

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, with Mayor Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr. presiding and Village Clerk Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. attending.

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

Mayor Peterson called for a moment of silence to honor the passing of former Police Officer Michael Sauter.

**PRESENTATION**

Because no representative of the apartment units at Steger Road and Cottage Grove project were in attendance, Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table indefinitely the proposal. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Police Chief Pat Rossi reviewed the packet delivered to the Trustees regarding the Police Pension. Mr. Rossi suggested the Board at least meet the statutory contribution. Mayor Peterson assured Mr. Rossi that the Board will keep the Police Pension contribution in mind as it works on the Village budget.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting, as all members have copies. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion, but asked that a typographical error in the spelling of his name on the last page be corrected. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Vicky Kaiser of 3436 Jennifer Court shared five questions recently circulating in the "rumor mill". 1. How long has there been a deficit in the Village Water fund? Mayor Peterson is aware of two years, 2015 & 2016 when there's been a deficit in the Water fund. Ms. Kaiser added that it then would be three years, as this is the end of 2017. She also had heard that the Village borrowed money from the water fund. Trustee Buxton added that that loan was in order to make payroll. It was a short term loan and always paid back. Trustee Buxton explained that real estate taxes are "lumpy"

and occasionally loans between funds are necessary. 2. Ms. Kaiser has heard that the Village is in violation of EPA requirements in the quality of Village water. Director Dave Toepper stated that there was a violation in 2016, due to water samples being lost in the mail. 3. Ms. Kaiser inquired if anyone had looked into grants from USDA. She had googled “water grants” and USDA and EPA came up. The only FEMA grants that came up in here search were those for undrinkable or failing water. 4. If the water increase goes into effect January 1, 2018, will her water bill first reflect the increase March 1? Mayor Peterson confirmed that her understanding is correct. 5. Ms. Kaiser asked if construction at the Police Department has stopped. Mayor Peterson explained that he has slowed the construction down as he is still working on financing. His staff is now looking into financing at 25-30 years, whereas he had been looking at 15 year financing, which is no longer feasible. The Mayor reported he should have an Ordinance in late December to go out to market, should be out to market in January, close in late January and have funds in February. Mayor Peterson thanked Ms. Kaiser for her questions.

Other audience members inquired about the construction costs and the proceeds from the insurance claim on the Police Department. Mayor Peterson explained that the building will cost approximately \$3.4 million and that the village received about \$600,000 from the insurance claim. The Village went out to bid on the project and received seven bids. The low bid is the one that was accepted. The \$4.3 Million includes all equipment, furniture, driveways, sidewalks even the landscape to complete the project. The sidewalk may be torn up through the winter months.

An audience member asked whether the Police Department would remain at the new location and would the Village still have its own department. Mayor Peterson answered that the Village would have its own department unless mandated by the state otherwise, like with the dispatch center. The mayor said that he was a supporter of local control.

An audience member said she was sad to learn of Administrator Mike Tilton’s retirement. Mayor Peterson said he too was sad, but excited for the many things in life that Mike will enjoy.

## **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Tilton** reported that a two-day panel will bring together professionals from a wide array of fields including real estate, planning, finance and development to assist community partners in addressing complex development issues, such as evaluating market feasibility, developing potential land use plans and organizing successive actions that will bring development effort to fruition. Steger was chosen because they liked recent initiatives. The group will review and report to the village types of businesses to be attracted to Steger and which may not be interested. It will start after the first of the year.

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

**Fire Chief Nowell Fillion** referred to his weekly report. Chief Fillion also clarified that ordinances will be necessary in dealing with fire codes and fire alarms.

Chief Fillion also reminded everyone that Saturday is the Santa parade and food drive and Sunday is the Fire Department pancake breakfast.

**Police Chief Ken Boehm** referred to his weekly report.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** had no report.

**Community Center Director Diane Rossi** referred to her weekly report.

**Assistant Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** reported the Workman's Comp and P & C insurance policy increase is right around 10% this year and expires before the next Board Meeting. Trustee Perchinski made a motion to direct Assistant Administrator Seehausen to take care of all paperwork pertaining to the insurance. 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. Mayor Peterson asked that Ms. Seehausen add ratification of this action to the December 4<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

**Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson** had no report.

**Village Attorney** had no report.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

**Trustee Buxton** referred to his financial report. The full Treasurer's report will be presented at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. His report is attached to the official minutes. Mr. Buxton explained that the mid-month report shows \$2.643 million in cash at the start of the month with \$938,000 in expenses which included \$307,000 in development costs related to the new Police Station and \$172,000 in revenue. \$1.66 million at mid-month.

Mr. Buxton also thanked all staff for making Steger a great place to live. He wished the staff and all the Steger families a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Trustee Skrezyna** wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

**Trustee Lopez** also wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

**Trustee Sarek** was absent

**Trustee Perchinski** wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded the audience of the Fire Department's pancake breakfast Sunday and the tree lighting ceremony Saturday at 5pm. Mayor Peterson added the actual lighting of the trees will take place at 5:30-5:45pm so parishioners of St. Liborius can enjoy the lighting after Mass.

**Trustee Joyce** wished all Steger residents and Village staff a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Joyce added the fundraiser for the Bloom Trail ROTC is Wednesday day. Anyone interested in tickets should see Mr. Joyce.

**CLERK'S REPORT Reminder:** Holiday Hours for Thanksgiving (for all non-essential services) Closed Thursday November 23 and Friday November 24. Clerk Zagone also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**PRESIDENT PETERSON** wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the staff for all they do.

### **BILLS**

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE – none**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1179 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 86, SECTION 86-2 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING UTILITY RATES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. 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.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1180 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34, SECTION 34-42 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING AMBULANCE RESPONSE CHARGES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. 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.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1118 A RESOLUTION RELATING TO PARTICIPATION BY ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND. 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 approve the Engagement Letter with BKD. Trustee Buxton seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Lopez approved the 2017 Salt Contract. 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 approve the Business license application of Up in Smoke at 3412 Chicago Road, pending inspections and review of parking at that location to accommodate 3 employees, customers and the hair salon. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski and Lopez. Trustees Skrezyna and Buxton voted no. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the Business license application of Midwest Dock Solutions at 27 E. 36th Place, 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 approve the Business license application of Early Achievers Preschool / Development Center at 43 E. 34th Street, pending inspections. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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 Buxton seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Lopex, Skreayna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

### **7:40pm**

Mayor Peterson added from his report that on Veterans Day he participated in a program at Prairie State College. Mayor Peterson commented on Resolution No. 539 offered up by Representative Anthony DeLuca. Steger had seven residents missing in action from the Viet Nam war. Mayor Peterson will be looking into ways to honor them. Steger had more missing in action than the other participating communities; Crete, Olympia Fields and Beecher.

Trustee Jocy made a motion to reconvene. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

### **8:14pm**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15pm**

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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk