

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 6th day of May 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, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustee Stewart was absent.

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 April 15th Village Board meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote; Trustees Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski Voted Aye. Mayor Peterson voted Aye. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Joyce Alcott of 3413 Carpenter St. came before the board to complain about a house at 3410 Morgan St. that is right behind hers. She described junk and sheds and that it is a total mess. Dave Toepper does not know if they have approached that address or not, but he is going to have Code Enforcement investigate the situation and see what can be done. Mayor Peterson explained that we can fine them, but if we wind up in court it gets very expensive and judges tend to give leeway to homeowners.

Connie Lundin of 22735 Cottage Grove asked if the Village could contact someone with Cook County Road Department to see if potholes on Cottage Grove can be addressed. Ms. Lundin added that the Village has an awesome Fire Department.

Harry Hammock of 3222 Florence Ave. asked Dave Toepper what was found regarding the drainage issue behind his house. Mr. Hammock said that the engineers were out after his last visit with the Village Board and wondered what was found. Dave Toepper

said he would follow up with the engineers. Mr. Hammock stated that he still has 4 inches of water around his garage. Next, Mr. Hammock has an issue with his neighbor parking a commercial truck on the street. It is parked close enough to Mr. Hammock's driveway to affect his ability to safely get in and out of his driveway. Police Chief Smith is going to have the problem investigated. Additionally, Mr. Hammock brought to the attention of the board of high grass throughout his neighborhood. The house at 3214 Florence, we got rid of our scrapper and the owners are back, and worse than their tenants. Uncut grass, junk lining the driveway and 5 dogs. Code Enforcement will pay a visit.

David McNeil of 3503 William St. approached the board to follow up on his previous problem with a dead tree on his neighbor's property that he fears will fall on his house. Dave Toepper stated they had been at the house and the owner had a court date recently. Next, Mr. McNeil questioned when the Village plans to repave streets. Mayor Peterson stated that the Village is currently in the process of determining how many streets we can afford to repair this year, then determine those in most need of being done. The streets to be repaired will be published as soon as it is available. Mr. McNeil also stated that large areas of asphalt are completely missing and caused sometimes by garbage trucks rushing to move their equipment. Mr. McNeil also mentioned issues with his water. Hydrants were recently flushed in his area and it got worse. He also admitted that it has now gotten better. He asked if pipes are going to be replaced. Mayor Peterson stated we are in the middle of a program to replace old lead water lines in the Village.

Sol Ennis of Envision Unlimited Living Room Program. This program works in conjunction with Grand Prairie Services to offer resources for those who suffer mental health issues. They work very closely with Villages and Police Departments with helping those in mental health crisis. The new facility is at 3325 Vollmer Rd. in Flossmoor and there will be an Open House on Wednesday May 22, 2024 from 3-6 pm.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen I just have a few things tonight. Last week EMA Chief Jason Stevenson and I met with Federal Signal regarding our new tornado siren: it is in, so it arrived a little sooner than we expected. Dave Toepper is going to work with them, a new pole will be installed to hold it, and it will be in the same location as the old siren. The new siren will be louder than the old siren. The new installation will be fenced in. We should see that in the next couple of weeks.

Regarding the Water Tower project, they are almost done with the design of moving the power lines underground, they have started the process of permitting permission from the railroad. Everything is moving along as well as possible. ComEd has been really good communicating with us.

Later on in the agenda you will be talking about component #2 for the drainage project. We need to reject the bids because of the funding requirements. One source of funding

is coming from the Robin Kelly grant for \$500,000. The government funds have to be separate, so we are talking the Army Corp of Engineers, and we have to make it two components and it needs to be bid that way rather than combined. The project is still moving forward, but it has to be with two separate bids. Since funding is coming from the Army Corp for part of the project, we have to follow guidelines set up by the Army Corp.

So, the Susan Lane project that we are working on with the Will County ARPA funds, they have finished up the survey, so we will be coming up with the project to this board at the next board meeting. Our Village Engineer met with IDNR last week to talk about the whole flooding project that we have. They have agreed to continue to meet and help us get the information we need to hopefully get more funding through them as well. He also did work with GCS, our Lobbyist firm that will also be going to bat for us on this project. It was a good meeting with the IDNR.

Mayor Peterson stated that our new Lobbyist Firm was instrumental in making the meetings happen with IDNR.

The Earth Day Project that Trustee Trotier spearheaded had a nice turnout. A lot of younger kids came out with their parents. So, it was nice to have the next couple generations involved. We had a lot of feedback on the sunflower seeds and the Sunflower Initiative, so that was really good. Thank you to everyone that was a part of that. Thank you Cindy for all that you did.

Finally, we did the survey on 3140 Union Ave, so we will be moving forward with that process.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Chief Michael Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No report.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No report.

MAYORS REPORT I would like to announce that there is going to be a fundraiser for Jackie Carmen on June 15, 2024 as she tries to cope with costs due to breast cancer. The event will be held at the VFW, the tickets for the Spaghetti Dinner are \$20 each. There will be some entertainment, it will run from 3-8 pm. There will be raffles, 50/50's, bake sale, cash bar. Children 3 and under are free. Hope you can all come out and help.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond: Tomorrow I will be attending a 2024 elected officials training event. This event is hosted by the Will County Center for Economic Development.

May 20th the water committee will be meeting again to discuss Steger's water system and potential remedies to connect dead ends.

I wanted to thank Kiwanis for another great turn out for their pancake breakfast.

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify the payment of bills paid April 24, 2024. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay all bills for May 10, 2024 as listed when funds become available. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Joyce made a motion to reject all bids received for the 33rd Street Drainage Component as all bids exceeded the budgeted amounts. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to Commence Steps to Secure Bids for a Storm Water Drainage (Infrastructure) Project(s). Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

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Being no further business:

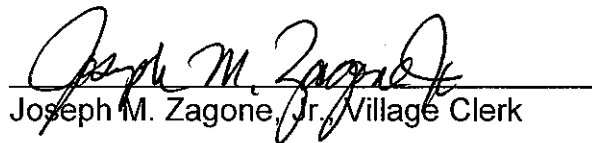
Trustee Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk