

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 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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 and Joyce. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustee Perchinski was absent.

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**

Mayor Peterson stated he had a couple things he would like to acknowledge. Trustee Lopez reached out to me because he was working with our State Representative Anthony DeLuca on getting us into the Capitol Fund Bill in the State of Illinois, and they were successful in getting the Village of Steger in that Capitol bill. We will be allocated once it is adopted. This will bring us additional funds from the State of Illinois which we will apply towards drainage. I want to recognize Trustee Lopez for his hard work in getting those funds. Trustee Lopez added that State Representative DeLuca is already paying dividends. Mayor Peterson concluded by stating that it would be about \$200,000.00 when approved.

I would also like to let everyone know that the Steger Police Department will be conducting a Town Hall Meeting to talk about recent crime in Steger. I want to also acknowledge Trustee Stewart because he came to me with the idea that we should do something specifically for crime in trying to educate our residents on what we can do for crime prevention, how to be safe, how to be alert. So, I went to Chief Smith with the idea and he took the ball right away. The Chief is going to begin with a program for businesses because that is where a lot of our crime activity has been. Chief Smith will then plan a function for residents to be held at the Community Center.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Village Board has been invited to the Steger School District 194 Graduation Ceremony to take place at Columbia-Central Jr. High. I am asking to have a motion to move our meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> to 5:30 pm.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to change the start time of the June 5, 2023 Village Board Meeting from 7 pm to 5:30 pm to allow Board Members to attend the Columbia-Central Graduation ceremony. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Peterson then pointed out there were no attendees on our ZOOM broadcast, but announced this would be our last Zoomed Village Board Meeting. The Federal Government has announced that the pandemic is now over. Our Governor has announced that the pandemic is over and his special orders he has given throughout are no longer going to be in effect. It was through those orders that gave us the opportunity to have ZOOM for public meetings, so we are probably not going to be doing this in the future. I don't see this having a huge affect on residents as we didn't have a lot of participation through ZOOM.

### **MINUTES**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mark Gerrity of 314 Royal Oak Drive approached the board regarding multiple mailings he received from the Village of Steger last week. He got one for his vehicle stickers, one for dog license and one for his Village Utility bill. He questioned why they could not be contained in one mailing. Mayor Peterson stated that the three programs all use separate software programs, and where we had not been mailing reminders in recent years for vehicles and dogs, this was a trial run for us this year. This has been brought to my attention by others as well and we are going to work next year to send them together all at once. Mr. Gerrity asked if we can get rid of all the abandoned vehicles sitting in yards with no vehicle stickers? Mayor Peterson stated that we are working on that as well.

Commander of the Steger VFW, Mike Krepps approached the board to discuss the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony to take place on the Boulevard. He questioned the collection of donations for poppies on the street corners. The American Legion had previously asked permission to be on the corner and the board approved their request and agreed to include the VFW as well. Mr. Krepps explained that the monies collected goes into our relief fund, and then those funds are distributed to military members that are in desperate situations. Since this has always been an American Legion event, I would like to ask the Village Board that the VFW Post have the Poppy Event next year. Mayor Peterson said he would have a conversation with the American Legion and see what can be worked out. He then went on to give a brief description of plans the VFW has for the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony.

**REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** No report.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** No report.

**Fire Chief Michael Long** No report.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** Submitted his weekly blotter. As the Mayor mentioned, we will be hosting a workshop/town hall meeting. We are looking forward to it and try and get as many businesses, reps, owners. It will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Police Department. We think we can hold that size group there. For the public forum, we will probably need the Community Center. The community meeting will gear more toward scams and crime prevention for residents. This upcoming meeting will be more toward trends in crime, what we have experienced lately. We want to pass on to business crime prevention, police response, technology; I will be speaking a little about Flock Cameras. I am attending a webinar this Thursday on cameras available for businesses that would link to the police department. We will also talk on how we can work together to reduce crime.

**Community Center Director Diana Rossi** No report.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** No report.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Treasurer** No report.

**MAYORS REPORT** No further report.

**VILLAGE CLERK** No report.

**TRUSTEES REPORTS**

Trustee Trotier I've been researching grants.

Thank you to State Rep. Anthony DeLuca for cracking down on prescription price gouging by supporting House Bill #3957. The bill penalizes prescription drug companies who are raising costs without a cause to consumers.

We will be having an Electronic Recycling program along with an Expired Pill Collection and off-site shredding on Saturday, June 24th from 9 am - 11 am. The location will be at our municipal lot (Village Green). It is in the same lot as Little Caesar's & Boyo's Market. I invite our Village Board to join in.

As an aside, I invite all residents to brighten up their home with beautiful spring flowers by gardening and planting flowers. It shows that we are invested in our community. That is all I have for now.

### **BILLS**

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

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Village Clerk Joseph Zagone gave the Oath of Office to newly elected Village Trustees: Gerald Stewart and William Joyce.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1295: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE TIME FOR SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

Being no further business:

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

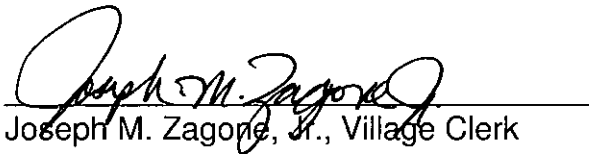
Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.



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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk