

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 19<sup>TH</sup> day of October, 2015 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger with the Village Clerk Carmen S. Recapito, Jr. attending and Mayor Peterson presiding.

The Village Clerk called the roll and the following Trustees were present; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Skrezyna and Buxton. Trustee Lopez was absent. Also present were Fire Chief Nowell Fillion, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, EMA Chief Tom Johnston, Community Center Director Diane Rossi, Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi and Village Administrator Mike Tilton.

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

Kenneth McAllister and Demond Marks presented The Lorenzo Garcia Memorial Project to the Board. Twelve year old Lorenzo Garcia passed away July 27, 2015. He was an organ donor. His passing saved the lives of three others through The Gift of Hope Foundation. The Lorenzo Garcia Memorial Project proposes a 15ft in diameter piece of Veterans Park to be used for a memorial. The site will include a park bench, a "take a book. Leave a book" box, a maple tree and a plaque honoring Lorenzo's life. Mayor Peterson offered condolences to the Garcia family. Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the request. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye: Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Peterson asked the project be coordinated with Public Infrastructure Director Dave Toepper.

**MINUTES**

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Catherine Richards asked the Board to consider increasing the number of dogs allowed per residence. Ms. Richards also suggested the Village require tags on cats. Mayor Peterson will discuss the matter with Ms. Richards privately.

**REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mike Tilton** reported that progress continues toward the courtesy car through PACE. Mr. Tilton stated that because the project is federal and comes through the state, much paperwork is required.

The Complete Street Study with Steger and South Chicago Heights is in progress.

The final draft of the planning priority study should be presented shortly.

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Budget meetings will begin in the next couple of weeks.

The Police Chief search is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> step. The final 11 candidates were given a list of 17 questions. Their answers will be reviewed by a committee of three Police Chiefs and then narrowed down to the five final candidates.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper**, referred to his weekly reports. Mr. Toepper also reported that street sweeping will be done next week.

**Fire Chief Nowell Fillion** reported the Fire Department is at 1,100 calls for service so far in 2015.

Firefighter Sweetwood has enrolled in HAZMAT training at Prairie State College.

Good progress is being made on the Fire Department policies.

**Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi**, referred to his weekly reports.

Deputy Chief Rossi also stated he's waiting on reply from Human Resources Director Seehausen and DelGaldo Law Firm regarding policies that have been submitted. Mayor Peterson will discuss with DelGaldo.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** stated the test of the emergency siren went well on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Johnston was pleased to announce the addition of a new EMA member.

**Community Center Director Diane Rossi** reported on references received regarding the companies that have submitted proposals for painting of the Community Center. Mayor Peterson asked Mrs. Rossi to document the results of her phone calls to the lowest bidder that have not been returned.

The annual Halloween party is scheduled for Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8 pm. Mrs. Rossi invited everyone to attend.

**HR Director Mary Jo Seehausen** was absent.

**Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson** was absent.

**Village Attorney Kurt Asprooth** had no report.

## **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

**Trustee Buxton** Treasurer's Report is attached to the official minutes.

Trustee Buxton reported neighbors of the Miller Woods area have filed with the Circuit Court, paper work to de-annex from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation

District. Trustee Buxton believes that Miller Woods has a strong package for de-annexation. He will report back after the Circuit Court's ruling. Residents may see relief in their tax bills in 2017. MWRD has stated no objection to the annexation, at this time.

**Trustee Skrezyna** had no report.

**Trustee Lopez** was absent

**Trustee Sarek** had no report.

**Trustee Perchinski** had no report.

**Trustee Joyce** discussed a playground project the Bloom Trail High School Key Club is proposing for spring of 2016. The project is a "sensory playground" for autistic children, wheelchair bound children and children with other special needs. The Key Club will finalize its concept and make a presentation to the Board for approval. Anyone interested in assisting with the program can contact Trustee Joyce.

**CLERK'S REPORT** The Trick or Treat Hours will be 3-7pm on Saturday October 31st (same as 2013 & 2014)

The Halloween bonfire will be held at Veterans Park on October 31st at 6pm.

**PRESIDENT PETERSON** discussed progress on the Village Hall. Mayor Peterson suggested meetings with the public should be scheduled. The Mayor has received support for the new Village Hall, however concern of higher taxes has been expressed. Right now, the progress has been stalled by financing concerns. Several financing options are being explored. Finishing touches are being completed on a TIF District. Administrator Tilton and the Mayor have met with the TIF consultant. TIF revenues take time and sales taxes are available right away. A Sale-lease-back program through a California company has been discussed where the company would lease the building to the Village. Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> Mayor Peterson and Administrator Tilton will meet with a Chicago company to discuss possible finance packages. Mayor Peterson is still researching finance options that would not burden the tax base. The village's insurance company had a different opinion of what the coverage was on the Village Hall. After meeting with the Insurance Company, they were leaning more toward the Mayor's view than previously. A "walk through" with the Department of Corrections and Village representatives will likely confirm that upgrades to Police facilities including jail cells will be necessary. Insurance will factor into the financing needs of the Village.

## **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, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you note from the Steger South Chicago Heights Public Library regarding the “Touch-a-Truck” event

**OLD BUSINESS:**

After discussion, Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table Community Center Painting proposals and selection. Mrs. Rossi will attempt further contact with painting contractors to review pricing and work to be completed. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote was called. All ayes; Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1108 ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS (COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1665 WEST 235TH STREET). Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the temporary Business License Application of Gyros Express at 438 W. Steger Road, pending inspections. Gyros Express will be carry out only. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sarek seconded the motion. Voice vote was called. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:33pm**

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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

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Carmen S. Recupito, Jr., Village Clerk