

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 1st day of July, 2019 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger with the Village President Kenneth A Peterson, Jr presiding. President Peterson led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Village Clerk Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. called the roll. The following Trustees were present, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna, Buxton and Mayor Peterson. Trustee Joyce was absent.

Also present were: Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Nowell Fillion, Police Chief Patrick Rossi, EMA Chief Tom Johnston and Community Center Director Diane Rossi. Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen was absent.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17th meeting as written. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote. All Trustees present voted aye. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mayor Peterson opened the audience participation portion of the meeting by acknowledging the unprecedented rains that affected the Village on June 27th. Mayor Peterson thanked our department heads and their crews for the exceptional work they did in aiding our community. They worked all night helping citizens and trying to keep drains open. Our Fire Department successfully fought a fire during the flooding. Everyone went over and above in trying to aid the Village. Mayor Peterson thanked the American Red Cross for their assistance and our garbage collection company that placed dumpsters throughout the village for use by affected residents.

Harry Hammock 3224 Florence Ave. Everyone here knows that I have lost everything. Having worked in public works for 35 years, I have been through this many times working in Homewood. I believe Thorn Creek Basin has slowed the flow of water by closing gates at their facility. Mayor Peterson offered to look into how Thorn Creek may or may not have affected our flooding. Finally, Mr. Hammock asked if there was an update on the FEMA request for help. Mayor Peterson stated

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that we are filling out all forms necessary to seek FEMA aid, but cautioned that FEMA help is not easy to get, but we will pursue it. Forms for victims of the flood will be available on the Village Website and in Village Hall tomorrow July 2nd.

Theresa Gamboa First I want to thank the Village for removing the refuse from my parkway. I am here mainly because I am having trouble with my landlord. He is refusing to help fix things affected by the flood. Something needs to be done about landlords that refuse to help in these situations. Mayor Peterson said he will talk with Dave Toepper and do what we can.

Mary Laws 3437 Jennifer Ct, I want to thank EMA for the advance notice of the rain. Fire Department, Police Department and EMA, I work in a neighboring town and they did nothing. We have an awesome town that came together during this tragedy.

Brittany Stone 3147 Union Ave, first I want to agree with the Mayor, that this was an historic rain. In 9 years of living across from the retention pond, I have never seen the water overflow from it until now. Thank you to all emergency responders and the Mayor for being there to help. Extra thanks to the Public Works Department for working so hard around the clock to help the residents of this town to clean up their homes and property. My greatest appreciation goes to Roy Stone, my dad, his own property was under 4 ft of water outside, 7 ft inside basement and still he was out working. Steger comes first always. Moving forward and to prevent any misunderstanding, the following statement and views expressed belong solely to me. When such devastating circumstances arrive I find it deplorable that instead of empathizing with this community, some members of this administration decided it was an appropriate time to take a political stand on the issue, and even more infuriating that some tried to downplay the severity of this situation. You were elected by the community to represent the community. We should never be made to feel like our concerns are not valued, we should never be made to feel like any concern is too small or not a problem. The faith I have in this administration unfortunately is dwindling. It was truly a sad day for me to discover that some of you have lost the ability to remain my neighbor. Your title is just a title, an elected position that you earn because people believe in you. I believed in you to hear my concerns and empathize with me, not to argue politics back at me. Let me know that you hear me and then I ask that you validate my concerns and take them to the other members of the board. It doesn't stop with just one person. That's why there is a board. The work being done here should be seen as admirable, instead I find myself questioning the values and priorities of this administration. It's hard to make decisions when the outcomes of those decisions affect thousands of lives. It's an almost impossible position to be in, but it is the position you signed on for. We don't differ because of politics; we differ because of morals. Thank you.

Glynnis Keene from Bloom Trail High School came before the board to discuss upcoming registration dates for the coming school year, July 25, 26, 29 and 30.

She has asked the Village to help spread the word about registration and brought posters and handouts to be distributed.

Kym Cassello of 3520 Peoria St. I have literally lost my entire house. We have over 5 ft of water in the lower level of our tri-level where our bedroom is. I have a dumpster in my yard provided by our insurance company that we paid for and we are at a cap with our insurance. I need to know what will be done to help get our lives back together. Mr. Cassello stated that 911 dispatch was not at all helpful. We thank God for great neighbors. The Cassello's stated that they did not know about dumpsters provided by the Village. The Mayor reminded them that they should sign up for Code Red Alerts to be kept informed of news in the Village.

Marcus Bonner on Morgan St. will anything be done to prevent this from happening again? The Mayor stated he does not know if he could ever prevent what happened because of that amount of rain fall. It was 5 inches in two hours. That amount of water, I don't know if could create a system that we are all willing to pay to deal with that event. We are going to pursue Thorn Creek because it was brought to my attention. We do know there are regular flooding issues that go on that we are going to address. Mr. Bonner stated when he bought the house, it was not in a flood zone. Now that this has happened will that change? The Mayor stated that this is considered a 100 year event. Constant flooding is required to be declared a flood zone.

Chris O'Hara 3335 Loverock Ave. I am not here for the serious issues that happened here in Steger, I am here about a large water bill, and I have been trying to get a hold of the Village of Steger but haven't gotten any calls back. Just not sure what to do, so that's why I am here today. Dave Toepper took Mr O'Hara's information and will look into what he is being billed for.

Marlon from Computer Solutions came to compliment EMA for closing the street so fast. It helped protect his building.

Kyle Hammock thanked the Fire Department for helping to evacuate his elderly neighbor. Without their help we could not have gotten her out on his own. He also thanked Officer Lane for calling in for assistance.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No report.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Buxton I would like to thank all of our First Responders, all of our departments, everyone really stepped up in this crisis situation. We need to continue to work together and look for things that we can do around town to prepare to deal with future rainfall, to improve our drainage. Really sorry for everyone's loss and if there is anything I can do personally, or that we can do as a board, I know we are happy to help wherever we can. So see us afterwards and we can talk about whatever you are going through.

Trustee Skrezyna I too want to thank all the departments, departments heads for all the hard work they did. We had a lot of rain in a short period of time and everyone did what they could. They worked hard out there. I am sorry for everyone's loss; it is a sad thing. My heart goes out to everyone who was affected by this.

Trustee Lopez I want to thank our First Responders and everyone who was out there doing our due diligence. Hard work and effort and I am sorry for everyone in the Village who lost everything, if we can help in any way, feel free to contact me or anyone. I will be more than happy to continue to help you. Like I tell everybody, I have lived here all my life and I will continue to work on this board as long as possible. I have a vested interest in the people here, the Village of Steger. I love this town. I appreciate everyone's hard work.

Trustee Kozy I would like to thank everyone for all that you have done to help with this crisis.

Trustee Perchinski I would like to thank all of our First Responders and all the neighbors that are helping. To everyone who showed up to the meeting to let us know what is going on. I would encourage you to talk to your neighbors about filling out the FEMA forms. The more information we get, the better off we will be.

Trustee Joyce No report

VILLAGE CLERK I have special thanks for First Responders. This is not the first time my home has flooded; this is the worst I have seen in the 39 years I have owned this home. I am especially thankful to Chief Fillion who waded up to my kitchen window at 2 o'clock in the morning to make sure we were OK and to suggest that we stay where we were.

PRESIDENT PETERSON Thank God that no lives were lost, just stuff. We won't give up; we will move forward. We are committed to do what we can to help, we are here with you. We will do whatever we can in our power to help.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Gave an extensive report regarding recent flooding. The Mayor added that garbage collection may leave large items on garbage day this week, but dumpsters will remain available and Public Works will continue to pick up items in the parkways.

Fire Chief Nowell Fillion Offered thanks to everyone for their help. We inundated with so many calls in such a short period of time. We got a lot of help from Public Works and EMA and neighboring towns, everyone did a great job, there was no loss of life. Very few injuries, a few medical transports that had nothing to do with the flood. We had one engine over-taken by water, but there was no damage to that engine. Thank you everyone.

Police Chief Patrick Rossi I would like to reiterate what Chief Fillion said. Would like to commend all personnel, First Responders especially the residents that did follow the rules as opposed to some who chose to go four-wheeling through deep water. There were issues with dispatch that I will be dealing with.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston Announced that cooling centers will be the Community Center and the Library during regular business hours. If needed, they will be opened after hours. So far, we have handed out approximately 200 Red Cross flood buckets. Along with what the Mayor has said so far, we need as much information as possible on the FEMA flood questionnaires. There are some misconceptions about hazard mitigation plan for Cook County. I had bid the annual update for that last year, with new information this year they decided to go with a new system. Cook County did come out and Mayor Peterson was on hand for that and he did get everything in order for the new system. However, the Hazard Mitigation plan is strictly for applying for funds to combat these issues of flooding. It will have no affect on emergency funds.

Community Center Director Diane Rossi I just want to say how sorry I am to anyone who has been affected by this flood, and if anyone needs anything, you can contact the Community Center and I will try and find someone who can help you even if just to send kids over to cool off.

Housing and Community Development Director Alice Peterson I am truly sorry for everyone's loss that you have gone through. I want to thank the Village of Steger and First Responders that helped everyone.

Village Attorney not present

Treasurer No report

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; Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 1216

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1216, an ordinance establishing a compensation schedule for the employees and non-elected officials of the village of Steger effective January 1, 2019. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion at 8:00 pm to adjourn to closed session to discuss personnel. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

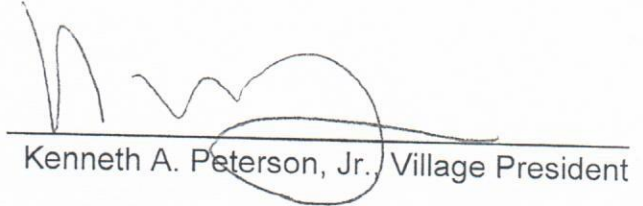
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to reconvene following closed session. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

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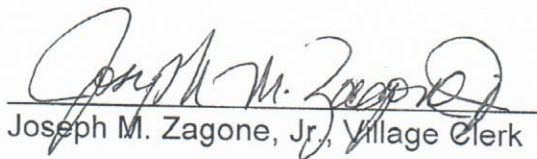
There being no further business,

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk