

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 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.

Mayor Peterson called for the roll. The following Trustees were present; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present.

Also present: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Police Chief Greg Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Michael Long, EMA Chief Tom Johnston and Community Center Director Diana Rossi.

**AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Peterson introduced Michael C. Long as his appointee for Fire Chief.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the appointment of Michael C. Long as Steger Fire Chief. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called.

The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

Clerk Zagone gave the Oath of Office, installing Michael C. Long as Steger's new Fire Chief.

Steger Police Chief Greg Smith introduced John A. Darge as appointee for Part-time Police Officer.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the appointment of John A. Darge as Part-time Patrolman. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called.

The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

Clerk Zagone gave the Oath of Office to new Part-time Patrolman John A. Darge.

Alice Peterson Presented the winners of the July 4<sup>th</sup> residential decorating contest:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: The Wise Family

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: The Stanton Family

1<sup>st</sup> Place: The Huff Family

## **MINUTES**

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Jalane Schultz of 48 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. presented her concerns for loud music on certain evenings when the American Legion has outdoor entertainment. She stated it is impossible to be in her home with the volume of the music. Ms. Schultz has presented these concerns in the past and believes residents should not have to tolerate this.

Diane Van Ort of 48 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. also addressed the board with her concerns with the loud music coming from the American Legion. Her concerns echo those of Ms. Schultz.

Alison Boyd of 3415 Halsted Blvd. addressed the board concerning the loud music coming from the American Legion along with trash being left and activity in the alley by the Village Water Pump house.

Mayor Peterson is going to meet with representatives with the American Legion to see if some relief can be found for the residents.

Rachel Teneyuca of 3121 Peoria St addressed the board regarding a tree in the parkway. There is concern that branches and/or the tree could fall on her house. The crews that trim the trees have been out of town. Dave Toepper is going to follow up as he thought they had already addressed this.

## **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** The Village has been working with Illumina Lighting in Chicago Heights to replace lighting at our parks through a grant program with ComEd. The deadline for Village Stickers has passed and we have sold 2509 stickers so far. We have resubmitted paperwork to the state to get a list of all registered vehicles in the village to see where we stand. This represents less than half of the vehicles in the village. Because these funds are for street maintenance, other options may be considered by the board on how to recoup these needed funds. Forthcoming information from the state will confirm how much we are not collecting.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** Spoke to Gallagher Asphalt today there will be no more work done on Steger Road until the strike is over that is keeping need materials from being delivered. This strike is also slowing the work on the Citgo

Station. The strike will potentially hold up the street reconstruction planned in the Village.

**Fire Chief Michael Long** I want to thank Mayor Peterson and everyone else for the opportunity to be Fire Chief. Thanks to my family and friends for being here for me. Most of all I want to thank Mary Jo Seehausen for guidance and wisdom over the past year. There are 3,000 things a week she does here that she never gets credit for. I want you to know that I appreciate everything you do for Steger and for the Fire Department.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** I have sent out the stats for the month. I went over the calls for the month, we are up 17% on our general calls and up 16% for more serious calls. This is up over 2021, but has us about even with 2020.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** We assisted Mokena with their 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. We are getting ready for National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Music Fest in August.

**Community Center Director Diana Rossi** The Community Center has really picked up in the past 4 weeks. We had over 1,000 people through the doors. I think are gradually getting back to normal. We are looking forward to getting all our kid's programs up and running. Everything is going great.

#### **Village Attorney**

**Treasurer** Trustee Lopez went over Financial Reports through March and April. Revenues are right on with the budget. The 2021 Budget numbers should be out before the next meeting. We are continuing our Village Audit as well as our TIF audit. While sales tax numbers were down last year, this year is currently up. Keep in mind that the second installment of Cook County Real Estate Taxes will be delayed up to four months so we will not see those funds until the end of the year. We will not spend dollars we do not have, so we will continue to watch what we spend.

**MAYORS REPORT** No Report.

**VILLAGE CLERK** No Report.

#### **TRUSTEES REPORTS**

**Trustee Trotier** I participated in South Chicago Heights welcoming the passing of the Wall That Heals in route to its display at Marian Catholic High School sponsored by Bloom Township. The set up was on July 5<sup>th</sup>, display opened July 7<sup>th</sup> with various speakers and many participants including Bloom High Schools and Marian Catholic High School. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this happen.

**Trustee Lopez** No Report.

**Trustee Thurmond** I met with Desiderio Landscaping to discuss plans to beautify the new Welcome to Steger signs. Help will be arranged as needed to place stone with plants to be added at a later time. The softball charity event in coordination with our Day of Music is moving forward. More information in regards to the event will be announced as the number of participants is determined. Trustee Thumond then questioned ready access to bills to review. He was instructed on where they are kept.

**Trustee Joyce** No Report.

**Trustee Perchinski** I met with representatives looking to invest in the old K-Mart building. They have invited all to the Grand Opening of their new Liquor Store and Sports Bar and Grill in Glenwood which is the same as they are trying to bring to Steger. The Grand Opening is this coming Friday at 3 pm.

**Trustee Kozy** Announced wins for Softball 18U and 10U in Columbus, IN. Also, Softball 10U took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 14U took 4<sup>th</sup> Place and 18U took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the World Series held in Clearwater, FL. Football camp is underway and there was not report on Volleyball or Basketball. Trustee Kozy also asked if there will be a parade in August in conjunction with Steger Day of Music. There will be no parade this year.

## **BILLS**

Trustee Joyce made a motion to ratify approval to pay bills dated July 8, 2022. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called.

The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the warrant list for July 13, 2022. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond questioned payment to Suburban Landscaping for maintenance at the Community Center. He stated the landscape conditions are terrible and Mrs. Rossi concurred. Diane Rossi stated that she has been in discussion with them in regards to their work.

The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 1167: A RESOLUTION APPROVING MTF ROAD PROJECTS FOR 2022.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Perchinski asked if there will be a list for what will be repaired in 2023? Dave Toepper stated that we have that list. Mary Jo Seehausen stated that it all depends on the funds that come in. We have to keep in mind that extra funds were made available to us last year and this year. Next year we will not have extra funds.

Trustee Thurmond asked: If the strike is not settled, does it change the funding? Mary Jo Seehausen stated the funds shown are what we have to spend. It does not account for any increases in the cost to do the work which can reduce the amount of streets we can do.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1168: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A REVISED INDUCEMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF STEGER AND POST 8283 STEGER HONOR 11 POST (STEGER VFW POST 8283) IN CONNECTION WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1280: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN LAND USE RELIEF (SPECIAL USE PERMIT) FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3732 CHICAGO ROAD, STEGER, ILLINOIS.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1281: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN LAND USE RELIEF (VARIANCE) FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 22810 WENTWORTH AVENUE, STEGER, ILLINOIS.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond confirmed what is being voted on in that the variance allows for a larger footprint garage than ordinance allows.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve ORDINANCE No. 1282: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF STEGER TO ENTER INTO A CERTAIN AGREEMENT WITH POST 8283 STEGER HONOR 11 POST (STEGER VFW POST 8283) TO REHABILITATE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve a request from the Salvation Army to have their Red Kettle Campaign Monday – Saturday, November 1 through December 24 with the exception of dates: November 25, 26 & 27.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a request from Steger Kiwanis Club to have their annual Peanut Day on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

At 7:43 pm

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(1)

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:41 pm

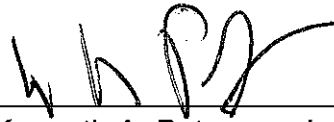
Trustee Joyce made a motion to reconvene Open Board Meeting.

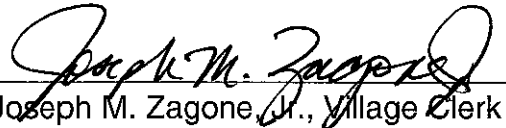
Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk