

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 4th day of April, 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 via zoom. Trustee Kozy was absent.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23rd Public Hearing as all members have copies. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23rd Regular Meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen I have an update on a grant we applied for back in 2018 through the STP Local Fund. The grant was for \$1.6 million. We were originally approved in Phase I and Phase II for a total of \$240,000. The balance put on contingency list for future consideration. Last week we were awarded the \$1.46 million which is for reconstruction of Sauk Trail (Steger portion) from State to Cottage Grove

and Cottage Grove south to Steger Road. Phase I is this year and Phase II is next year. We will go to construction in 2025. Additionally, construction is scheduled to begin on April 11th on repaving of Steger Road from Union Avenue west to Kings Road.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper The past two weeks we had 3 water main breaks, Code Enforcement did 23 various inspections, issuing 6 tickets. We issued 14 building permits. We are putting out signs for flushing hydrants starting next week. B&K has begun reviewing the Dixon Report in an effort to survey the water tower and prepare the documents to go out for bid for the water tower. We are waiting for more information from Robinson Engineering to help with the discovery of lead water lines. Trustee Perchinski asked if there was anything more on the flooding. There is nothing at this time. Trustee Perchinski also mentioned poor conditions in the bathrooms at the Community Center during basketball games. This issue will be addressed.

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Long So far year to date we have had 472 calls for the year which is about 75 above average. Want to remind everyone that the Fire Department is having their Easter Egg Hunt this year on Sunday April 10th at 8 am. I also want to express our condolences to the Baine family on the loss of their son.

Police Chief Greg Smith Gave a report on officer training that is ongoing or has recently completed. Some of this training regards unfunded state mandates and some is for our new officers. These new certifications will help our officers better serve our community. I will be meeting Wednesday with Bloom Township Center to discuss The Wall That Heals. The event will be July 7- 10 and we are discussing support needs to escort it to this area. Friday there is a meeting with the Crisis Center of South Suburbia to discuss the programs they offer to local Police Departments.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston I want to offer my condolences to the Baine Family.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No Report.

Village Attorney

Treasurer

MAYORS REPORT

For my report I would also like to give my condolences to the Baine Family, our thoughts and prayers are with them. Mayor Peterson made the appointment of Ryan Buxton as Trustee on the Police Pension Board.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the appointment of Ryan Buxton to the Steger Police Pension Board. 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.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond I would like to extend my condolences to the Baine Family. Trustee Thurmond asked when Hydrant Flush Devices will be re-installed. Dave Toepper stated that they will go in after hydrant flushing is completed. Trustee Thurmond stated that he has spoke with Desiderio Landscaping regarding the new Welcome to Steger signs. Will be meeting with them in the next week or so to address what will be done. I want to applaud Public Works for their efforts in repairing main breaks. There are two Fish Fries remaining at the American Legion on the 8th and the 22nd of April from 4-7 pm. I can give a report on the Volleyball Program. Steve Zeman had voiced his gratitude for all of the sponsors, participants and the Village for the awesome year they had. Finally, I would like to point out that communication is key to a successful team. Moving forward I am asking that Trustee Perchinski when asked about information regarding Village matters, please offer that information. Trustee Perchinski responded that street goes both ways, I have asked you for information and you did not want to give it to me. Trustee Thurmond thanked the Mayor.

Trustee Trotier Speaking of environmental issues, Trustee Lopez and I are still working with Village Administrator Seehausen on our Earth Day initiative. It will take place on Saturday April 23rd. We encourage residents, clubs, organizations to volunteer to help with this. Call Village Hall to sign up. I also want to convey my condolences to the Baine Family.

Trustee Joyce Presented a press release from MWRD regarding recommended water use during periods when heavy rains occur. Trustee Joyce also reminded fellow trustees and residents to contact their state senator ask them to support Senate Bill 3189, the Southland Reactivation Act. It will deal with under utilized properties in the south suburbs. Intended to spur economic growth and get businesses to come back to the area. Trustee Perchinski stated that this is a great program, but falls short for the Village of Steger since it relates to land bank properties that are not prevalent in our community. Trustee Joyce went on to thank the Police Department, the Fire Department and ESDA for all they did for the Baine Family. Mayor Peterson thanked Trustee Joyce for the information regarding MWRD, but remind everyone that Village of Steger runs into Thorn Creek so we are not experiencing the same issues that MWRD is experiencing. We are supposed to get connected with MWRD at some point, but we still drain to Thorn Creek.

Trustee Lopez I would like to give my condolences to the Baine Family. Just want to remind everyone that April 23rd is our clean-up day in cooperation with the Earth Day Weekend. We need volunteers and I want to thank Administrator Seehausen and Public Works for the job they are doing to set this up. Republic Services is donating ash tray garbage cans for the bus shelters, Public Works will place them. Yard Waste service begins this Wednesday. Street sweeping will occur the week of April 25th. Thank you to everyone for their time helping with these upcoming projects.

Trustee Trotier also offered thanks to Public Works and Administrator Seehausen for working together because we did send a long list of needs for the upcoming Clean-up. Mayor Peterson added that when we all work together, we can address more issues.

Trustee Perchinski I would like to offer my condolences to the Baine Family on the loss of their son Travis. Then, I just have a few requests: Is there a way we can put together a list of Village owned properties and determine what they are valued? I am still looking for a list of registered vehicles. Administrator Seehausen stated that the request for the list is with the State of Illinois and we are awaiting their response. Trustee Perchinski also asked to start getting together the sales tax figures for Liquor Licenses. Because of COVID restrictions last year, I don't think we should pull licenses, but I think going out for the figures will get them ready for next year dealing with minimum requirements for liquor and food in order to maintain the liquor license. Mayor Peterson stated we can do what we can to get that information starting with asking businesses for the numbers. Trustee Perchinski also stated that we have to make sure all businesses are being properly charged for the licenses they hold. Also, we are voting to dispose of property, being an old squad car, how about the old Fire Trucks? Administrator Seehausen stated that they are currently up for auction and AC Long stated that auction ends soon. Trustee Trotier offered her assistance as a realtor to gather information regarding vacant or Village owned properties. Village Administrator Seehausen will update the list of Village owned properties and get it out to the Trustees.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table consideration of Ordinance Numbers: 1268, 1269 and 1270. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve the 2022 Steger Summer Band program. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski asked if got any feedback from the Village of South Chicago Heights regarding their contributing to this. Administrator Seehausen stated that she did not get any feedback, but I believe it is on their agenda tonight. The request has been made for \$500.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1274: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 86, SECTION 86-4 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING UTILITY RATES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mayor Peterson stated that last time we amended our water rates, we only went out to 2021. This revisits this for 2022 and 2023.

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

Trustee Lopez made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1275: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6-46 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING VIDEO GAMING FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mayor Peterson stated that this amends the fee that the Village charges for video gaming. The law has changed so there is a recommendation to change the ordinance to update it to the current law. Trustee Thurmond asked if we could go with incremental increase over time. His concern is for VFW and American Legion. Trustee Lopez stated that this is the first time we have been able to raise them. Mayor Peterson stated if you look at the revenue each machine produces, it should not be an issue. I don't like taxing either, but these machines have been very lucrative for the businesses and for the community and the Village. The law originally allowed \$25 per machine. The law now provides for \$250 per machine. Trustee Joyce asked when the change would take effect. The response is not until December.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1276: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1277: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6-76 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Village Administrator Seehausen stated we are currently redoing the liquor licenses for next year and our ordinance is wrong for the classifications and the total number of licenses we currently have had on the books since 2019. Without any additional licenses, we have a total of 24. Reading the current list of different licenses, it was determined to increase total licenses to 27 and to adjust which should have entertainment. Trustee Perchinski amended his motion to include these adjustments. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1278: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF STEGER TO ENTER INTO A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THAT CERTAIN SITE LEASE WITH OPTION BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER AND T-MOBILE USA TOWER LLC FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Trustee Thurmond asked if he understands, T-Mobile is going to sub-lease to another? The answer is that it is being subleased to a Dish provider, and the Village gets 30% of that lease in addition to our lease with T-Mobile. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding Water Main Break Notifications.

Trustee Perchinski stated that a recent water main break affected a local business and wondered if there is a way to let businesses know when this occurs. Dave Toepper stated that the affected business owner was there watching the repair. It was questioned if Code Red could be used. Administrator Seehausen suggested that the topic be discussed at next Staff Meeting to seek a solution.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve a Special Events license application for the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Spring Camporee. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the Liquor License Application for Raspberry's Restaurant at 3145 Chicago Road. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Discussion:

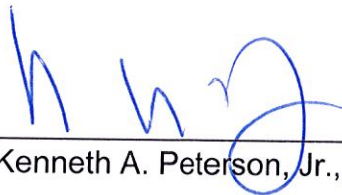
Trustee Perchinski asked if it will still be Breakfast and Lunch? At this time there is no plan to open for dinner. They will take out three booths to accommodate an area for video gaming. Mayor Peterson stated that this an attempt to keep this business financially viable in our community.

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

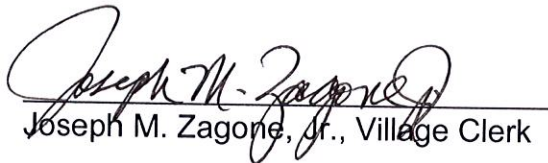
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk