

**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 15th day of July 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: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Mike Long, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson and Village Attorney James Vasselli. Police Chief Greg Smith and Community Center Director Diana Rossi were absent.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1st Village Board meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Connie Lundin of Cottage Grove Ave. thanked the Village for the gift card she and her husband won for the July 4th Decorating Contest. Second, I want someone to tell me the status of the fence ordinance as it relates to the fence across the street from me. Village Attorney Vasselli addressed the issue stating that the ordinance does not give strict dates with regard to compliance with zoning. I think a good solution for your concern is to meet with us after the meeting and assure that there is some level of compliance and to give you a timeline for how we would handle it going forward.

Mark Gerrity of 314 Royal Oak Drive came before the board display his displeasure with his real estate tax increase of more than 20 percent. Mr. Gerrity explained that he has one of the lower valued homes in the subdivision and his taxes are nearly \$10,000. Mr. Gerrity asked many questions that can only be answered by Cook County. Mayor Peterson recommended he contact the Cook County Assessors office and ask these questions. The Mayor explained that the Village increase is based on what the law allows, the large increases are coming based on the Cook County Assessor.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen The lead line project is still waiting for EPA approval. I believe 3 board meetings ago this board approved the award, but EPA now has to approve it. The drain project is still on schedule for the first of August. The water tower project, we get weekly updates from ComEd. Their part of the project is still waiting on railroad approval. Letters went out to our businesses to ask their support of our events for this coming year. We are starting to see some donations coming in, but we are just now starting to get them.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper We have had about 10 water main breaks this month, the Colonies has had three on their property.

Chief Michael Long For the month of June we responded to 173 calls for service: 150 medical, 20 fire and 36 calls from surrounding towns. We had one structure fire that was quickly contained, and I just wanted to thank the Steger Police Department for their assistance. We have a pretty outstanding Public Safety Division when we all get to work together.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson The weather siren is almost complete. We will be doing testing and will alert the community when those tests take place, it should be some time next week. We have had 6 nights of patrols: we assisted with the fire calls, the structure fire and we had one member who assisted with the escort for the fallen soldier in Dyer. Want to give a heads up on the weather approaching tonight. Red/Level 4 for severe weather which does not happen very often. I did some seminars today, they have not changed any warnings for us, so we are set to get some weather.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No report.

MAYORS REPORT I just want to remind everyone to stay safe tonight. Keep your phones close because if there is severe weather, your phone gets alerted.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond: Water committee,

For the past 6 months the water committee has met to discuss Steger's water quality, water system and potential remedies to connect dead ends. Through those meetings the committee has come together to prioritize these challenging issues. We recognize that that we first need to make infrastructure changes to allow our water flow consistent throughout the Village. Once these changes have been made our Director of Infrastructure and Village Engineer can monitor and report to the committee on the impact these changes have had on our water systems' quality. With the help from our Village Engineer Clay Shipley, we have identified 8 projects connecting approximately 6000 feet of water mains to loop our water system. These changes will allow water to consistently flow throughout the system. The committee will be sending the Village Board recommendations to consider soon.

Mayor Peterson asked if Clay talked about costs. Village Administrator Seehausen stated that we had him do a technical memo for these loops. I am going to, with the board, ask him to give me a cost estimate on the white paper for those issues to bring before this board. I hope to have in on the next board meeting to ask to do the White Paper and then you can decide if you want to go that route. Mayor Peterson asked: Is that White Paper also going to talk about the improvement this will have to our water? Are we sure this action is going to improve the water? Trustee Thurmond: we won't know until the changes are made. We have reason to believe it will. VA Seehausen: I want Clay to also look at the impact that this could have badly going forward. What could we expect from moving the stuff that is now not moving, and have it go through our system. The white paper would hopefully inform this board of all possibilities. Village Attorney Vasselli also has to look into issues we could have going on peoples property. We are looking for options A & B so that we have choices from which to work with our residents. At first it could be bad because we are dredging up all the stuff in the dead ended pipes. It's not going to be an overnight fix. It's like the flushing. This is what the committee focused on: the dead ends. Mayor Peterson: What is the difference between flushing the dead end and looping the dead end. Trustee Stewart: the looping gives us continuous flow all the time. So, there is no build up between flushings. Trustee Thurmond: the flushing is just a short-term remedy while the correction is being made. Flushing was never meant to be permanent fix. Mayor Peterson: Understood, but I know that when I looked into this before, the looping of these lines was in the millions of dollars. Trustee Thurmond: with these projects you are probably going to be there. Dave Toepper: there are a lot of towns that use flushing stations permanently. Mayor Peterson: in a perfect world, if I had 8 million dollars, but that is my whole year's budget to run this entire town. Trustee Trotier: So, we won't have the dead ends anymore, so it will flow completely, will that increase the pressure and affect our pipes? Trustee Thurmond: this does not increase pressure. There is evidence that we have relatively clean water in the areas that have continuously looping correct? Trustee Stewart: we also have some areas that have dead ends and there are residents that don't have issues with water. There are some dead ends that are more severe than others in the Village. Mayor Peterson: I look forward to the white paper and hopefully it will answer some of the questions I still have. VA Seehausen: We will be coming to you for your approval to go for the white paper. I am trying to get a cost and see because I know how much our last white paper cost. It

may not be possible in this budget year. Trustee Thurmond: keep in mind that we are not trying to spearhead all these projects at once. We are in discussions to do one or two of them with the approval of the board and monitor and see if the quality has improved in that area before moving forward. White paper is going to give us a leg up on handling it all. Mayor Peterson: I also know that we have a lot of competing needs for dollars. Drainage is one of the top priorities that I have. Trustee Trotier: this fix does not correct issues caused by aging pipes within a residence or water heaters that can also affect water quality.

BILLS

Trustee Lopez made a motion to pay all bills 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE No. 1322: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, SECTION 82-486 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIX REGARDING PARKING FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. 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 authorize the Village Administrator to pay all monthly and recurring bills received and due prior to August 5, 2024. 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.

Minutes July 15, 2024, page 5

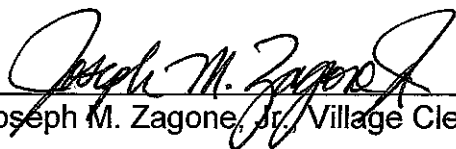
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk