

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 August, 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, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustees Lopez and Kozy were absent.

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

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Diane Van Ort of 48 W. 34th St. asked Mayor Peterson if there had been any news regarding noise complaints with the American Legion. Mayor Peterson stated that he has been in conversation with representatives from the American Legion regarding the situation. He has asked them to turn the volume down in light of complaints from neighbors and will monitor future events.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen We have plans in place for National Night Out that I will let the Chief tell you about. We have a couple things regarding the water tower restoration. We have had to involve ComEd to have a scan done on wires that are close to the tower. We hope to have those later this week. The MFT paperwork, we are waiting for bids and specs to come back from IDOT. Our engineers hope to have that by the end of the week so we can post it. Administrator Seehausen clarified that we have

bids based on our engineers, now we need IDOT to approve how the package goes out, and as soon as that happens we can present it back to the board. We are waiting for approval from IDOT on Phase I and Phase II of the Sauk Trail and Cottage Grove project. This is a 5 year program. Trustee Perchinski asked if there was any update on the Citgo project. Dave Toepper stated that he has reached out to Anderson Pump Service twice with no response. The Steger Road project is moving along now that the strike is over. The West end has top coat and it is hoped that paving on the east side will begin soon. Finally, Administrator Seehausen stated that it was not on the agenda, but she is requesting permission to apply for the State Liquor License needed for the Village function on August 20th from Noon til Midnight to be ratified at the next meeting.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the application for the Village Liquor License for August 20, 2022 to be ratified at the next meeting. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called.

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

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No further report.

Fire Chief Michael Long Last month we had our busiest month to date, about 200 calls for the month and we doubled our mutual aide calls both outgoing and incoming. Want to thank the American Legion for inviting us out to their barbeque on Saturday. Their food is fantastic. Some may have seen that we had a cat dropped off at the station on Sunday. We took it over to the South Suburban Humane Society. We want everyone to know that we are not equipped to rescue animals here, so please get ahold of the Humane Society if you have trouble with your pets. We will be installing a TV in the foyer above the soda machine. We plan on having a running slide show of information, so we will get info out to Department Heads on how to get their information included.

Police Chief Greg Smith Tomorrow is National Night Out. The event in Steger will take place at the Louis Sherman Community Center. State Representative Anthony Deluca will be there. There will be a booth for raffles and one for the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. Cornerstone Youth Organization will have a booth as well. There will be table for Community Policing and there will be a bean bag toss with prizes. There will be vehicles from all departments for Touch a Truck. There will be hot dogs and sno-cones. Tuesday from 6-8 pm.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston We had six calls for service in the last two weeks. Most of them were traffic accidents. There was one call for downed wires that may have been related to a storm. We will be on hand for National Night Out tomorrow night.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi The last two weeks have not been as busy. We had about 750 people through the building. We now have two Pinochle Clubs. We are starting to get more kids, so hopefully we can get our Kids Clubs going again.

Village Attorney

Treasurer Everyone has their May reports. We will have our most recent audit in our hands very soon. Trustee Perchinski stated that it seems we are doing better with revenue and our expenditures are below budget. Administrator Seehausen pointed out that there have been some expenditures that could tighten that up so I am very cautious especially with Cook County Real Estate taxes being delayed to later in the year. We will be working with all Department Heads to help keep a handle on spending. We did get prices on a new ambulance that is in the budget, but it cannot go further without the audit, so we are most likely looking at next year for that.

MAYORS REPORT Stated that we do have to remain diligent with the delay in Real Estate taxes in Cook County. Also, the governor has just announced a state of emergency in regard to Monkey Pox.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier I have been researching some homes that might be a fit for the Village program. Also looking into some parking violations where cars are being parked on non-improved parking areas. I have been working to promote National Night Out. I would like to recommend that the Village purchase an ad from the Southland Voice to promote Steger Day Fest on August 20th as well as other Village functions we would like to help promote. Trustee Trotier will find out details on price, size of the ad and timing for publication. Trustees Perchinski and Trotier both offered to help with cost of the ads. It was stated that information regarding Steger will be published if sent with pictures. Trustee Thurmond stated the paper does not have a writer covering Steger right now.

Trustee Lopez No Report.

Trustee Thurmond Stated that the hydrant flush valves are in and working. I want to thank Deputy Chief Fajman for taking time to review the proposed Digital Ally Body Camera System contract. I attended the Grand Opening of the Glenwood Chug-a-Lug similar to that proposed for the old K-Mart building. I look forward to seeing it come here to Steger as well. The owners are anxious to bring it here and is still interested in bringing it here.

Trustee Joyce No Report.

Trustee Perchinski Hoping everyone will come out and support the National Night Out. This weekend is the Village Wide Garage Sale. I would like to see some help sought to help with railroad crossing especially the issue of Columbia School students who cross

the tracks near Richton Road. Trustee Joyce offered ideas for getting on the Railroad's radar for areas in need of improved safety.

Trustee Kozy No Report.

BILLS

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the bills listed when funds are available. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond questioned an attorney bill that noted an increase in hourly cost. It was explained that this rate had not changed in many years and is still well below the going rate for legal assistance. On a side note, it was questioned if Cook County is doing home demolition again. They have not restarted since the COVID shut-down.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A Thank You note was read from Haskins family regarding the death of Mrs. Haskins.

A note was read regarding neighbor concerns for the loud music at the American Legion. It is the hope of the author that the Village can be successful in getting the American Legion to turn the volume down for the benefit of its neighbors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the contract with Digital Ally Body Camera System for our police officers. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Perchinski commended the Chief and Deputy Chief for getting this going ahead of the date it is mandated to be done, done under budget and stands to protect the Village from potential lawsuits. Trustee Thurmond questioned how soon this could be implemented. Chief Smith stated that some more grant work needs to be finished, but will come well ahead of schedule. Trustee Trotier questioned some wording in the contract regarding state law. Mayor Peterson stated that the wording just states that any issues would be handled in the State of Kansas where the company is located which not uncommon in a contract such as this.

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

At 7:24 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 Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

At 7:41 pm

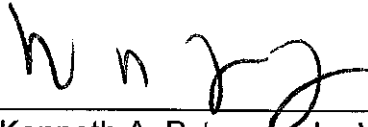
Trustee Joyce made a motion to reconvene Open Board Meeting. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the pay scale for the new Fire Chief. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

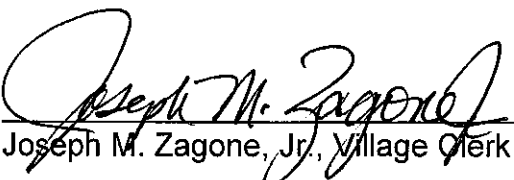
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk