

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 5th day of September, 2023 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. 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 and Trotier. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustees Stewart, Joyce and Perchinski were absent.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21st meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mary Vasek of 3316 Wallace came before the board to ask the Village to check a home across the street from her house. She believes squatters may be living in a house she thought was vacant. Additionally, she is having issues with bees that have nested in the ground in her front yard. Dave Toepper will give her a list of exterminators that may be able to help.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen Administrator Seehausen and Dave Toepper introduced the new Village Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Triumph. He will also be working in the building department. He has previous code and building experience for the Villages of Glenwood, Lockport and Romeoville. Mr. Triumph has also been an independent home inspector for the past 25 years. Additionally, on August 23rd we swore in two new policed officers who have started the academy. Police Chief Smith announced Officer Mayden and Officer Sanfilippo are in their second week at the academy. The new officers will be formally introduced to the

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board when they complete the academy. We currently have 13 officers on the street, and when the two new officers graduate, we will have 15.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Fire Chief Michael Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Trustee Lopez offered review of the financial report dated June 30th of this year. It gives signs that we are in line with our budget and expenditures. While we are on course with current property tax income, Trustee Lopez reminded all that Cook County Real Estate taxes will be late for the second installment which will delay payment to the Village. Discussions with the Village Administrator and the accountants, we are adjusting for this delay. Utility tax revenue is down a little, but we are just watching our spending which is a credit to our department heads.

MAYORS REPORT The Village will not be having a ceremony this year to honor those lost in the attacks on 9/11. Please keep our First Responders in your thoughts that day. Additionally, I need to inform the board that Crave (virtual reality gaming) has officially closed and the "K's" Restaurant in Signature Bar and Grill has also closed.

VILLAGE CLERK Reported that the large dip in 32nd Street, outside Raspberry's Restaurant, caused by an earlier water main break, has been repaired.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond:

Following up on a recent department request on community center. Our village administrator has confirmed all damage caused by a pipe burst back in December has been repaired.

The school year has been in full swing, I just wanted to remind everyone to watch out for students and drive with caution especially in the school zones.

Finally, I would like to thank Trustees Trotier and Lopez for attending the breakfast with Senator Joyce. They represented the Village well.

Trustee Trotier:

Trustee Lopez and I attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Senator Patrick Joyce and State Representative Anthony DeLuca on Tues., Aug. 29, 2023.

Meeting Summary:

Village of Monee and the Amazon distribution center. Monee receives approximately \$11,000,000 annually. However, when customers make a purchase, the sales tax also goes to the Village of Monee. The current sales tax distribution is being reviewed by our Senator Joyce & Representative DeLuca.

Our Capital dollars are constantly being reviewed by Representative DeLuca's office (Ruby Flores). She helps our towns keep apprised of grants and/or monies that have not completed the process in the entirety.

Fiesta Chicago Heights (one of our sister cities) will be hosting a festival for Mexican Independence Day the weekend of Sept. 16th & 17th. This fiesta-friendly holiday celebrates Mexico's declaration of independence from Spain in 1810. Registration is still open to those who are interested in participating. Contact the City of Chicago Heights at (708) 756-5300.

Bloom Townships FALL YOUTH PROGRAM: The fall youth program provides students with real life work experience within our local communities. Through non-for-profit agencies in an office setting, students can gain viable clerical experience and learn life skills. Student will develop a better self-esteem and have more confidence in their outlook. This afterschool program last for 5 months during the school year. Share the news as appropriate. Bloom Township students who live in Will County are included. One of the Illinois Municipal League's (IML) top legislative priorities is the restoration of revenues through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). LGDF is a designated portion of state income tax revenues that municipalities and counties receive on a per capita basis. Until 2011, 10% of total income tax collections was dedicated to LGDF; today, the local government share is 6.47%. LGDF plays a key role in keeping the local tax burden low and allows municipalities to provide essential programs and services that their citizens expect and deserve. A fact sheet is available on the desk next to the participation sheet in front of you.

Senator Patrick Joyce – Hosting a Coffee & Conversation Event on Sept. 23, 2023 (Sat.) at Highway Bakery (2633 Chicago Rd., South Chicago Heights, IL).

Steger Kiwanis Club has plans underway for our 2023 Octoberfest to be held Oct. 1, 2023. Details to follow. **SAVE THE DATE!**

A special "THANK YOU" TO Mayor Terry Matthews and the Village of South Chicago Heights for the use of the digital sign to assist the Village of Steger advertise Steger Days of Music. You are appreciated!

Sports Update for the Village of Steger Athletes:

The number of participants has grown immensely. The TEAMS are looking for sponsorships. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Dave Mendez by leaving a message at the LSCC. Soccer is in search of a head coach for the indoor season. Please reach out to Dave Mendez by calling the LSCC.

A huge THANK YOU to Officer Darge for the donation of a John Deere tractor lawnmower to help with the extended programs.

Football: Ardola Goodwin and the crew stepped up to provide Funnel Cakes at our Steger Days of Music. She has informed me that a profit of \$490! This is an increase from the previous year of \$390.

I will reach out to Dave Mendez and his Team Leads to see if any of the other teams are interested in participating in this type of fundraising.

Mayor Peterson clarified that the 2023 Octoberfest is the Village sponsored Octoberfest. Kiwanis sponsors the Chile Cook-off that takes place during this event.

BILLS

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

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond question the budget status of the water tower project. Village Administrator Seehausen will look into this.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:


None.

Being no further business:

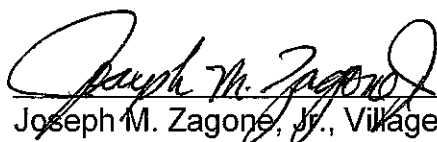
Trustee Lopez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk