

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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 March 6<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**REPORTS**

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

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** Hoping to have a meeting with ComEd on site at the water tower this week with their engineers and our engineers to take another look at the site. ComEd has new people working on the project. MFT street program should be getting underway this week. They will be out marking curbs and the concrete company will be in here in the next one to two weeks. Trustee Perchinski

asked if there was news on the Citgo project, Mr. Toepper stated that there is a new contractor taking over the project. They are moving forward.

**Fire Chief Michael Long** Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This is a free event to the community and you can sign up the day of the event starting at 8:30 am. The event will run from 9-10 am. At 9 am will be 1–2-year-olds, 9:30 will be 3–6-year-olds and 10 am will be 7–10-year-olds.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** No report.

**Community Center Director Diana Rossi** In the last two weeks the Community center has had 800 come and enjoy the community center. Everything is starting to pick back up. I think everyone is ready to say hello to Spring.

**EMA Chief Tom Johnston** No report.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Treasurer** No report.

**MAYORS REPORT** I was at the Community Center watching Steger Basketball and there were some very good games, it was a lot of fun. March Madness here in Steger. I also want to give thanks to our engineer Clay Shipley, Dave Toepper and Mary Jo Seehausen, we had a grant that was due for the CBDG on Friday, we knew it was happening and all was fine, but on the previous Friday, we got an email from Robin Kelly's office stating that there were Federal Monies that were available and if we wanted to apply, we needed to do so in a week. Clay and I joined a Webinar on Monday where we learned of 4 or 5 accounts that we could apply for depending on our projects. After discussion, we felt one of these would work well toward our Drainage Project. Clay, Dave and Mary Jo worked tirelessly to get this application done. Fortunately, we already had the drainage study to go with the application. We met the deadline, there is no guarantee that we get it this time, but this application will keep us in line for further grants. I am hopeful that we will get funds this round.

**VILLAGE CLERK** Read a thank you note of thanks addressed to Mayor Peterson, Village Board and Staff from the family of Bobby Joyce.

### **TRUSTEES REPORTS**

**Trustee Joyce** Yard waste pick-up will begin on April 5<sup>th</sup> and will run through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Street sweeping will begin around town about April 22<sup>nd</sup> to coincide with Earth Day. Trustee Joyce asked if we got anywhere with what we discussed at the last board meeting? Mayor Peterson stated that he talked with Village Administrator Seehausen and looked at the invoices, and I have to follow up with Helsel-Jepperson

because, Village Administrator Seehausen said she did talk to you a year ago about the first invoice. She did not know that she needed to provide an invoice, that you (Trustee Joyce) were going to take care of it and she did not hear back from you. Trustee Joyce stated he asked because he needed something to give to the Chamber and I did not have one from either Helsel-Jepperson or the Village. The Mayor stated we need to know why this wasn't billed to the Chamber in the first place. Trustee Joyce assumes the Chamber has an account with Helsel-Jepperson because they have purchased there before. Village Administrator Seehausen talked to Helsel-Jepperson about it being on the wrong account and explained that none of the Trustees have authority to charge to the Village account, so why was the Village account charged to begin with, so we are still trying to figure out exactly what went wrong and why there would be an account charge when there is not an authorized person there. Trustee Joyce gave Mayor Peterson copies of the invoices at the last meeting as well as copies to the Chamber. Trustee Joyce stated that it is his understanding that the Chamber will pay the one invoice to the Village, that was previously paid by the Village in error and that the Chamber will pay on the second invoice directly to Helsel-Jepperson. Mayor Peterson stated he would ask Administrator Seehausen to reach out to the Chamber and make sure they have everything they need to rectify this. Mayor Peterson stated that we are still trying to figure out why Helsel-Jepperson would have charged the Village, because when we open an account with any vendor, we give authorized personnel who may use the account. We just want to know what went wrong here so we can keep our checks and balances as we are required to do.

**Trustee Trotier** Just a couple of things, the PACT Veteran's Meeting at Prairie State is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the group Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxic affects to any veteran like Agent Orange. Those affected should try to attend. A big shout out to Dave Mendez who is doing an excellent job. He is bringing Wrestling to Steger to raise funds as well as going around to businesses to raise funds. This is a great effort, tickets are available, general admission or front row. Go to Eventbrite to get more information. Mayor Peterson stated that it is on the Village Facebook page as well. The date is April 1<sup>st</sup>, it is a wrestling event that will take place at the Community Center. We have done this successfully in the past in coordination with Alicia's House. This fundraiser is being held to help raise funds for improvements needed on our baseball fields. Monee Reservoir is officially open for the season; a lot of outdoor activities are available. Sending a shout out for volunteers for our Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The team is working on other projects to do that day. I continue to work on getting grants, corresponding with people on the board to see what we can do to help our town. The IML lobby day is April 20<sup>th</sup> in Springfield. I am signed up to be at the event.

**Trustee Lopez** I want to remind everyone that we are looking for volunteers for Earth Day coming up on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are looking to do some planting in and around the Village. We have some experts working with us, but can always use more volunteers. Thank you to State Rep Anthony DeLuca, he is fighting for us to get our percentage from the state raised to 8% in regards to our funds.

**Trustee Thurmond** Most of you already know that there are some issues with our water pipe system. We recently completed 60 feet of repairs.

**Trustee Perchinski** No report.

**Trustee Stewart** No report.

### **BILLS**

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

Trustee Perchinski 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**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify RESOLUTION NO. 1174: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF STEGER TO APPLY FOR THE 2023 CDBG CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/DEMOLITION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPLICATION.

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

Mayor Peterson asked Police Chief Smith to give the board information regarding the Flock Group camera systems that were previously demonstrated to the board. Flock cameras are license plate readers that are being used by several local communities to aid each other in solving crime. The system allows several criteria by which a car can be traced as it moves from community to community. We will be getting assistance from Will County on the initial setup costs and by doing this now, we avoid a price increase that goes into effect with Flock on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Perchinski stated that he was able to see this technology with then Detective Lane and how he was able to solve a murder in Sauk Village through the use of these cameras. This technology can really help us a lot.

Trustee Stewart added, the more communities that add this technology, it helps everyone.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Flock Group, Inc. Service Agreement. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1175: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH SUBURBAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (SSERT) JOINT TASK FORCE AGREEMENT.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond asked Police Chief Smith to elaborate on the advantage of being part of this team. Chief Smith stated that we have been part of the SSERT for a number of years. The by-laws of SSERT now state that member communities have to have an active member as part of the team. In conjunction with several south suburban towns, have come together to form these teams that do high risk warrants, fugitive warrants, anything that's more than we can handle as a small police department. We recently used it for a dangerous subject we were serving a warrant on, we don't have the man power to handle on our own. SSERT comes in and assists our department with these types of arrests. Officer Velasquez is going through the training to be part of the team. It is a great program, we had a member in the past, and now we will be part of the team again.

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

Being no further business:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

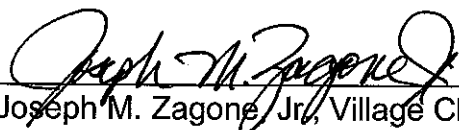
Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.



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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk