

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 21st day of February, 2017 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger with the Village Clerk Carmen S. Recupito, Jr. attending with Mayor Kenneth A. Peterson presiding.

Village Clerk Carmen S. Recupito, Jr. called the roll. The following Trustees were present; Joyce, Perchinski, Sarek, Skrezyna and Buxton. Trustee Lopez was absent. Also present were, Village Administrator Mike Tilton, Fire Chief Nowell Fillion, Police Chief Ken Boehm, Director of Public Infrastructure, EMA Chief Tom Johnston, Housing Director Alice Peterson and Community Center Director Diane Rossi.

AWARDS, HONORS, SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Peterson invited EMA Chief Tom Johnston to come up to make a presentation to John Zajac for his 40 years of dedicated service to EMA. John thanked the Board for recognizing his service. The Board and audience applauded John's service.

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez 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

Cindy Trotier, representing the Steger Area Chamber of Commerce asked whether the Chamber's letter to the Village had been received regarding Steger Fest July 27-30. The Board was not aware of any such request. Trustee Perchinski suggested Ms. Trotier complete a "Special Events Permit Application" to request use of the park.

MAYOR'S VILLAGE ADDRESS

Mayor Peterson explained that usually he gives his State of the Village address at the end of the fiscal year. He is giving his address this year as he approaches the end of his first term as mayor. He reviewed the Village progress over the period. First, Mayor Peterson discussed business. He talked about the expansion of TIF Districts and an Enterprise Zone. Business License application has been updated and businesses are now inspected annually. 45 acres of land have been acquired by the Village for both commercial and some to improve the value of homes.

Mayor explained that ***Steger Days of Music*** helped to "put Steger on the map."

When he first took office there were 153 businesses in town. At the end of 2016 there were 170 businesses. After two months of this year there were 5 new businesses and another on the agenda to be approved.

There have also been investments in the community by businesses. The Shell at 34th Street and Kings Road invested \$2.5 million and the BP at 34th Street and Union Avenue plans a \$4.2 million investment. The Village is planning new sidewalks and streetscaping from Union Avenue to the railroad tracks. Gas stations promote Motor Fuel Taxes. In 2013 the Village collected \$230,000 in MFT. In 2016 the Village collected over \$242,000 in MFT for a 5.4% increase. MFT funds are important because they're used for street maintenance and sidewalks. There are approximately 32.3 miles 170,016 feet of roadway in Steger. Using the Five Year Plan for paving, all roads should get the proper maintenance. In 2016 15,665 feet of road were paved. Mayor Peterson stated that sidewalks throughout the Village is a long term goal of his. And that the sidewalks are handicap accessible and useable by everyone.

The mayor is proud of the Department of Public Works for the snow and ice removal this winter. Storm water removal has also been an issue. Mayor reported on a study to implement a plan to reduce flooding. More studies are to come.

Mayor Peterson stated that many housing programs in the village have been implemented. Through these programs Steger has acquired 13 parcels of developed and undeveloped land. By partnering with Cook County dilapidated homes have been demolished.

Mayor Peterson explained his pleasure that all these programs have been accomplished while keeping the Village in the black.

He is still looking into options for the police department and village hall. He will be bringing these options to the Board. Mayor Peterson also shared his pride with the Police Department. The department has made an impact on crime and continues to do so.

Mayor Peterson also congratulated the Fire Department as every member of the department is certified in something. The village has never had a more professional staff than today.

He recognized EMA for their service at car accidents and weather spotting, Mayor congratulated EMA for the great job they do.

He has implemented an HR Department. HR ensures employees are trained, have trainings, evaluate employees, become more efficient, more feedback and operate in a way our residents want us to operate.

He stated that the Community Center is the heart of the community bringing so many people together. Never more activities than we have today. He thanked Diane Rossi for her leadership there.

For many years the village has relied on Kmart. Kmart's parent company, Sears is struggling. On line shopping changes the dynamics of the local economy.

Village collected \$2.25 million in real estate taxes in 2013. At the fiscal year end 2016 the village collected 2.22 million for a 17% decrease.

The mayor's goal for this year includes continuing to attract businesses to the downtown area and at Sauk Trail and Cottage Grove and on IL394 and replacing revenue sources that continue to shrink. He'll continue to work on infrastructure; streets, sidewalks and drainage issues. Water issues will need to be addressed.

Mayor Peterson is extremely excited about the changes taking place to move Steger in a positive direction. It will take more hard work to finish what has been started, stay the course. We're headed in the right direction.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Tilton explained a complete sidewalk inventory with recommendations will be available next month. The inventory will help with grants.

Village of Steger was recognized at CMAP for the grant for Planning Priorities Study. We implemented 3 or 4 recommendations out of that study. We're definitely in line for another grant.

Tuesday, Mr. Tilton will meet with Congresswoman Kelly's office to discuss southland infrastructure. With Amazon coming and CSX coming they're looking to spend a lot of money on the eastern Will County side.

Steger has been asked to join South Chicago Heights, Richton Park, Park Forest and Sauk Village for a Sauk Trail preservation path. Much of the funding will come from Cook County.

Director of Public Infrastructure

Director Toepper has been working with Knight Engineering on projects. Cook County has a project called the ***Best of Cook County***.

Mr. Tilton added that the ***Steger Correct Tree Land*** deal will be done in April.

Fire Chief Nowell Fillion reported on a seminar with ISO. The seminar helped to identify areas in need of improvement. The improvements will further lower the Village's ISO rating.

Chief Fillion's department is purchasing software program to make them completely paperless.

Police Chief Ken Boehm thanked Mayor Peterson for recognizing the hard work of the Police Department. Chief Boehm is in the process of completing his 2016 annual review. Chief Boehm referred to his weekly report.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston had no report.

Assistant Village Administrator/HR Director Mary Jo Seehausen reported on the Community van. Beth Lynn will send information so that Mrs. Seehausen can have it added to insurance. She is preparing packets of information to provide to residents. Reservations will be accepted and the van will be available March 13th. Employee training will be prior to March 13th regarding safety and required paperwork.

Community Center Director Diane Rossi had no report.

Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson reported on the February 11th Housing seminar's success.

Village Attorney had no report.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Buxton referred to his financial report. It is attached to the official minutes.

Trustee Skrezyna had no report.

Trustee Lopez had no report.

Trustee Sarek reminded everyone of the Spaghetti Dinner Sunday at the VFW from 12-5pm. Funds to be raised for the ***Park of Hope*** Project.

Trustee Perchinski has spoken with Joe Nicolazzi of TTS Granite regarding partnering with the Village for welcome to Steger signs. He will build a sign as a sample for review.

Trustee Joyce had no report.

CLERK'S REPORT had no report.

PRESIDENT PETERSON had no report.

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

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made the motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO.1141 REGARDING THE LARAWAY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER. Trustee Buxton 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 Lopez made a motion to table ORDINANCE NO. 1142 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1012 RELATING TO THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Lopez made a motion to table ORDINANCE NO. 1143 ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR THE EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request of The friends of the Class of 1988 to use Veterans Park on June 17th for a reunion picnic. The group requests permission to consume alcohol, use of the bathrooms and electricity, a bounce house, DJ and inflatable movie screens at the event. Mr. Tilton clarified that there must be insurance and restricted use of alcohol to those over 21. Trustee Joyce 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 allow Chief Fillion to go out to bid for possible purchase of new ambulance. 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 Joyce made a motion to table the request to add one additional full time laborer to Public Works Department. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the request of Sue Rubien of Steger Little League to hold Tag Days at 34th Street and Chicago Road on Saturday, March 11th from 12-3 pm. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve The Salvation Army request to conduct its annual Donut Days Campaign on sidewalks and intersections Friday and Saturday June 2nd & 3rd. The Salvation Army also requests permission to conduct its Red Kettle Campaign November 1st through December 23rd, 2017. Trustee Joyce's motion limits the Red Kettle Campaign to November 1st through 23rd and November 27th through December 23rd as Kiwanis collects donations on November 24th – 26th. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding businesses at 3420 Union Ave. Trustee Perchinski made a motion to take no action at this time. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried. Administrator Tilton will draft a memo.

Trustee Sarek made a motion to approve the request of Steger Storm Football and Cheer to hold Tag Days at the intersection of Chicago Rd. and 34th Street on Saturday and Sundays, March 18 and 19th, April 8th and 9th, May 20th and 21st, and June 10th and 11th from 9am-3pm. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Trustee reminded the staff that safety vests must be worn and only adults may collect donations in the street. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Because the date is not available, Trustee Perchinski made the motion to deny Steger Storm Football and Cheer's request to use Veterans Park Saturday, August 5th for the football league Jamboree. Steger Storm has also requested the park rental fees be waived. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote was called. All ayes. Motion approved, Request denied.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Business license application of the Brown Onion Pub at 11 West 34th Street, pending inspections. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance adding two liquor license to the Village Liquor Ordinance to accommodate new businesses. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote was called; The following Trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Sarek, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Trustee Joyce voted no. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:54PM

Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

Carmen S. Recupito, Jr., Village Clerk