

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF STEGER, WILL & COOK
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

The Public Hearing convened at 6:45 P.M. on this 5th day of February 2024 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Village Clerk Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. called the roll. The following Trustees were present, Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present.

Mayor Peterson announced that this is a PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND A CERTIFIED ESTIMATE OF REVENUES BY SOURCE.

Mayor Peterson asked for public comment. Hearing none, Mayor Peterson asked for comments from the Village Board.

Trustee Thurmond presented several questions to the Village Administrator regarding salary of office manager, the bus salary, the Union Avenue project, training for staff. Trustee Thurmond questioned the \$10,000 increase in the Admin Code. Village Administrator Seehausen explained where those increased are and where they can be found. Trustee Thurmond questioned how we are budgeted on Village Events. The events have been budgeted on what has been raised in the past so as not to be a burden on the Village. Trustee Thurmond questioned the 50/50 sidewalk program. Funds not used last year do not carry over. Mayor Peterson explained the workings of items like this including funds not spent on projects like the Water tower repair. Trustee Thurmond questioned if we know how much repairs will be on the Ladder Truck. The repair is somewhere in the area of \$15,000 and is in the budget.

Trustee Lopez: I have one question in regard to the allocation for EMA. Village Administrator Seehausen stated that Public Safety is only split between Fire and Police. EMA does not have its own Trustee. EMA falls within the realm of Public Safety, but EMA is funded through the General Fund.

Trustee Joyce questioned other incomes including cable franchise taxes, is there a reason why they dropped? Village Administrator Seehausen stated that it is based on how it is collected through the state.


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Trustee Lopez stated that a lot of the time we budget for something, many times we don't spend that money and we stay within our allocation. I only wish we get more up to date monthly budget reviews. That will be my goal moving forward.

There 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 7:55 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk

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 February 2024 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, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None.

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2nd meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called; The following Trustees voted aye: Thurmond, Lopez and Perchinski. The following Trustees abstained as they were not in attendance at this meeting: Stewart, Trotier and Joyce. Mayor Peterson Voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called; The following Trustees voted aye: Stewart, Trotier and Joyce. The following Trustees abstained as they were not in attendance at this meeting: Thurmond, Lopez and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson Voted aye. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen Nothing at this time.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Chief Michael Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson Brandon Communications is in town today and tomorrow to look into options for the warning sirens.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Be on the lookout for your Real Estate Taxes. They come due in Cook County on March 1st.

MAYORS REPORT No report.

VILLAGE CLERK Read a thank you note from the family of Anthony Rossi.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier: We are looking forward to hosting another successful Earth Day. Preliminary plans are under way. In the past, we have focused on cleaning up the winter debris along Chicago Rd and in our parks. We have also planted flowers and perennials. Earth Day falls on a Monday; however, plans are underway to host the event on a Saturday (April 20, 2024). Stay tuned for more details and a confirmation on the date. Next, we are working on scheduling another Recycling Event in June of 2024. Last year went very well. We appreciate all who were able to participate, including members from the Village of Steger Athletic Department. The event is a great way to properly discard electronics that are collecting dust in our homes and to show support. Details to follow. Finally, as a follow-up to Mark Baxter's inquiry regarding "Home Beautification Awards", I reached out and left a message. We are in the process of gathering information. In the end, we are stronger and more successful with your community support. If you are interested in participating or becoming a sponsor for events, please email the Village of Steger at fdesk@villageofsteger.org or call the Village at (708) 754-3395. No experience required.
Thank you for supporting the Village of Steger

BILLS

Trustee Lopez 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

Governmental Consulting Solutions, Inc., a bipartisan lobbying firm that presented an overview of help they are able to provide the Village of Steger in acquiring help on all levels through legislatures in the State of Illinois. They offered a look at their experience and successes for other communities. They would work closely with our state representatives in finding aid to the Village on all levels. Trustees questioned the representatives. Mayor Peterson gave a vast overview of reasons why the Village of Steger could benefit from this opportunity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1312: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond abstained. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to deny ORDINANCE NO. 1313: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, INC. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez and Perchinski. Trustees Stewart, Trotier and Joyce voted no. Mayor Peterson voted no. Motion failed.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1313: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, INC. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski pointed out that we had a guy named Al Ronen working for us. We must have put \$240,000 in that guys pocket and he never did anything for us. This is nothing personal against these people, but in my eyes, lobbyist are the scourge of government. Mayor Peterson acknowledged Trustee Perchinski's opinion. Trustee Perchinski: and we do have representation through SSSMA. Mayor Peterson acknowledged that representation but said it does not single out the Village of Steger, and we have specific needs especially where it relates to our drainage. We need money and we need to fight for that. We need to get through the red tape at the IDNR to get the money that appears to be available. Trustee Stewart: I'll back you up on that Mayor, if you don't have a lobbyist that is working for you directly, Trustee Perchinski: that's what our representatives do. Trustee Stewart: We need someone in Springfield working for us, and if this firm does not produce, their contract will not be renewed next year.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Stewart, Trotier and Joyce. Trustees Lopez and Perchinski voted no. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Village Administrator Seehausen introduced Henry Haddad to present for the board the concept for his new restaurant/store at the corner of Chicago Rd and Steger Rd. Henry is in front of the board to see if the board is good with the concept before he puts a lot of money into it.

Mr. Haddad presented his plans for the venture. The plans call for sit down restaurant with a drive-thru, a small specialty store with top shelf liquor. The project would include a gaming room. Trustee Perchinski mentioned concerns with past interactions with neighbors in the past. Trustee Thurmond questioned the drive-thru plans and the liquor license. Trustee Trotier questioned the quality of the food to be served and what is the look and décor planned for the facility.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table a new Business Application from Henry Haddad for the Corner Store/County Line Grill at 3345 Chicago Rd. in Steger, IL. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion but added: Henry, put a business plan together with a floor plan and what you want to do. Mayor Peterson explained concerns that exist on the board and want to know more about what is planned for the restaurant.

Mr. Haddad passed out drawings and plans that laid out what he plans to do with the property. Trustee Perchinski stated he wants assurances that Henry will be a good neighbor. After reviewing the plans distributed to the board:

Trustee Perchinski retracted his motion to table:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new Business Application from Henry Haddad for the Corner Store/County Line Grill at 3345 Chicago Rd. in Steger, IL pending approvals by staff. 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.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a request for an A-1 Pour Liquor License for Henry Haddad for the Corner Store/County Line Grill at 3345 Chicago Rd. in Steger, IL. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to deny the request for a Package Liquor License for Henry Haddad for the Corner Store/County Line Grill at 3345 Chicago Rd in Steger, IL. There being no second: Motion to deny was not perfected.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a request for a Package Liquor License for Henry Haddad for the Corner Store/County Line Grill at 3345 Chicago Rd. in Steger, IL. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion.


Discussion: Trustee Perchinski reminded Mr. Haddad that this license can be revoked at any time if he ventures from the plans presented to the board. Trustee Lopez requested that our Liquor Commissioner stay on top of this as presented.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Stewart and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustees Thurmond and Joyce voted no. Motion carried.

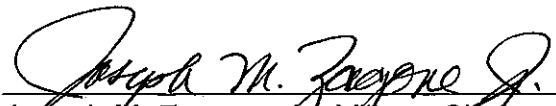
Being no further business:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk