

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 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Village Clerk Zagone 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.

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. and Village Attorney Julie Diemer was present via zoom.

Clerk Zagone: In the absence of a chair, is there any objection to me proceeding with this process as I have in the past?

With no objection:

I will begin in the absence of a President to ask if any of you have nominations to make for that position. I will start with Trustee Stewart.

Do you have a nomination to make?

Trustee Stewart nominated himself, Gerald Stewart.

Clerk Zagone: Trustee Stewart, do you accept the nomination?

Trustee Stewart: I do.

Trustee Thurmond, do you have a nomination to make?

Trustee Thurmond: William Joyce.

Clerk Zagone: Trustee Joyce, do you accept the nomination?

Trustee Joyce: Yes

Trustee Trotier, do you have a nomination to make?

Trustee Trotier: I do, Ernie Lopez.

Clerk Zagone: Trustee Lopez, do you accept the nomination?

Trustee Lopez: I do.

Trustee Joyce, do you have a nomination to make?

Trustee Joyce: I do not.

Trustee Perchinski, do you have a nomination to make?

Trustee Perchinski, No nomination.

Trustee Lopez, do you have a nomination?  
Trustee Lopez: None.

With that, we will go through the vote process.  
When I call your name, tell me who you wish to vote for.

Trustee Stewart:	Gerald Stewart
Trustee Thurmond:	William Joyce
Trustee Trotier:	Ernie Lopez
Trustee Joyce:	William Joyce
Trustee Perchinski:	Ernie Lopez
Trustee Lopez:	Ernie Lopez

Clerk Zagone: we are at a stalemate again.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to appoint Trustee Lopez Chairman Pro-tem for the meeting. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Stewart, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustees Thurmond and Joyce voted no. Motion carried.

### **AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

None

### **MINUTES**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Joyce and Kenny Huff of 235 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St. came before the board to discuss Dogs On The Run that they operate at the American Legion. With the weather getting colder, they are seeking options to continue operations during the winter months. Their question regard permitting for operating their business. The Village does not currently have a license for this type of business. They will be meeting with Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen and Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper to determine means for their business to operate in the Village of Steger.

### **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** The only thing I have tonight is, our Holiday Hours: We will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, finance and I are finishing up the budget. I hope to have those out to you by the end of the week to give you all a couple of weeks to look at it. I will also be addressing, like I do every year, the specific additional items that are in there. I hope that each and every one of you will reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. I would like to get this on our agenda for the second board meeting in January. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** No report.

**Chief Michael Long** For the month of November, the Steger Fire Department answered 164 calls for service: 145 medical and 19 fire. I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** This month's training was Officer Wellness. I attended the School District 206 Safety Meeting. The Fire Chief and myself attended a three-hour table top meeting with District 206. November activities have been attached, and some quick stats that we have: 2022 we had 1,796 cases. In 2023 it dropped to 1,717 and this year it dropped to 1,432. We had a great turnout for the Shop With the First Responders. We had a great time thanks to Alicia's House and thanks to all the Trustees and members that showed up. Fire Department helped a lot and South Chicago Heights had plenty of people out there. It was just so much fun. Village Administrator Seehausen added that the School District did a lot and Trustee Perchinski. It was really nice.

**EMA Chief Jason Stevenson** Since last report, we have had 3 patrols, 4 call-outs. We participated in the Crete Parade of Lights. One of the few parades we get to be IN instead of directing. Jack went out to assist Sauk Village with their Santa Parade.

**Community Center Director Diana Rossi** The Community Center so far this month has had approximately 750 people come through the door. We also celebrated our annual Senior Luncheon on Friday. Glad to see most of you there, missed the rest of you. We all had a great time and Merry Christmas.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Treasurer** Trustee Lopez reported I hope everyone has had a chance to look at the budgets, but everything is pretty much in line. The key revenue drivers, some of the challenges we are facing is with the sales tax and income tax, but we are a little ahead of budget compared to 2023 which is great to see. I should have a full report coming. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Holiday Season.

**MAYORS REPORT** No Report.

**VILLAGE CLERK** Read a Thank You note on behalf of the family of John Cashman thanking the Village for their showing of sympathy and support.

**TRUSTEES REPORTS**

None

**BILLS**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE No. 1327: THE ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK COUNTY AND WILL COUNTY ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Joyce made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1328: AN ORDINANCE ABATING THE LEVY OF TAXES RELATED TO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATIVE REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2018 FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1192: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH AS A PAID HOLIDAY FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER AND AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

The owner of Aversano Dry Cleaning came before the board to describe the business he hopes to operate in Steger. Following discussion:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the new business license application for Aversano Dry Cleaning at 28 E. 34<sup>th</sup> Street; pending inspections. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the renewal contract with Absolute Best Cleaning. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

At 7:17 pm,

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to Executive session for the purposes of Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(11) Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustee Joyce voted no. Motion carried.


At 7:30 pm,

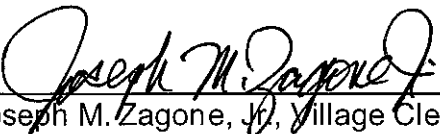
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to reconvene general session. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

  
Ernie Lopez, Jr. Chairman Pro-tem

  
Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk