

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 2nd day of May, 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, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustee Kozy was absent.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Harry Hammock of 3222 Florence Ave addressed the board. Mr. Hammock first informed the board of unreturned calls to Village Hall. He was calling about the care with which Republic Services is collecting our garbage. Moving too fast, not making sure bins are empty before they move on and garbage blowing around the neighborhood. The Trustee liaison to Republic will address the issue with them.

Next, Mr. Hammock questioned when street repairs would begin. Mayor Peterson stated that we have received numbers from the engineers and Administrator Seehausen and Dave Toepper are meeting later in the week to finalize what roads we have funds for. Dave Toepper further warned, that with the flood studies and drainage work to be done, we can't repave a road this year, only to tear it up in a year or so to work on sewers. The Village is making every effort to fix both issues.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen The Mayor stated that Administrator Seehausen's report was regarding meeting with the engineers in regards to street repaving as he had just mentioned.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper The last two weeks we have had three water main breaks, issued 12 building permits, 6 Administrative Ordinance Tickets and we are expecting work to begin on Steger Road. The Citgo building has been torn down.

Deputy Fire Chief James Baine So far this year we have had 616 calls, at this time last year we were at 595 which is up a little. We have people in Fire and EMT classes and all are doing well.

Police Chief Greg Smith congratulated EMA for a job well done for the Little League Parade. Chief Smith reported on officers who are continuing education.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No Report from recent storms. The bridge project in Crete is set to start soon. There is work being done on Kings Rd and it is rumored that they may work on that bridge too. If they close that bridge too, it will limit access. Hopefully with the closures there will be room for emergency personnel to get through.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi For the last two weeks the attendance for the community center has been about 620-700 people. That includes all activities and athletics. The thought is to watch attendance and look to extend hours closer to those prior to COVID. Trustee Trotier asked how late they thought the hours would extend. Mrs. Rossi stated that they are probably hoping for 6 pm because in the summertime people have so many other activities, evenings are very quiet. In the winter we will try to go back to 8 pm closing.

Village Attorney

Treasurer Trustee Lopez stated that we are waiting for the results of our financials so we can go over them soon.

MAYORS REPORT No Report.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond Questioned if there had been any further discussion on the lighting ordinance. Trustee Joyce stated that those working on the project have gone through the information, but have not come up with an agreement yet. Trustee Perchinski

suggested going to business owners with current restrictions and see if we can get anywhere with the current language. Trustee Joyce hopes to have more information in a couple weeks. Trustee Thurmond also brought up Steger Days and the parade route and his hope to put together a 16" softball tournament. He discussed his idea of 6 teams of 12 with double elimination with three inning games to speed things up. Any proceeds would go to Alicia's House. Mayor Peterson suggested he talk to Administrator Seehausen and Dave Toepper since they are running the event. Trustee Trotier asked if he would consider a bags tournament instead. Last year no one signed up for softball, but people signed up for the bags tournament. Since there has been bags in the past, it will be discussed what will be included this year.

Trustee Thurmond asked if it is possible that we can entertain the idea of doing a change in the agenda format to have a consent agenda where we can discuss ordinances and then vote on it at the next meeting? Mayor Peterson stated that a consent agenda means that you put things on the agenda that you don't talk about. Without discussion, you agree to approve them all at once. If someone wants to discuss an ordinance, it is taken out of the vote for that day. With approval, it comes off the agenda and discussion proceeds. We have chosen not to have that so that we can have discussion on every resolution and ordinance presented to the board. Cities and Counties with huge agendas will tend to use consent agendas to expedite meetings. Then Trustee Thurmond offered some follow up questions about the EDC. He asked if a first meeting has been planned yet. Mayor Peterson will touch base with Administrator Seehausen to see where we are in the scheduling. Trustee Thurmond asked to be clear on what happens with properties put in the control of the EDC. Mayor Peterson reiterated that the Village Board of Trustees will continue as it always has to have final say on how properties are utilized. The EDC will work with the Village Board to try and implement the policies with respect to village owned properties. If it is a commercial property and a developer comes to us and we agree that we want to work with this developer and provide incentives, we will go the EDC and say we want to use this property as incentive to bring this business. Undeveloped residential properties would be put in the hands of real estate agent to market these properties, but it would be at the direction of the Village Board to move forward in this way. The EDC in conjunction with the Village Board is tasked with getting village owned properties back on the tax rolls so that the Village again benefit from the taxes paid on the property and thus relieve the Village of the financial burden of maintaining these properties.

Finally, Trustee Thurmond asked where the funding comes from for this. Mayor Peterson stated that the Village hasn't funded anything other than maintaining the property. Like any other real estate transaction, agents fees normally come out of the proceeds of the sale.

Trustee Trotier I was able to share some pictures of the parade with the community. The parade went very well and the 35th Street route worked very well. Also, I am looking for volunteers to help with the Village Green Plaza Project. The hope is to beautify the parkway at the entrance to the Village Parking lot in front of the old K-Mart building. I will be participating in a Grant Writing Workshop in hopes of finding grant funds for our community.

Trustee Joyce No Report.

Trustee Lopez I want to thank everyone who came out for our Earth Day event that we held last weekend. I think it was great success. Our first year we had 20 plus volunteers going through the Village cleaning up.

Trustee Perchinski No Report.

Trustee Kozy No Report.

BILLS

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

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond questioned Knight Engineering bills where some charges are listed as various services. Is it possible to have more detail on all amounts being charged? Dave Toepper will follow up.

The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski.

Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1166: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING AN INDUCEMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF STEGER AND THE OWNER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3312 CHICAGO ROAD, STEGER, ILLINOIS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK/WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond said this is money for TIF districts. How much money is in this particular fund? Mayor Peterson stated that there are funds in the district. If the request goes over what is currently in it, we would wait for the funds to come in like we