

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 19th day of September, 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.

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Thurmond, Lopez, Kozy, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Clerk Zagone was absent, Deputy Clerk Sheri Domele-Berry recorded the meeting.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Steger Police Chief Greg Smith read a letter from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists recognizing the special DUI service of officers Alex Farkas, Emmanuel Brambila and Bernard Gromala by awarding them a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of these lifesaving efforts. Their contribution to the Village of Steger are greatly appreciated.

Representatives of CloudPermit gave a presentation on Solutions for Community Development. Their efforts concentrate on building permitting, planning and zoning and code enforcement applications. CloudPermit is a cloud software that is accessible 24/7 to those enrolled. This program would streamline the application process, permitting and inspections. Permits can be applied for online with mapping that includes answers to most building and zoning regulations for the property. Results and permits would then be available online. Permitting would still be available over the counter at Village Hall. Trustee Perchinski's concerns about the security of the village information and that of applicants were addressed. CloudPermit would not handle payments. Trustee Joyce questioned types of files that would be accepted. The system will only accept PDF files that include several types of files that are automatically converted to PDF. Training and support are provided. Cost of the program is a set-up fee of \$3,000 and an annual recurring fee of \$12,000.00 per year that includes all users and support for the length of the 5-year term. At the end of the contract, it can be renewed or cancelled, and all information property is returned to the Village. Trustee Joyce questioned if there is cost for training new village employees. The support and maintenance are included in the program which includes any necessary training.

MINUTES

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes.

Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Pat and Jan Robinson approached the board regarding a neighbor forging their name on a petition to allow a neighborhood party with loud music. Village Administrator Seehausen stated that she met with Mr. Hasemeyer, and while the village does not normally approve house parties, she had seen the petitions and knew some of the signatures that have been presented before. I knew that Pat and his wife were against this, but I explained that we are not approving anything because it is not for us to do. I asked Mr. Hasemeyer if he just wrote down Pat's name, because I knew that they would not sign it. Mr. Hasemeyer claimed he had talked to them and they were okay. Robinson's claim he did not talk to them at all. Mayor Peterson stated that the board had not approved anything beyond providing picnic tables. The Village cannot control house parties unless they break laws or noise ordinances. The petition did not have any influence from the Village perspective because there wasn't anything for us to consider or approve. Village Administrator Seehausen stated that there was a DJ, not a band and that he was informed by the Police Chief and I that the village is not going to supervise his party by approving this party. If the Village gets calls complaining about the party, the police will show up and shut it down. Mrs. Robinson further discussed issues of guns and threats regarding this neighbor against them, against himself and his wife. Police Chief Smith stated that they are aware of his history and any question with his FOID paperwork, that is with the Illinois State Police.

Another neighbor, Mike Balano spoke of 16 years of harassment from Kevin Hasemeyer. We have chosen to move out of town. Sad to say we did not get support from Village Officials as well as the judicial system here in Steger always siding for the criminal versus the victim. We could not sit in our home without being harassed on a daily basis. We could not go there and ask him to turn down his music. Our family happily lived here for years, our children played together, but have now moved an hour away from here to get away from what Steger has become. Additional examples were presented of threats, and behavior that makes living in the neighborhood very bad. Police Chief Smith encourage all neighbors to contact the Police if any incidents occur that need to be addressed. Mayor Peterson stated that the village makes every effort to address problem areas that pop up in the Village. The Village will always do what it can within the laws of the state to make Steger as safe as possible.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen We are still going through our Water tower issue, we are still working with issues of safety in getting our water tower completed. The issue is between the Village and ComEd and getting needed space to work safely between the electrical wiring system and the tower. We are still working on the process to come up with a solution. Our 2022 MFT's, the paperwork is going out for letting on October 5th through IDOT, so it will be listed. We are on a time crunch and we are also at the high end of everybody's cost right now because of the stuff that went through. Talking with Dave Toepper and our engineer and see what comes in on the pricing. Odds are we will have to push out to Spring of 2023. We will get this all put together and present it at the second board meeting in October along with the information to go out for the first roads for 2023. Our engineer is advising because of pricing, it will probably be higher than what we went out for. I will keep you informed on that. Everyone has probably seen that work is on again on the Citgo project.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Fire Chief Michael Long One of our EMT graduates Brandon Williams, has passed our Nationals, so within a couple weeks we should have another shift guy up and running. October is Fire Safety Month, we will be having a coloring contest for the kids in the School District 194. Assistant Chief Ragusin has distributed to the pre-schools. We will pick a winner from each school that will get to have breakfast with firefighters and we will drive them to school in the Fire Engine.

Police Chief Greg Smith In October we will have some competition between the Police and Fire Departments. We have been brought together by Barb Dorman, picked a restaurant which is Bambino's to create a pizza. I created one called the Carnivore: Italian Beef, Sausage, Meatballs and Bacon. The Fire Department is doing like a Tofu Pizza or something. Whoever sells the most, the other has to contribute to charity, and Bambino's will be contributing also. This will take place the whole month of October. Fire Chief Long corrected the Fire Department entry being an Italian Combo of Beef and Sausage.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston We have had four calls to service since our last meeting. The Kings Road project is done. The other bridge project in Crete has been pushed off to April of next year.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi Last two weeks we had 662 people through the Community Center. Things seem to be going fine except that we still are not getting a lot of children coming in. We are hoping the Halloween Party will reintroduce kids to the Community Center so they can remember how much fun it can be. Our Halloween Party is on October 21st from 6-8 pm and it is for Kindergarteners through 5th grade.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Everyone should have gotten the financials for the month of July of this year. They have been completed and audited. I have a meeting scheduled with the auditors to see where we are year to date. Everything seems to be on par for 2023.

MAYORS REPORT No Report.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier A couple weeks ago Village Administrator Seehausen and I visited Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens in Palos Heights. The purpose was to share a vision that could be emulated and implemented in our community. We discussed two areas of interest that could accommodate various programs such as a nature walk, educational and environmental programs, herb gardens, flower gardens and a place for public special events. We also touched briefly upon what we needed such as funding through grants. There are grants we are pursuing. This could be a five-to-ten-year plan, but to move forward in spite of obstacles is the goal. Most important is the need for volunteers, not just the same volunteers that already support our community, but we need new volunteers. Encourage your neighbors to come out. We need support from the community to move Steger toward these new goals.

I would like our Social Media Team to go back and highlight our event held on August 20th, not only on Facebook, but I would like for them to highlight that on our Village Website. There are some outdated pictures there, it needs to be updated. We want people that visit our town to say look, they are constantly updating their website. The Kiwanis Chile Cook-off October 16th. The Santa Food Drive, Miracle on 34th Street, to constantly update these events with fresh pictures. Investors who come to this town want to see that we keep up with our local programs. We have talked about bike paths here in town, I am not sure what the status is, I know Trustee Perchinski was talking about trying to put this in. I don't know where we are at: are we doing this? Do we have a grant? Do we need more money?

Trustee Perchinski stated that he has been working on getting a grant for the bike path. There is one available and bike path extension from Crete on the old railroad bed is about \$1 million. The grant is a 20% matching grant. We don't have enough to counter that on it's own, so I am reaching out to other organizations that I am reaching out to, to try and make up that short fall. There was another grant that Mayor Peterson thinks is still on the books. We are in discussion with State Representative DeLuca to acquire grants that have not yet been delivered to the Village, and one for the bike path is one of the projects. We are waiting for the state to appropriate these funds to the Village of Steger as well as other communities waiting on state grant funds.

Trustee Trotier furthered that these funds can be combined and encourages any residents that know of Companies that will aid with projects like this, to let the Village know. We already spoke about the Kiwanis Chile Cook Off, it is a new location, there is going to be a bean bag tournament.

One thing that people have mentioned is state of residences across from Village Green (old K-Mart) The house is in bad disrepair and I believe businesses coming to Steger would look at places like this and think twice about coming here. Properties in disrepair are addressed by Code Enforcement. Will County is doing a Business Enterprise Program, a webinar for a minority business to get help.

Trustee Lopez I too am working with a potential grant opportunity for sustainability and nature. I will get with Trustee Trotier to see how this can help with what she has already discussed.

Trustee Thurmond I was also at the IML Conference this past weekend. It was an informative session. I want to jump the gun a little bit and thank Mark Kozy for his time on the board, his time in the public, his volunteering with various organizations. You are a treasure to our community. I also want to discuss multiple complaints about the geese feeding over by the community center. I have gone through and done some research on it. I am going to pass on an ordinance I pulled from Carol Stream and I would like the board to look at it and make suggestions at a later date, possibly form an ordinance that we can adopt. It is an ordinance that deals with feeding wildlife, and of course, Carol Stream is a Home Rule community. Mayor Peterson stated that we should not prohibit the public from feeding wildlife, I think the answer is more of trying to figure out a barrier or something that can stop the geese from coming into that area. Jason Stevenson stated that there are some laws on the books regarding the feeding of deer and geese that could be researched. I would also like to recognize Gerald Stewart for being a staple of the community for quite some time. He has been asked to be a trustee for us. I think he is going to make a great addition to the board. With that I do want to emphasize the process of the appointment could have been handled a little better. I would certainly like this entire board to have knowledge of the appointment before it is on the agenda. We have had an interview with Chief Stultz when he appointed. I just feel that the board was cheated that we did not give Gerald the same process. Mayor Peterson stated that he went by the process of the Illinois Statute, which gives me the authority to make the appointment.

Trustee Joyce This past weekend I attended the IML conference in Chicago with Steve Thurmond, Mayor Peterson and Administrator Seehausen. Went to a bunch of training sessions, one on how to explain Home Rule to your residents and how to work towards that endeavor. Also, met with a gentleman from AARP who will be sending out some information about creating Family ADU which is a program for working with local municipalities in creating a way for elderly residents to stay in place in their homes instead of having to move due to the difficulties of their homes. Other than that, I met with gentleman from IDOT who is going over all the finances for 2023 for Federal Road Grants. But, the total number after the State takes their portion out. Service Transportation Grant Block program will have \$427 million in it for fiscal 2023 and a few other programs should open up shortly. The windows to apply are very small.

Trustee Perchinski I want to thank Dave Toepper, Cindy Trotier, Mayor Peterson and Steve Thurmond for supporting Alicia's House. We had a golf outing; they do a lot of good with special needs center coming up at Columbia Central. That will be December the 4th. We will help about 100 special needs children and their families. We also do letters from Santa from kids from the school district. Last year I think we did about 120 children from Steger, but there was a total of 800 in Bloom Township. The food distribution will be December 17th this year. The Village of Steger and Kiwanis partner with Alicia's House to pass out about 180 food baskets to needy families. I would also like to say congratulations, it's bittersweet, to my good friend Mark Kozy. He is one of the kindest gentlemen you will ever meet. We are going to miss you and we welcome Gerald, can't say enough good things about Gerald, he has helped for years and years. We welcome you to the board. Thank you, Mark.

Trustee Kozy No Report.

BILLS

With some question on the Warrant List, Mayor Peterson asked for a motion to pay recurring bills:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve recurring bills. 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Peterson confirmed receiving a letter of resignation from Trustee Mark Kozy dated September 19, 2022. It is bittersweet. You have definitely served this Village well. With that said, Mayor Peterson read Resolution No. 1172

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1172: A RESOLUTION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF TRUSTEE MARK KOZY. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson appoints Gerald Stewart as Mark Kozy's replacement on the board.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to accept Mayor Peterson's appointment of Gerald Stewart as a Trustee for the Village of Steger. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

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

Gerald Stewart took the oath of office as Village Trustee from Deputy Village Clerk Sheri Domele-Berry.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1283: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18-233(D) AND SECTION 18-234 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR ANYONE WHO FAILS TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AND INCREASING THE FEE FOR INSPECTIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond asked Trustee Perchinski to change his motion to accept with a change. I know that the previous penalty was \$500 to be increased to \$750. I would like to see that increase to \$1,000 to send a message. By statute, because we are not Home Rule, we can only increase to \$750. Trustee Trotier asked about the difference in inspection costs. Current fee is \$50, proposed is \$100.

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

Mayor Peterson reminded all that new Trustee Stewart was provided an agenda packet to review before being asked to vote on issues.

ORDINANCE NO. 664-4 discussion:

Trustee Perchinski questioned the general improvements that need a permit. This does not pertain if someone is painting their house? It was confirmed that it does not pertain to that type of improvement.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 664-5: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 664-4 TO INCREASE THE BUILDING PERMIT FEES. Trustee Stewart seconded the Motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Following discussion with Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper and Village Administrator Seehausen regarding the CloudPermit program and how it can be beneficial to the Village of Steger:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the contract not to exceed \$12,000 per year for five years with CloudPermit.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve ordering new police squad from Sutton Ford. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond questioned if we met the deadline, it was confirmed that we did. The price came in under budget. Financing is not yet available since vehicle will not be here until next year. Trustee Thurmond also questioned why it was not at the last meeting. It was stated that the information was not yet available.

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

Discussion regarding ordering a new ambulance, Trustee Perchinski stated that current Fire Department personnel were involved in ordering the last ambulance. He questioned if this is from the same company and why it is substantially more money. Fire Chief Mike Long stated that it is the same company, the specs are identical except this new ambulance will have a power lift option. Village Administrator stated that she was able to lock in financing a 5-year rate of 3.9% through January of 2023. We should see this before January, so it has all been cleared through finance.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve ordering the new ambulance from Life Line Emergency Vehicles. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond questioned if we met the deadline, it was confirmed that we did. The price came in under budget. Financing is not yet available since vehicle will not be here until next year. Trustee Thurmond also questioned why it was not at the last meeting. It was stated that the information was not yet available.

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

Representatives of Koffs Kustomz introduced themselves and described the new business they plan to run. The business will be involved in automotive and motorcycle repairs and detailing.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for Ryan Milenkoff of Koffs Kustomz at 3325 Holeman Ave. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion.

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

Ravin Nailon Nash introduced herself and told the board about Kravin Aesthetics that she plans to open in Steger. The business will concentrate on skin care and wellness.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for Ravin Nailon Nash of Kravin Aesthetics at 22 E. 33rd Place. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion.

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

At 8:27 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, Stewart, Trotier, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Joyce voted no. Motion carried.

At 9:14 pm

Trustee Joyce made a motion to reconvene Open Board Meeting.

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

Trustee Joyce made a motion to revisit paying of the bills posted online. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

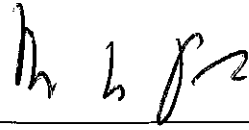
Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

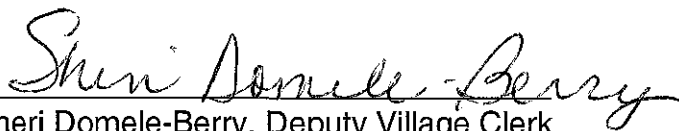
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Sheri Domele-Berry, Deputy Village Clerk