

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 July, 2020 in Steger Village Hall 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 Administrator Seehausen called the roll. The following Trustees were present, Joyce, Kozy, Skrezyna and Buxton, and Mayor Peterson in person. Trustees Perchinski and Lopez, and Village Clerk Zagone were present via phone.

Also present were: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Police Chief Patrick Rossi, EMA Chief Tom Johnston and Fire Chief Nowell Fillion either in person or by phone.

**AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Peterson asked for a moment of silence to honor three people who had recently died who all had big affects on the Village of Steger. Jolyn Bishop was very active in the community and had run for public office. Former Police Chief Richard Stultz and most recently, Matt Wetzel who served on our Police and Fire Commission and also was our Social Media person who helped keep our Village Residents informed.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting as written since everyone had copies. 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** The Village has been awarded a grant due to the efforts of local Realtor and Resident Cindy Trotier in coordination with Administrator Seehausen and Infrastructure Director Toepper. The grant in the amount of \$20,000 that will be used to upgrade the lighting and appearance of Halsted Blvd in the area of the Gazebo. New benches and lighting will be added

along with new landscaping to improve the area. We will also be doing a Community Day for Volunteers to come out next Wednesday at 11 am.

The Quiet Zone is in the final processes finally now that all parties involved are now back to business. All of the documents are now in order and we are looking at mid-August for this to be done.

The Village has received a letter from Thorn Creek Sanitary Basin informing us that they are raising the rate from 1.583 per cu. ft. to 2.17. So our resident will see \$9.12 per year increase. This went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** No report.

**Fire Chief Nowell Fillion** So far this year we are just under 1,000 runs to date. We are working with our contract provider to secure more money through Medicare and Medicaid. These talks should provide more revenue for our calls. We are in discussions to replace heart monitors for our ambulances. We have good news that one new cadet has started with us and we do have two more applications that we received this week. Finally, Lifesaving Code has been upgraded to 2015 standards. Our current is 2012 which is very high for now and is up to date. We will be looking to upgrade again in the near future. Chief Fillion took some questions to clarify some of the information he provided. Chief Fillion also provided information in regards to the departments response to COVID-19. All protocols have been met and number of transports have been low. Chief also compared our call numbers for the past year with those with Crete. We seem to do more than Crete that has more paid personnel than Steger, so staffing may be looked into in the future. Call numbers have gone up and it is getting harder to keep up with current staffing.

**Police Chief Patrick Rossi.** Mayor Peterson announced that Chief Rossi has decided to retire towards the end of this year. Chief Rossi will work with the Village in search for and transition to our new Chief.

Chief Rossi thanked the Mayor for his kind words and said he will still be around to be active in our community. With that he had no other report at this time.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** Reported that we are still getting quotes on fixing the siren. We have been keeping up with patrols and emergency response as needed.

**Village Attorney James Vasselli** was present via zoom, but had nothing to report.

**Treasurer Trustee Buxton** gave a report as of the end of May. Provided were highlights from our key revenue categories that have been affected by COVID-19. Property tax is down about 1.8% compared to last year, sales tax is down 15.9% and income tax is down significantly. In all we are down about \$123,000 or 8.3%

reduction. Our budgeting and adjustments made since the shut down has kept us going.

### **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

**Trustee Buxton** Offered his sympathy on the loss of the three individuals mentioned earlier and especially Matt Wenzel who I knew very well. Obviously, Matt made a great impact on our Village. He will be deeply missed.

**Trustee Skrezyna** Offered thanks to Cindy Trotier for her efforts in getting the grant to help beautify our Village.

**Trustee Lopez** Echoed Trustee Perchinski's remarks and thanked all who are helping get us through COVID-19. In addition, would like to investigate the possibility of placing stop signs at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Morgan. It is seen as a safety issue due to numerous blocks with no stop signs.

**Trustee Kozy** No report.

**Trustee Perchinski** Thanks to our First Responders for working through this crisis. My condolences to all the families of those lost. We will miss Matt very much.

**Trustee Joyce** In the process of getting permanent video monitoring solution. Waiting for vendors to get information to me that I will share with Administrator Seehausen.

**VILLAGE CLERK** No report.

**PRESIDENT PETERSON** As all are aware, news reports regarding COVID-19 show that increases in cases is causing some areas to increase restrictions. Chicago is rolling back to phase 3 and Indiana has closed its beaches. The Village of Steger has not gone back or shut anything down. We will continue to follow State Guidelines. We will send out Code Reds if anything changes.

### **BILLS**

Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to approve the bills. 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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No.1238: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM DIVISION 27 FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. 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.

Regarding Mobile Data Terminals for our Police Squad Cars that are outdated. Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to approve the purchase of 8 new MDT from Getac Solutions. 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.

Phil Panozzo introduced himself and went over the plans he has to remodel the former J. Martin's Tap. The long time Steger Business will be updated and provide food, drink and entertainment. Outdoor seating is planned and a future residence to make the facility mixed use.

Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to approve a Business License for Austin Community Tavern located at 81 E 34<sup>th</sup> St. pending inspections. Trustee Perchinski 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 a Liquor License for Austin Community Tavern located at 81 E 34<sup>th</sup> St. with the following classifications: A-1, P-2 and ENT. 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 Perchinski made a motion to approve a Business License for Steger Threading Bar located at 35 E 34<sup>th</sup> St. pending inspections. 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.

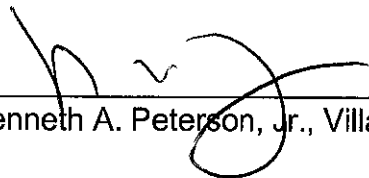
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the request from St. Liborius Parish to host their Parish Picnic on Sunday September 13, 2020 and their request to use the Boulevard in front of the church for this event. Trustee Skrezyna seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna, and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

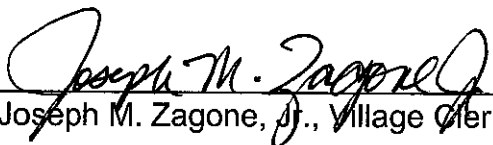
Trustee Skrezyna made a motion to approve the request from Steger Kiwanis Club to host their Annual Peanut Day on Friday September 25, 2020. Trustee Buxton seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce, Perchinski, Kozy, Lopez, Skrezyna, and Buxton. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business,

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

  
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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

  
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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk