

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger with the Village Clerk Carmen S. Recupito, Jr. attending and Mayor Peterson presiding.

The Village Clerk called the roll and the following Trustees were present; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Also present were Human Resources Director Mary Jo Seehausen, Fire Chief Nowell Fillion, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, EMA Chief Tom Johnston, Community Center Director Diane Rossi, Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson and Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi.

**AWARDS, HONORS, SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Board Meeting, as all members have copies. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice vote was called; all ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mark Gerrity of 314 Royal Oak Drive brought to the Board's attention a party that was held in his neighborhood. Mr. Gerrity reported on several concerns. Deputy Police Chief Rossi stated that all complaints made to the Police Department were diligently investigated and all were found to be unfounded on both Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Gerrity had Instagram photos to share. Deputy Chief Rossi asked that Mr. Gerrity share that website after the meeting.

Robert Alexander of 3325 Hopkins discussed the house on the 3300 block of Hopkins with the Board. Mr. Alexander has concerns about the people hanging out in front of the home. Mayor Peterson explained that the juvenile involved in a shooting over the weekend is being detained in Will County. Mayor Peterson encouraged the neighbors to contact the State's Attorney and ask that these individuals not be let go so easily. Mr. Alexander asked about previous gun charges. Deputy Chief Rossi explained that juveniles can only be incarcerated 21 days. After 21 days the court determines whether to let them go, or hold for additional 21 days. Rossi encouraged Mr. Alexander to use the resources available to him and his neighbors by calling the police with each new concern as it arises. Mayor Peterson assured Mr. Alexander the police department will continue to do everything it can do to stop the problems at this house.

Michael Porter of Royal Oak neighborhood addressed the concerns of neighbors regarding the party over the weekend. Mr. Porter explained that the party in question could not have been controlled, safety vehicles could not have accessed the street because of the large number of cars and people in the neighborhood.

Ray Oswald approached the Board and discussed Ordinance No 1105 regarding Temporary structures. Mr. Oswald asked at what point his neighbor will be required to remove the temporary structure. Public Infrastructure Director Dave Toepper explained that a ticket was issued and a court date assigned. The last Tuesday of the month at 6:45pm at South Chicago Heights Village Hall will be the hearing date and time.

Mr. Oswald also expressed concern of the Big Red Football and Cheerleading organization speeding on Phillips Avenue.

Steger Police Officer Pete Fajman read a letter that was drafted by the entire Steger Police Department. The letter expressed support for Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi as the next Police Chief of the Steger Police Department.

Mr. Fred Coleman of Royal Oaks discussed public nuisance with the Board and issues during the party over the previous weekend. Mr. Coleman explained that the homeowner holding the party violated covenant agreement. Deputy Chief Rossi explained that the violation of covenants is a civil matter and should be addressed with a private attorney.

Bob Joyce of 3246 Phillips inquired about Ordinance No. 1101. Mayor Peterson explained that Ordinance No. 1101 will not change the hours that license holders are permitted to sell alcohol. Mayor Peterson also explained that according to state statute no mayor can serve as liquor commissioner if he has an interest in a liquor establishment, distribution or anything like that. Mayor Peterson explained that Ordinance No. 1101 will bring the Village's liquor ordinance up to state statute and that his goal is to review all village ordinances and bring them to current state statute.

Tony Mitchell, homeowner in Royal Oaks neighborhood who hosted the weekend parties, addressed the board. Mr. Mitchell stated that no laws were broken at the party and that tickets that were sold were sold by others belonging to a motorcycle club or social club. He himself did not sell tickets. Parking was controlled and off duty Chicago Police Officers acted as security.

Michelle Helsel of School District 194 expressed her support, the support of the School Board, the teachers, many parents and students for Deputy Chief Pat Rossi as next Police Chief. Mrs. Helsel explained that Deputy Chief Rossi is a lifelong resident and is vested in the community.

Leon Allen of Royal Oaks subdivision addressed the Board regarding the weekend parties. Mr. Allen called Police dispatch (Eastcom) both Saturday and Sunday and gave his name to the dispatcher. Mr. Allen shared other concerns about the parties. Mayor Peterson explained that Deputy Chief Rossi will be working to investigate and propose new ordinances. Village attorneys will be working on it as well.

## **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mike Tilton** had no report.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** had no report.

**Fire Chief Nowell Fillion** presented Dennis Fredricks with a Captain's retirement badge and a plaque, honoring him for his 27 years of service to the fire department and the Village of Steger. Mr. Fredricks retired in 2006.

Chief Fillion reported that thus far in September the Fire Department has responded to 27 ambulance and 15 fire calls; a total of 930 so far in 2015.

The Fire Department is participating in combined drill water supply class that covers areas without water hydrants and water shuttling.

Preparations are underway for the Fire Department's October 4<sup>th</sup> Open House. The Fire Department Museum will be on display.

Applicants to the Fire Department are undergoing physical examinations.

**Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi**, on behalf of the Steger Police Department thanked former Police Chief Carl Mormann for his 14 months of service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force votes Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> on Steger's application to the Task Force. If approved the Police Department will have vast resources to investigate major crimes.

Officer Jonathon Bass graduates the Police Academy next week.

Sgt. Maria Bautista will begin staff and command training next week.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** reported that in August, EMA had nine regular patrols, five emergency callouts and worked at the Boy Scout car show. EMA has been assisting with crossing guard duties. August total of 261 man hours.

**Community Center Director Diane Rossi** reported that quotes are being taken on the painting of the Community Center. All information should be prepared for the next Board meeting.

The Community Center gym will be closed from September 25<sup>th</sup> through Oct 1<sup>st</sup> for repairs to the gym floor.

Annual Halloween Party will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8pm for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**HR Director Mary Jo Seehausen** reported on the LOCIS time clock program and training as well as progress on the Laserfische program.

**Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson** reported on demolition of a home on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Sangamon. Trustee Lopez added that the demolition was at no additional cost to the Village.

**Village Attorney Amber Munday** had no report.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

**Trustee Buxton** gave the financial report. His report is attached to the minutes.

**Trustee Skrezyna** had no report.

**Trustee Lopez** had no report.

**Trustee Sarek** made a motion to pay up to \$1,000 of the \$2,500 cost to re sod the infield at the baseball field at Veterans Park. Illinois Lutheran has donated \$500 and Baseball has agreed to pay \$1,000. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**Trustee Perchinski** had no report.

**Trustee Joyce** explained that the new website is experiencing some problems depending on which platform is used. Some platforms direct the user to the old website, a green screen and others to the new website.

**CLERK'S REPORT** had no report.

**PRESIDENT PETERSON** reported that Attorney Amber Munday will no longer serve as the Village Attorney. Ms. Munday introduced her replacement Kurt S. Asprooth to the Board. The Board thanked Ms. Munday for her service.

### **BILLS**

Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to pay the bills as listed. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from Sheryl J. Ford, Executive Senior Director of Bloom Township, thanking the Village of Steger for its monetary donation to the annual Senior Citizens Picnic.

A Thank you note from Coal City for assistance by Steger EMA following the June 22, 2015 tornado.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1101 AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE II OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER with the following changes; page 11 Section 6.75 Classifications and fees, hours should be between 1am and 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and between 2am and 9am on Saturdays and Sundays. Class A-2-hours should be between 1am and 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and between 2am and 9am on Saturdays and Sundays. Class A-3 & Class A-4 should be between hours of between 2am and 9am, Class D-1 & D-2 should be 9am. At the end of each class fee “paid semi-annually” will be changed to “paid annually.” Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Trustee Joyce voted no. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Jamie Paicely of the Steger-South Chicago Heights Library requested permission to use the parking lot between Kmart and the Plaza for a “Touch a Truck” event on Monday October 12 from 10am to 2pm. The Library has made other plans for the event. No Board action was taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO.1106 ADOPTING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE X, SECTION 18-276 THROUGH SECTION 18-279 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING THE DEMOLITION OF CERTAIN STRUCTURES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO.1107 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COOK COUNTY SHERIFF FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify the Temporary Special Use Liquor License for the Chamber of Commerce OKTOBERFEST September 12 from noon to 11pm and September 13 from noon to 10pm. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Peterson encouraged all to attend.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request of the Steger Wildcats Football and Cheer to use Veterans Park for the annual potluck/bonfire on Friday, September 25th 6-7:30pm. Police, Fire and EMA have approved of their department’s part in the event.

After discussion, Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table the Business License Application of Access Services at 16 E. 35th Street. Trustee Perchinski explained that a privacy fence will be necessary to shield equipment and firewood from the eye of the public. Clean up of the property is also required. Access Services will work with Code Enforcement to provide an attractive space within a potential TIF District. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion to table. Voice vote was called; all ayes. Motion carried.

Michelle Helsel of School District 194 shared with the Board news of a fence being constructed around Eastview School for the construction project. Demolition will begin on the inside of the building next week. Mrs. Helsel asked that everyone help keep an eye on the building during construction. Mrs. Helsel also reported that an additional 1.2 million dollars has been shaved off the price of the project without any noticeable changes.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

**8:10pm**

Roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson was present.

**9:29pm**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Perchinski moved that the meeting adjourn. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote was called; all ayes.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30pm**

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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

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Carmen S. Recupito, Jr., Village Clerk