

**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 19th day of August 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, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustee Lopez was absent.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Steger Police Chief Greg Smith and Deputy Chief Pete Fajman presented Certificates on behalf of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists for their efforts during 2023.

Sergeant Maria Bautista
Officer Daniel Hoppe
Officer Mario Velazquez
Officer Bernard Gromala

The following officers were presented with Certificates of Recognition for their efforts in the Arrest and Recovery of Stolen Vehicles in our Village during July 2024.

Detective Daniel Hoppe
Sergeant Jordan Lane
Officer Mario Velazquez
Officer Jacop Cavazos

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5th Village Board meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Matt Polanski of 3221 Butler Ave. came before the board thanked the Village for coming out today. Mr. Polanski pointed out that he knows Dave Toepper is a busy man, but

appreciated him coming out to his neighborhood today. It was recommended that he call Village Hall as the best way to get in touch with Mr. Toepper.

Brenda Thunherst of 22720 Cottage Grove came before the board for an update on the fence at 22730 Cottage Grove that was determined to not conform to the Village Fence Ordinance. Village Administrator Seehausen told Ms. Thunherst that she has reached out to the property owner and is waiting for his reply to arrange a meeting to get a timeline on bringing the fence into compliance.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen First an update on our last meeting: Some of the issues raised by Mr. Hariam have been addressed, the weed and grass on the back of his property has been cut. We did order a street sign for his street. Dave Toepper, Trustee Stewart and I went back through all of his complaints over there. His street, while from the original subdivision, it is not our list in the next two years. It's not a high travelled road and it is not horrible. We have streets that are definitely in worse shape than this one. He has some angst over that, but we are working with him, we are still trying to deal with the difference of opinion on the cement block. Some of the houses on Lewis have garages that are off that alleyway. Up til then, pavement was put in and there is nothing after that. The barrier was put up because in the past people were parking junk cars back there. We had them removed and we put the barrier up because no one needs vehicle access back there.

We checked on 509 231st St. We did have the broken sign removed and we are holding it for Cook County. It was cut in half and was dangling, so Dave had his crew take it down. Dave Toepper tried to reach out to the bank that holds the property, left messages and have not heard back, so, I authorized to have the property put on the list to be cut by Desiderio this coming week.

As far as some of our other projects we have going on, ComEd did finalize the design on moving the service around the base of our water tower, unfortunately we are still waiting on permits from the railroad. We also have the original bid being held until the work can be done. We are still on schedule to have it done this fall. We are also on schedule to begin our drainage project the last week of August or first weeks of September depending on the big pipes being made to be installed. We also are working on the design for the Arbor Grant for the Will County project at 35th and Susan Ln. I hope to bring you a request to go out for bid at the next meeting. Our Engineer and BK met with the BPI for the last inspection for the Army Corp of Engineers Grant that we will be using for 33rd St. I did a walk through at the new BP station. It is a huge building, but he is probably is still 3 to 4 weeks away from opening. It is beautiful and huge.

Finally I want to thank everyone for this weekend, the Day of Music. Everything that was done by the police and other departments was very nice. Diane Rossi and her staff at the Community Center put on a show for the kids. They all do it because they care about this community. I really enjoyed this event and thank everyone who came out and helped us celebrate. Mayor Peterson added his thanks to everyone who helped make it a great event and commented on the great fireworks display. It was a great event.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No Report.

Chief Michael Long For the month of July we had 179 calls for service, 144 medical, 35 fire and 31 calls to our surrounding communities. Jessica Cardolino has completed all of her certifications and is a fully functional firefighter/EMT now. Since our last board meeting, we did have two structure fires and our crews did amazing and put a quick stop on both of them. We had very minimal loss of property and no injuries. We had a great weekend at the Steger Day of Music. Got a little wet, but had no fire or medical related calls from either day.

Police Chief Greg Smith The monthly police log was the use of force and qualified immunity. We had rifle class for new users, we have six officers that needed to be trained. The rest of the officers will do rifle re-certification. Det. Darge attended the Bloom Trail threat assessment meeting. DC Fajman and I attended a Community Parade Meeting with School District 194 and the Village of South Chicago Heights. DC Fajman and I attended the 80th District Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting. We also attended the Virtual Democratic National Committee meeting.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson We had 12 patrols over the past month. We had 3 assists to other agencies, we had one funeral watch for the retired Steger Estates Fire Chief. The siren is installed and working. We had it up for the August test and it worked very well.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi For August 1-19 we have had just about 1,000 people come through the building. I think the COVID effect is breaking and the kids are starting to come back. Everything is going well.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No report.

MAYORS REPORT No report.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Cindy Trotier: Basketball

Bags for Basketball Fundraiser for VSA (Village of Steger Athletics)

The fund raiser helps to pay for uniforms, equipment, and helps to lower the cost of registration.

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Date: Sat., Sept. 7th / Time: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: American Legion 34 W 34th St., Steger, IL

- \$20 Tickets with a Blind Draw
- Food Vendors / Raffle Baskets / Face Painting
- Raffle Tickets \$5.00 each or 5 Tickets for \$20.00
 - o 1st Place \$1000
 - o 2nd Place - \$500
 - o 3rd Place - \$250
 - o The drawing will be at the tournament.

If you have never played “Bags” before, this is the time to try it out!

Contact Coach Matt Meyers at (708) 670-7087 for tickets and/or to donate a raffle basket.

We appreciate your support!

Cheerleading

- Practices have started. Tumbling resources have been added to Monday practices.
- Our cheering squad is working diligently for their Oct. 26th competition. Details to follow.

Baseball & Softball

- Practices have started.
- Game schedules to follow.

Sunflower Projects – The flowers are growing VERY tall! Thank you, participants!

BILLS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Herr of Herr Display Vans introduced himself to the board and gave a run down on the new business he is bringing to the industrial park. He explained that it is an extension of his main place of business in Sauk Village. He described some of the improvements he is making and that there will be no over flow of vehicles parked on the property.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new Business License application for Herr Display Vans at 3321 Louis Sherman Dr; pending inspections. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Peterson introduced Janet Fiorenzo from the Steger-South Chicago Heights Library Board. She is seeking assistance through TIF funds to pay for a new electronic sign the library would like to install on their property on 31st St. just east of the railroad tracks. Mayor Peterson described the sign and said it does qualify for TIF funds. So far the library has raised \$15,000.00 of the \$42 to \$48,000.00 needed depending on the size of the sign. Mayor Peterson wanted to make sure the board is onboard with this project before the Village spends money on the legal work needed to release TIF funds. This is in light of board members wanting to amend the sign ordinance for signs of this type. Trustee Perchinski asked if the sign fell within the current ordinance. Dave Toepper stated that it is a little different because this is in a residential area. Dave is going to look into the ordinance to see if it conforms. Ms. Fiorenzo explained that it was the same size as the sign that is now in use, but it will be electronic and brighter than the existing sign. Ms. Fiorenzo explained that it does not shine toward any homes that lie North of the location and that the sign shines to the east and west. The library wants a sign of this type so that messages can be sent in English and Spanish. Mayor Peterson reminded the board that this was for discussion only. With possible issues with the sign ordinance and the zoning on the property, it was recommended that the library ask the zoning board for a variance that would allow this sign on residential property. Additionally, it was recommended that the library might consider a site, with permission from the property owner, to place the sign on a street like Chicago Road that carries a much larger count of cars on a daily basis. The Village will review the sign and the ordinance and let the library know the steps necessary to move forward with the sign.

At 7:32 pm:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (1). Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

At 7:54 pm:

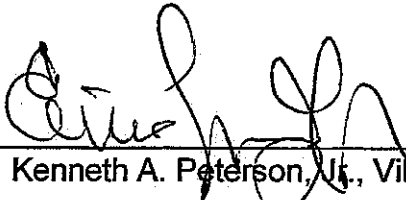
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to reconvene in Regular Session of the Village Board Meeting. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

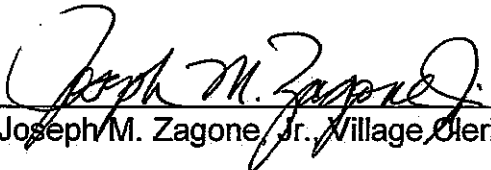
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President
Ernie Lopez, Pro-Tem



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk