

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 16th day of November 2020 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger and via Teleconference that was made available to all residents. Mayor 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, Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna, Buxton and Mayor Peterson.

Also present via Zoom: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Nowell Fillion and Police Chief Kevin Shaughnessy. EMA Chief Tom Johnston was absent.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2nd meeting as written. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sue Rubien of 3215 Sandy Ridge addressed the board regarding billing issues with the Water Department. Mayor Peterson described the issues starting with a computer glitch that kept meter readings from being posted to resident's accounts. Further software issues caused mistakes in bringing accounts up to date. This software issue also caused double late fees that will be taken off. Steps are being taken to correct these mistakes and to notify affected residents how this will be resolved. Water Districts 1 and 3 are the areas being looked into. We are looking into a contract with AVAZAR to act as a third party to correct and properly account for what is actually owed for water usage. All penalties will be waived.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No Report.

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Fire Chief Nowell Fillion The Fire Department has made arrangements for Santa and Mrs. Claus to parade through town to collect food and gifts for Christmas. We are working on our 2021 budget.

Police Chief Kevin Shaughnessy No report.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No report tonight, but we will be discussing the tax levy later in this meeting.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Buxton Want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving,

Trustee Skrezyna Been asked how we are handling Miracle on 34th Street this year in regards to COVID. I want to let everyone know that we are planning on social distancing, face covering is required, there will be cleaning stations set up as well as hand sanitizers and there will only be a limited amount of people in a tent at any given time. Crafts being offered will be in to-go bags. There will be disposable gloves for game participants, and we are asking people to stay home if they are sick. Also as a reminder, yard waste pickup will continue through the last garbage pickup in November and street sweeping is underway.

Trustee Lopez Wished a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving to everyone.

Trustee Kozy No report

Trustee Perchinski No Report

Trustee Joyce No Report

VILLAGE CLERK Holiday Hours for Thanksgiving (for all non-essential services) Closed Thursday November 26th and Friday November 27th.

PRESIDENT PETERSON Most of my report regards the water bill issue already discussed. The Azavar Contract will be discussed, they will help us audit not only the water bills, but audit other utilities as well. I supplied requested references to all board members for their review. All of their work is done using their resources, not the Villages.

BILLS

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

In voting aye, Trustee Joyce asked for more descriptive information from Desiderio Tree Service when billing for tree and branch removal. He also questioned if money could be saved by going back to using our own chipper. This will be looked into.

CORRESPONDENCE None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1248: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN LAND USE RELIEF FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3129 LOUIS SHERMAN DRIVE, STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Buxton made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1249: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN LAND USE RELIEF FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23 EAST 31ST PLACE, STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Buxton shared highlights and changes to the 2020 Tax Levy. The Levy seeks a 2.99% increase over 2019. The Police Pension Fund is included which makes up about two-thirds of the increase. The other third goes to the liability insurance fund. Following brief discussion:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to Approve the Tentative 2020 Tax Levy. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 General Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Policy. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding consideration of the previously considered Azavar Contract: Trustee Perchinski made a point of order asking if this can be brought up again after being voted down. Mayor Peterson stated that discussion with our legal team determined that it could be brought up again. Trustee Perchinski also questioned getting competitive bids for this service. It is not known if there are other companies that do this, the bigger issue is the immediate need to rectify the water billing problem. Mayor Peterson stated his need to give answers to the residents regarding their water bills that the Village does not have the resources to provide. Avatar is going to provide this service as part of the contract that will verify that the Village is getting all funds it is entitled to regarding all Utility billing. Tom from Azavar stated many surrounding municipalities that are or have used their services and is happy to discuss any concerns anyone has with the program.

Trustee Buxton made a motion to approve the contract with Azavar Government Solutions. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce (but would like the length of the contract negotiated), Kozy, and Buxton. The following Trustees voted no; Perchinski, Lopez and Skrezyna (likes the idea but would prefer competitive bid). Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

Perchinski added his concerns on this process.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the Business License Application from Jigar S. Patel for "Party Liquors" located at 20 E. 34th Street, pending inspections. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

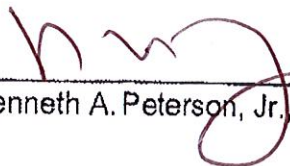
Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the Liquor License Application (the same type license currently held by Party Liquors) from Jigar S. Patel. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

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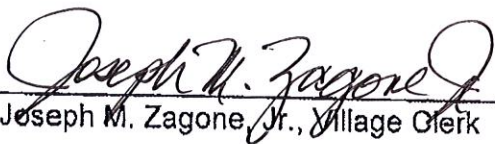
There being no further business,

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk