

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 1st 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, 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

Mayor Peterson introduced Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow. State's Attorney Glasgow presented the Steger Police Department with a check for \$5,500.00 to pay for two new Flock Cameras to be installed along Steger Road. These Cameras are license plate readers and are instrumental in locating stolen cars, cars with license plate issues, cars involved in crimes among other uses. Mayor Peterson explained how cameras in surrounding communities have aided in solving crimes and apprehending criminals. These new cameras in Steger will now work with cameras in surrounding communities to help solve crime as well as prevent it. Mayor Peterson went on to commend State's Attorney Glasgow for his dedication to Steger. Through his efforts, the Children's Advocacy Program has been located in our Community Center to help children with any kind of abuse issues. States Attorney Glasgow gave some insight to the Children's Advocacy Program and then presented the check to the Village of Steger for the new Flock Cameras. He went on to explain the benefits that have been felt in Will County through the use of Flock Cameras and is proud to help make them possible for the Village of Steger.

Steger Police Chief Greg Smith introduced new Full Time Police Officer Jacob Cavazos. Former Police Chief and current Chairman of the Steger Fire and Police Board Patrick Rossi gave Officer Cavazos his Oath of Office with the rest of the Board present. Officer will now attend academy ahead of serving as Steger's newest full time Police Officer.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart 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 We are going to try and get the curbs poured by the Post Office tomorrow. We have started to flush fire hydrants this week weather permitting.

Fire Chief Michael Long For the month of April the Fire Department ran a total of 171 calls, 150 medical and 21 fire.

On Tuesday April 25th we responded to a dumpster fire that quickly turned into a structure fire behind the China Garden restaurant. FF/EMT Jocelyn Jennings was doing electrical work for her father's company across the street at the VFW at the time of the call. When she noticed the smoke and flames, she ran across Chicago Road and began evacuating employees and customers from the affected and surrounding units and was then able to take over pumping operations so AC Ragusin and DC Baine could commence the fire attack. It is dedicated employees like FF Jennings that make our department great. Even when off duty, she responded without hesitation to help protect the lives and property of our great community and I just wanted to recognize her hard work and dedication that day, and every day. Thank you for being an outstanding member of our team.

Police Chief Greg Smith Submitted his weekly blotter with no further report.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No report.

MAYORS REPORT Mayor Peterson submitted a report and according to section 2-37 of our Municipal Code, we have standing committees that should have members, so I have appointed these members. We are working with our Village Attorney to update these because they really need updating. We will have updated committees at the next board meeting.

According to Section 2-37, I hereby appoint the following people to our standing committees:

Fire, Water and Sewers — Tim Perchinski, Chair, Gerald Stewart, Vice-Chair, Mike Long and Dave Toepper

Police and License — Tim Perchinski, Chair, Greg Smith and Mary Jo Seehausen

Street and Alley — Gerald Stewart, Chair, and Dave Toepper

Judiciary — Steve Thurmond, Chair, and Mary Jo Seehausen

Building — Cindy Trotier, Chair, Gerald Stewart and Dave Toepper

Public Health — Bill Joyce, Chair, Mary Jo Seehausen and Tom Johnston

Finance — Ernie Lopez, Chair, and Mary Jo Seehausen

Recreation — Cindy Trotier, Chair, and Diana Rossi

These appoints are until the certification of the election results are received by Village Clerk Joe Zagone and the candidates are sworn in.

Since Trustee liaisons are not provided for in our municipal code, they are no longer applicable. We will instead abide by the committee structure set forth in our Municipal Code.

I realize that the committees above need to be reorganized based on how we currently operate, so I will work with our Village Administrator and Corporate Attorney to make appropriate amendments to Section 2-37. I am also going to ask our Village Administrator and Corporate Attorney to change Section 2-64 to reflect how we currently conduct business.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier We had approximately forty volunteers who participated in the Village of Steger's Earth Day on Sat., April 22, 2023. Fitness Premier representatives also joined us from neighboring Crete, IL. The day consisted of planting at Critter Park & at our municipal lot (Village Green) along with cleaning up debris along Chicago Road, Fireman's Park, Veteran's Park and more. We are very thankful for our Boy Scouts who were there to assist every step of the way with their smiles and positive attitudes shoveling dirt, moving landscape blocks, planting, and cleaning up the area by Critter Park and by the gazebo (34th & Halsted St.). Thank you also to Trustee Steve Thurmond, former Boy Scout Leader, who helped with the efforts. A special "Shout Out" to our Public Works Team for repurposing landscape blocks to replace the tattered and weathered bricks at Critter Park. It has made an enormous difference at the park! I have to say it was a team effort. The pre-planning also included Trustee Ernie Lopez and Ernie Lopez, Jr. who shared his Green Thumb expertise with plants, garden soil, and mulch. We appreciate everyone's time and efforts in our community project and our businesses who stepped up to place our Earth Day event on their marque (Bambino's, VFW, American Legion, & Old Plank Trail Bank – WINTRUST). Scrementi's and the Steger School Board. As an aside, more flowers/plants will be added as the weather gets warmer. Overall, our volunteers braved the wind, rain, sleet, and a bit of snow all in

one day. However, everyone's spirits were high, and their kind efforts contributed to another successful Earth Day! We look forward to our social media team updating our Village of Steger website within the next week to share photos of the event. Next, I (and Steve Thurmond) attended the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Lobby Day meeting held in Springfield, IL on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The meeting was led by IML Executive Director Brad Cole. The focus was on our Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and striving to get back to our 10% distribution to our towns. It was a day of learning and networking with Mayors, Trustees, and the Governor. In the evening, we were invited to participate in a network event at the Abraham Lincoln Museum. I encourage everyone to plan a visit to our state capitol. Our next Village of Steger community event will be in the latter part of June 2023. We will be hosting a RECYCLE EVENT. Stay tuned for more details!

Trustee Thurmond
Earth day

I was glad to have attended this year's Earth Day event. Working with the scouts was a pleasure. Troop 100 completed 2 areas of the check list, 1st removed all the old bricks into the planter at Critters Park and made use of landscape brick from Public Works to create new life for the plants we put in. 2nd we cleaned up trash around the gazebo and planted some Hosta plants. I'd like to thank all the volunteers for their help, Public Works, Ernie Lopez Republic Services, Mokena Culligan, and Cindy for organizing this event.

IML lobby day

It was an honor to stand with Cindy Trotier and represent the Village of Steger with a board room full of mayors and managers to support Anthony DeLuca's efforts to increase (LGDF) local government distributive funds to municipalities. There was an echo of concerns from the entire room regarding infrastructure, roads, police and fire services, pensions, and unfunded mandates.

Some background on LGDF. It is vital revenue sharing that municipalities use to provide services to residents and helps to prevent higher taxes. Until 2011 10% of total income tax collections was dedicated to LGDF for distribution to municipalities and counties. Today that rate is 6.16% of individual income tax collections and 6.845% of corporate income tax collections. Although there was a strong showing from Anthony DeLuca at a subject hearing on the matter it looks like municipalities will continue to do more with less. The Governor stated in the meeting 10% is out of reach but he is advocating an increase.

Community center

Why are we still waiting for the insurance to have the work

completed. Mayor Peterson told Trustee Thurmond he should discuss this with Village Administrator Seehausen for an update on repairs.

Hazmat situation

Residents have questioned what's going with the property where the hazmat issue is. Can you make a statement about it yet? Mayor Peterson stated that is an ongoing investigation.

BILLS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Steger Little League Opening Day Parade on May 6th. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried

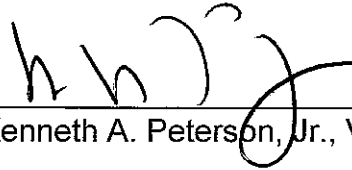
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Being no further business:

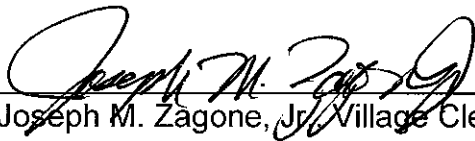
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk