

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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 11th day of August, 2014 in the Fire Department Headquarters 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: Buxton, Kozy, Lopez, Sarek and Perchinski. Trustee Skrezyna was absent. Also present were HR Director Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, EMA Chief Tom Johnston, Police Chief Carl Mormann, Community Center Director Diane Rossi and Village Administrator Mike Tilton.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table the Minutes of the August 4th Village Board Meeting. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice vote was called; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tom Seehausen inquired that the audience could participate by asking questions later in the meeting when the Board discusses plans for the Village Hall. Mayor Peterson assured Mr. Seehausen that the audience will be allowed to ask questions at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Peterson led discussion on the direction to be taken in restoring, replacing or extending the Village Hall due to compliance issues, need for additional office space and current code compliance. Mayor Peterson explained that as a Village we are growing and have outgrown our previous Village Hall. Whatever is decided upon will be the foundation for the Village for years to come. A new Village Hall could reenergize the downtown area. Insurance proceeds may not be enough to rehab and stay at the current Village Hall. A referendum will be needed. Mayor Peterson explained that a referendum can be added to the November ballot. Input from residents will be important. Many options are available.

1. Village Hall restored exactly as it was before the fire.
2. Expanded Village Hall-reconfigured at current site
3. Start brand new-build new for Police and Village Hall

Mayor Peterson believes that restoring the Village Hall as it was, is the least of the choices. Exploring options to include other agencies in possible expansion should be considered.

A referendum would be for authorization to borrow money to build. Mayor Peterson explained that the longer the Village waits to go to referendum, the longer the building is put off. The trustees agreed that November referendum is preferable to get the project started.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to go to referendum in November. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Discussion with the audience followed. Mayor Peterson explained that the dollar amount on the referendum will be on the high end, but cannot be exceeded. Architect Mario Planera explained that land acquisition, furniture and equipment must be added to the cost of the building. Village Administrator Mike Tilton explained that a meeting must be held to pass a resolution regarding the referendum by Friday August 15th. The resolution must be delivered to Will and Cook Counties by Monday August 18th.

Tom Seehausen believes that the Board is on the right track. Mr. Seehausen thinks the Police and Village Hall should be separated.

Joe Zagone of the Economic Development Committee suggested the Board consider using the School District property at 33rd and Emerald. Mayor Peterson has had preliminary discussions with the School District. It is likely the site to be used if the Board decides to build new. Mr. Seehausen reminded the Board that the old Central School foundation is still on the property there.

Steve Thurmond asked if the Board will request a blank check. Mayor Peterson explained that the dollar amount will be determined by the August 15th Board Meeting. The architect will work on "better numbers".

Patrick Rossi asked if the School District will also be going to referendum at the same time. Mayor Peterson does not believe that to be the case.

Tom Seehausen asked if the referendum failed in November could it be added to the April election. Mayor Peterson replied that it can.

Trustee Perchinski asked that the audience talk to their neighbors and explain the proposed referendum.

Colleen Watson asked if any grants were available to help fund the project. Administrator Tilton explained that he spoke with Congresswoman Kelly and that brick and mortar grants are not available. Mayor Peterson explained that Representative Miller has had the Village added to the capital bill for \$100,000.00. All grant opportunities will be explored.

Trustee Perchinski suggested involving other government entities to increase the downtown foot traffic.

Roll was called for Trustee Perchinski's motion. The following trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Lopez, Sarek, Kozy and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn until Friday August 15th at 6:30pm. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice vote all ayes; motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:39pm.

Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

Carmen S. Recupito, Jr., Village Clerk