needed medical assistance. Officer Napoleon's prompt actions and attention to detail played a critical role in the safety of and prevention of further injury to the defenseless child. Chief Rambo commended Officer Napoleon for his actions, presented him with a commendation and medal. Chief Rambo asked Napoleon to wear the medal with pride. The Board and the audience congratulated and thanked Officer Napoleon.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Charlie Van Gemert of 22540 Cottage Grove Avenue approached the Board. Mr. Van Gemert, a veteran, asked that the late fee on his Village sticker be waived, as he was unaware that Village stickers were required. Trustee Perchinski made a motion to waive Van Gemert's late fee. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Teresa Van Ort expressed her concerns of the conditions of many homes on Peoria Street. Mrs. Van Ort said there are houses on her block that cover up “junk” with tarps. A neighbor has several cats and cars at the property, some of the cars have license plates, others do not. . Mayor Peterson suggested Mrs. Van Ort provide Public Infrastructure Director Dave Toepper a list of addresses she is concerned about. The Mayor also explained that the Village is looking into an ordinance regarding the number of cats allowed at a residence.

A resident asked the Board to look into the number of trains blowing horns especially in the overnight hours. She reported that the horns seem to be blowing louder and longer at night and are disruptive to residents. Mayor Peterson explained that he has someone looking into the possibility of a quiet zone at the train tracks.

Toni Schultz of Halsted Boulevard reported that the condition of the gazebo needs attention. Dave Toepper of Public Infrastructure will look into the condition of the gazebo.

Steve Thurmond reported that an empty lot on Union Avenue is being used as a semi-truck parking lot. The property is zoned commercial and is not paved. Mayor Peterson will look into the situation.

Mr. Thurmond also asked about the reason for the orange water. Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper explained that due to several recent main breaks, the water is discolored. Toepper is working on keeping the iron levels down in the water by using phosphate. The process will take some time to clear up. The chloramine is still a few months away from introduction into the system. Thurmond asked if the residents in the main break zones could be notified of the break. Toepper informed the audience that CodeRed is used during main breaks and that all registered residents are notified.

Christie Ebert of 222 Barbara Lane suggested a current events ticker for the Village website. Mayor Peterson agreed with the idea and will consider it as the website is revamped.

Harry Hammock commented that postal codes change annually. The Village will continue to get the annual code information from the post office.

## **MINUTES**

Trustee Perchinski moved that the reading of the minutes of the August 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting be dispensed with and accepted as written, with one change. On page 1 should read “James Patrevito” and not John. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice Vote was called; all ayes. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE**

None

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief Greg Rambo reported that last week, Ron Kottka was sworn in as a part time police officer.

The Steger Police Department has entered into a partnership with the Steger School District 194 to provide “Self Defense for Women” on Tuesdays at 7pm September 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no fee for the program, women must be 18 years or older and wear comfortable clothing.

Chief Rambo also shared “What your burglar does not want you to know” Trustee Perchinski asked that both items be added to the Village website, facebook and Village marquee.

Fire Chief Jeff Roesner – Complete monthly report will be presented at next Board meeting

HSEM Chief Tom Johnston reported that in August his department had 3 events, the Circus, the Steger Days of Music and a Bloom Trail football game. HSEM had 3 mutual aid calls during the month, 3 special details and 5 patrols for total of 263 man hours. On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> HSEM will run a special patrol.

Dispatch Center Director Mary Jo Seehausen reported that Will County has a mobile command van that will be at the Steger Police Station from noon to 8pm on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board is welcome to observe the Steger telecommunicators dispatching from the van at that time.

Steger Police Pension Board President Pat Rossi reported that if the Board would like a presentation by Pension Board actuarial, an appointment can be arranged. Mayor Peterson suggested that the actuarial attend a committee meeting. Board President Rossi will schedule the appointment.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Director Mary Jo Seehausen asked that each Department Head e mail to her a list of jobs in the department. Later she will schedule a time when duties of each job title can be discussed.

## COMMUNITY CENTER

Community Center Director Diane Rossi – no report

## RECREATION BOARD

Recreation Board President Harry Hammock reported that basketball and volleyball are starting up soon.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

No report

## PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Infrastructure Director Dave Toepper reported that in August the Building Department issued 38 building permits for total revenue of \$5,300.00. There six water main breaks for the month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
No report

**REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES**

None

**CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that his office is researching the cost and use of “fillable forms” for the Village website.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mayor Peterson explained that he and Mike Tilton have been talking to a potential buyer for the Macaroni Factory. The buyer would be using the Factory for a warehouse. The warehouse would employ 20-30. There is concern over the length of the semi-trucks loading and unloading; the trucks may extend beyond the sidewalk and into the street. Attorney Michael Del Galdo explained that the Village would have no liability for any incidents that occurred on the sidewalk or street. Administrator Tilton will take measurements at the Macaroni Factory and report back.

**BILLS**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to pay the bills as listed when funds are available with one exception. The Southland Voice invoice for Oktoberfest advertising should be removed. Trustee Banicki seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Housing Collaborative Newsletter from South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

1st Annual Oktoberfest Bean Bag Tournament September 14th

Matt Wenzel of Cabin 7 Promotions expressed gratitude for assistance from Steger Public Works and HSEM at the Steger Days of Music. “They were MAJOR contributors to the success of the event!”

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Trustee Banicki made a motion to table Will County Center for Community Concerns' request for of a donation to help continue their efforts. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried. Administrator Tilton will collect information regarding contributions by other villages.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 1041 A  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ANNEXATION  
AGREEMENT with a change to the signature page (removing reference to Home  
Rule Community). Trustee Banicki seconded the motion. Roll was called and the  
following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski.  
Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1046 AN  
ORDINANCE ANNEXING A 5.54-ACRE PARCEL. Trustee Sarek seconded the  
motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna,  
Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1047 AN ORDINANCE  
REZONING AND GRANTING A SPECIAL USE FOR A 5.54-ACRE PARCEL.  
Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees  
voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson  
voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1048 AN ORDINANCE  
CREATING THE POSITION OF TELECOMMUNICATOR SUPERVISOR. Trustee  
Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye;  
Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye.  
Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Temporary Business license  
application of Amici's Taverna at 3501 Union Avenue, pending inspections. Trustee  
Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye;  
Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye.  
Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 804-14 An  
ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER SIX, SECTION 6-76 ENTITLED LIMITATIONS  
ON LICENSES (Amici's Taverna) Trustee Banicki seconded the motion. Roll was  
called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek  
and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Kozy made a motion to approve an amendment to Ordinance No. 1045  
limiting grass not to exceed 10" in height. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion.  
Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy,  
Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson appointed the Del Galdo Law Firm as Corporation Counsel. Mr. Del  
Galdo introduced Julie Diemer and Amber Munday of his firm. Trustee Perchinski  
made a motion to concur with the Mayor's appointment. Trustee Banicki seconded  
the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna,  
Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson appointed Jeff Roesner as Fire Chief. Trustee Perchinski made a motion to concur with the Mayor's appointment. Trustee Sarek seconded the appointment. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

The Village Clerk sworn in Fire Chief Jeff Roesner.

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the request of Joe Zagone of Steger Kiwanis to sell peanuts at local businesses and at the intersection of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Chicago Road on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Kiwanis will be required to wear safety vests and no children will be allowed in the street. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request of Fire Chief Roesner that Fire Department personnel subpoenaed to court, be compensated with 4 hours added to their time sheet. This would apply to firefighter, EMTs and paramedics representing the Village of Steger Fire Department and not Kurtz Ambulance service Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify previous actions taken by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table discussion on the dedication of the Community Center. Administrator Titlon will contact former Mayor Sherman and Mrs. Sherman to schedule a time to dedicate the "Louis Sherman Community Center" . Trustee Kozy seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to deny the offer by Lou Gaz for a 1998 Dodge Caravan at a cost of \$1,500.00. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Sarek made a motion to table Discussion on financing of Recreation Board programs. Trustee Kozy seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request of Barbara Schaul of Girl Scout Troop #007 to use the Village Meeting Room for Scout meetings on certain Saturdays, September 21, 2013 through June 14, 2014 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Kozy made a motion to approve the request of Life Line Screening to use the Village Meeting Room on November 1, 2013. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to allow Steger Little League to use the Village Meeting room on the 2nd Mondays of each month from 7-9pm for monthly Board Meetings. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request of Lt. Gibbs of the Steger Fire Department to use Veterans Park on September 21st and 8 picnic tables for a pig roast for the Steger, Steger Estates and South Chicago Heights Fire Department's families. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Banicki made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, contracts, property and litigation. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**7:52pm**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to return to regular Session. Trustee Kozy seconded the motion. Roll was called and the following Trustees voted aye; Banicki, Skrezyna, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**9:17pm**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Perchinski moved that the meeting adjourn. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:18pm**

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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

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Carmen S. Recupito, Jr., Village Clerk