

**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 6th day of February, 2023 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: Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Michael Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, 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 the January 17th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE

Sherry Glowacki of 22916 Lahon Rd approached the board regarding a condemned house next to her property. Mrs. Glowacki spoke of attempts to discuss this issue privately but was unable to reach anyone though Village Hall. The house at 22920 Lahon was condemned in January 2022. There has been frequent activity in the house and Mrs. Glowacki called police when a car with several teenagers arrived. Mayor Peterson and Police Chief Smith are going to investigate the call and how police responded. Mayor Peterson explained the reason condemnations get dragged out in the County Court system. He further explained that he would see to it that the Village does everything within its authority to stay on top of this type of property.

Patrick Rossi approached the board on behalf of the Steger Fire and Police Board. The current list of candidates expires this Friday, however, starting Saturday we have new list ready to go for the next two years with 21 candidates on the list. In recent training sessions, Mr. Rossi learned that many towns including some much larger than Steger struggle to have as many candidates as does Steger. It is a struggle right now for communities to find new firefighters and police officers. The hiring process for police and fire is different from other Village positions and goes far beyond a simple job interview.

The process can take up to a couple months and then you have to hope there is a spot in the academy. We have been working on our by-laws, we have revised them and are ready to approve the revised version with the addition of the new secondary eligibility list that has been asked for. It is however, a CBA issue, so until the new contract is ratified, we cannot post our secondary list in the paper as required by law. As soon as this gets settled, the list will be posted and the new by-laws will be approved.

Richard Van Drunen Jr. of 3045 Carpenter St. came to the board regarding his water service being shut-off for non-payment which he acknowledged was completely on him. The issue was his not finding a red tag to warn him of pending shut-off, shut-off happened at the end of the day, and he was unable to reach Public Works. Dave Toepper is going to research how and when the house was tagged and work with the homeowner to get the service restored.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No Report

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Updated the board on the Water Tower Rehabilitation project. The hold up is land rights around the tower in regard to ComEd equipment. Village Engineers are working with a Title Company researching easements and property ownership. They have found no evidence that ComEd was there before the water tower. We are working with ComEd who has assigned engineers to the project, but at this point, they are working with their own real estate division to solidify our information. Once we prove that we were there first and there was no easement, then burden of cost falls on ComEd. Our 2023 MFT Streets will begin being paved this Spring. We have a preconstruction meeting coming up next month. We are waiting on one IDOT signature and then we will be ready to go. Cook County has let us know that they are going to start intersection improvements at Sauk Trail and Cottage Grove. The entire intersection will be redone with ADA ramps on all four corners, new signaling and then repaving 800 feet north. We are working on grants to also pave parts going west and parts going south. Will County has some funding for arbor projects, we are also applying for grants through Cook County for CMAP, STP and CFP projects. Investing Cook Grants is one we have had success with in the past.

Fire Chief Michael Long Reported that Tuesday February 7th at 7 pm, the Steger Fire Department will monitor the burning of Christmas Trees at Veteran's Park.

Police Chief Greg Smith Reported that an artist, Nancy Guzman has created and donated to the Steger Police Department, a statue of Police Dog. The statue is on display at the Police Department for viewing. Deputy Chief Fajman has started his Staff and Command Training at Northwestern. He will be training for two weeks on and two weeks off until the end of May. This is leadership school.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi For the month of January there were 1,275 visitors at the Community center. There have been many inquiries about when the workout room will be able to re-open. Mayor Peterson explained that the insurance work requires bids, quotes, selection of contractor and scheduling of work. There is no set time to re-open at this time.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Trustees should have gotten financial reports this week for the last 11 months ending on November 30, 2022. Total cash balance is at \$3.3 million. Total investment balance is \$4,361,378.81 which is an improvement year over year. There are many key factors including state taxes and increased ambulance call revenues. Trustee Perchinski questioned if the gaming revenue was down, Trustee Lopez pointed out with a month to go, we were in line year over year. Dave Toepper explained why some licensing and permitting amounts seem different due to coding. Trustee Perchinski pointed out that this is good for the public to see why the Village is not able to afford all the things we would like to get done.

MAYORS REPORT Reported that he and Trustee Perchinski were notified that the Village has received \$40,000.00 from a grant for the lead pipe program. This grant was applied for the Village by Robinson Engineering at no additional cost to the village. This grant is for money to help locate lead pipes in the Village. Steger will still apply for the IEPA loan, we should have the paperwork for that March 6th.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Joyce No report.

Trustee Trotier January 27th I participated in a webinar legislative meeting recapping the SSMMA. Mayor Reinbold was leading the meeting and spoke of many things, but one of the things that stood out was the attempt to restore the Local Government Distribution Fund back to 10%. We fought to get back to 6% after Governor Rauner had reduced the funds to municipalities. These funds go to police, firefighters, garbage collection, road repairs and maintenance. Mayor Peterson explained that this is percentage of employment and sales taxes collected in the Village of Steger. State Representative Anthony DeLuca is chair of the committee working to restore these funds to the communities like Steger that rely on these funds. Trustee Trotier continued would remind everyone of the Illinois Homeowners Assistance Fund Application through Cook County that is a program that helps if you fall behind on mortgage payments. There are limited funds. There is a mobile app: Savor the Southland that can be used

between now and the end of March if you know of restaurant that can benefit from participation in this program. Our social media person is working to update our website with more current photos.

Trustee Lopez Reported that he was also on the SSMMA webinar, I spoke with Representative DeLuca and he let me know that he hopes to be at one of our Village Board meetings in the near future.

Trustee Thurmond Questioned what else has occurred in conjunction with the rehabilitation of the Water tower other than the property dispute with ComEd. Dave Toepper stated that everything else is ready, the survey has been done, the documents have been prepared so it's ready to go once the issue with ComEd is settled. Trustee Thurmond's concern is that we are half-way through the budgeted amount for the project.

Trustee Perchinski No report.

Trustee Stewart No report.

BILLS

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve a request from Steger American Legion Post #521 for Special Event License for the Foxhole Bean Bag League from 5/1/23-10/31-23 7:00 pm-10:00 pm. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion and asked for discussion:

Trustee Perchinski stated that this business operates in our business district, they are well within the noise ordinance lines and I believe their liquor license allows for live

music so I don't think we even need to vote on these nor should we because it is not a special event.

Trustee Joyce stated that he agrees and rescinded his motion.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the rescind. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion rescinded.

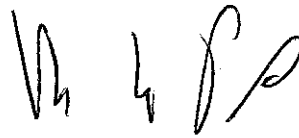
Trustee Joyce made a motion to table all agenda items in regard to American Legion Post #521 indefinitely. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

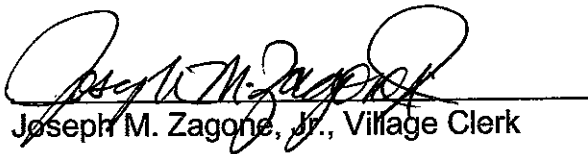
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk