

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 7th day of November, 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, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chairperson Alice Peterson announced the winners of the 2022 Halloween Decorating Contest:

3rd Place: 345 Durham
2nd Place: 3646 Halsted Blvd
1st Place: 3220 Peoria St

MINUTES

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Trustee Thurmond introduced Juan Hernandez of Alicia's House and made a presentation on behalf of the Charity Softball event that took place at the same time as Steger Day of Music in August. Trustee Thurmond gave special thanks to all participants including Tim Glass and Jim Hanus for their donations for the event, the teams: The Police Department, The Fire Department, Spartan Baseball and King Steger. The softball game raised \$708.00 and I am honored to present this to Alicia's House. Juan Hernandez accepted the donation with gratitude and gave an overview of Alicia's House that his family started in 2001 and named for his granddaughter who was killed when she was four years old. Alicia's House feeds over 30,000 individuals annually in this area. They are gearing up for the holidays which is a very busy time for them. Alicia's House helps the Village of Steger every year with holiday food baskets that are distributed to families that need help at the holidays.

Mayor Peterson thanked Mr. Hernandez also, for all that Alicia's House does for the Village. The help from Alicia's House is in conjunction with other donations and the food collection that takes place during the Santa Parade through the whole town that will take place the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Canned goods can be left at the curb on Saturday November 26th and will be collected during the Santa Parade. Items can also be dropped off at Village Hall. Alicia's House also partners with the Village on other events such as Shop with a Cop.

Trustee Perchinski reminded everyone about Shop with a Cop that works a little different in Steger. Mr. Hernandez developed the idea where 2nd and 3rd grade children write letters to Santa Claus on who they want to make Christmas special for, why they want to make it special and what they want to get them.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen We are continuing to work on our budget reports for 2023, almost all departments have turned them in. They have been sent over to finance. I have given all trustees a copy of the tentative tax levy that will be available to be viewed here in the clerk's office. We will be passing our tax levy at the first meeting in December.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Hydrant flushing is done for the season, we start back up in the Spring. Just been out cleaning up a lot of storm damage from Saturday and getting ready for the Winter Season.

Fire Chief Michael Long We finished up our coloring contest last week. Gave three lucky kids a ride to school in the Fire Engine. Winning drawings are on display in Village Hall. The Fire Department has raffle tickets available for their drawing to be held on November 27th at their Pancake Breakfast.

Police Chief Greg Smith Just finished up the Pizza War with the Fire Department. The two departments will meet at Bambino's to celebrate the contest of which both were winners. November 15th Kim Fox will be hosting an event at Prairie State College. It is community-based conversation with Kim Fox from 6-7 pm.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston We had branch clean up from the recent wind storm and some power lines down that we helped with traffic control. Waiting for more particulars on a vehicle that Monee EMA has that they are willing to donate to Steger EMA.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi For our Halloween Party we had 260 kids and 50 parents. We had a full house; everyone had a great time and hopefully it will help build use of the facility. There were over 1100 people through the community center over the past two weeks and turnout was very good for early voting.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Trustee Lopez reported that we have received September 2022 financials and hope to have the current month soon from our audit team.

MAYORS REPORT I want to remind everyone that tomorrow is election day. Get out, cast your vote and be heard. For my report I would like to appoint Dave Mendez as President of the Steger Recreation Board.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to accept the mayor's appointment of Dave Mendez to President of the Steger Recreation Board. 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.

Village Clerk Zagone gave Dave Mendez the Oath of Office installing him as President of the Steger Recreation Board.

VILLAGE CLERK Clerk Zagone read a thank you note from family of Luanne Thurmond. Additionally, Clerk Zagone read from an invite to a public meeting to be held in Sauk Village in regards to the Sauk Village Multi-Use Path Project that the Village of Steger is interested in connecting to in the future. The date of the meeting is November 15, 2022 from 5-7 pm at the Sauk Village Municipal Center at 21801 Torrence Ave.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Joyce November 30th will be the last day of yard waste collection in the village. We still have one street sweeping left for the year, both of these items will be posted on the Village website. This Wednesday I will be going with Dave Toepper to the Cook County Government Surplus. They are doing property donation of heavy equipment to municipalities within Cook County. We are going to go see if there is anything that could be put to use in Steger. November 27, Caroline Pfeiffer will turn 100 years old. She was a long-time member of the Steger Fire Department Auxiliary and her husband was the Deputy Chief for many years. Cards can be sent to her at Beecher Manor room 25.

Trustee Trotier Just working on grants. We have had a couple productive conversations.

Trustee Lopez No report.

Trustee Thurmond I want to comment on what a great turn out there was for the St. Liborius Trunk or Treat event. There were 36 trunks and over 700 attendees. I just want to say what a great event it was.

Trustee Stewart I want to thank Dave Mendez for stepping in to my old role. I appreciate it and want to let you know that I am here to support you. Also, I want to congratulate the Steger Storm Football Program. They hosted the Super Bowl this past weekend and it was a great success. The turnout was great. Congratulations to all the young men and their coaches and staff. Sign-ups for basketball and volleyball are still ongoing. Currently we have 51 in basketball program. I had a meeting with Chicago Heights and they have 15 kids who want to join us in Steger to help make our program bigger and better.

Trustee Perchinski Just want to remind everyone to get out and vote tomorrow.

BILLS

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

Discussion: Trustee Joyce questioned two identical amount bills from M&J Underground. Administrator Seehausen confirmed that they were two separate main breaks with the same amount.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Emily Moharam introduced herself and described the Vape Shop they want to open in a space previously occupied by another Vape Shop that relocated nearby. Trustee Perchinski stated that from my perspective, I don't think our constituents want another Vape Shop in town.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to deny the new business license application for Emily Moharam of Poisoned Apple Smokes LLC at 3412 Chicago Road. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Lopez abstained. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to deny the new business license application for Truth Hookah & Cigars at 3345 Chicago Road. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Village Administrator Seehausen explained the Amendment to Standard of Terms between DACRA Tech company and the Village of Steger. This program is currently used by our Police Department for AO and Parking Citations. We also use it for when we start writing our housing violations. Currently we are in contract with them and we pay them a percentage of what is collected. For the past 5 years we have averaged payments to DACRA of \$14,883.00 per year (1240.25 per month) by percentages. The difference is they are going to flat rate instead of percentages. This means no matter how many tickets we collect, the payment is the same. DACRA is switching all their clients from percentage to standardized billing. Trustee Perchinski asked why it jumped so much in 2024? Administrator Seehausen explained that we have been with this company since 1997. We have paid the same rate which has included all program updates. There is basically no increase for 2023 and the first increase is not felt until 2024. Trustee Thurmond stated he is not in favor of the 20% increase. I would rather see if we can go 4.5% for the three years, it still gives them an increase. Administrator Seehausen replied, we do know that the CPI is 9.91% this year.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the Amendment to Standard of Terms between DACRA Tech company and the Village of Steger. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion:

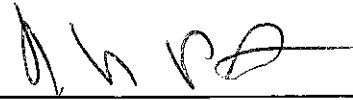
Trustee Trotier asked if this is to increase it by 20%? Mayor Peterson stated no: This is to change our billing from percentage to flat rate. The flat fee in 2023 would be \$1250.00 per month. In 2024 it would be \$1500.00 and 1567.50 in 2025. There would be no increase for 2023 and then a jump for 2024-25. If we deny it, effectively what will happen is they will come back and put an increase in for next year. The rule of thumb is to push increases off as long as we can. If you don't want the 20% increase in 2024, we can go back to them and increase it in 2023 and then it is a smaller increase in 2024. We could do it over three years, or do what is beneficial to us and not get an increase next year and then take the increase over 2024-25 when CPI has gone up 9.9%. Trustee Trotier confirmed that it would be no increase in 2023 if passed.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Joyce and Perchinski. The following Trustees voted no; Thurmond, Lopez and Trotier. Mayor Peterson did not vote (Mayor's vote only counts to break a tie). Trustee Stewart abstained. Motion was denied.

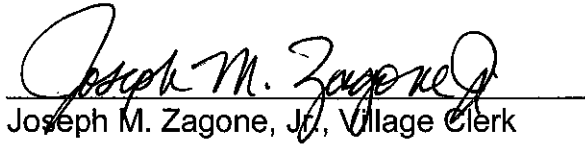
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk