

**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 December 2025 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Mayor Joyce led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Joyce was present.

Also present: Village Administrator Joseph Wiszowaty, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers, Community Center Director Fay Kiaurakis and Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes. EMA Chief Jason Stevenson was absent.

**AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Bob Pluskota came before the Board to thank the Village for it's participation in Honor Flight Chicago and the Steger VFW in recognition for his service to country. Also participation by surrounding communities as well as Bloom Trail High School. Mr. Pluskota expressed his gratitude for the awards, the recognition and the attention given to his service by the surrounding communities. Mr Pluskota further thanked the Steger Police Department and the Steger Fire Department for their assistance when he fell into a diobetic coma the day after the celebration. Thanks to their quick and expert response, I am here to thank them personally. Thank you to everyone here and the Steger Village Board.

Steve Thurmond took a minute to thank the board and the audience for their participatiion in coming to these meetings. I wish each and everyone of you a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried. Trustee Perchinski abstained.

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

## **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator** Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Village Administrator Wiszowaty gave a brief overview of the Resolutions and Ordinances that the board will consider later in the meeting. These are described later in these minutes.

The past two weeks have been particularly busy as I have been acclimating to my new role and navigating various logistics. The following are some of the key updates and initiatives we have undertaken:

1. **Department Head Meeting:** We successfully held our first Department Head Meeting. I communicated my expectations for staff, emphasizing the importance of accountability and proactivity. - We discussed the necessity for departments to adopt a more proactive approach to their budgets, aligning with our strategic goals.

2. **Policy Development and Implementation:** We are currently in the process of developing and working toward the full implementation of a Purchase Policy. This will ensure transparency and efficiency in our procurement processes while providing proper internal controls which have been lacking. - A comprehensive review of the Employee Policy Manual is also underway to ensure full compliance with all relevant Federal and State laws. This review is essential for maintaining our commitment to legal and ethical standards.

3. **Transition Plan:** I have distributed my transition plan to the Mayor, Board, and Department Heads. This plan outlines our strategic goals and initiatives for the next six months, focusing on organizational growth and improvement. We will work on aligning all Village initiatives and developing a proper Strategic Plan for the Village Board to adopt

4. **Moving Forward:** I want to emphasize that our focus will be on moving forward rather than dwelling on past mistakes or missteps. Our goal is to create a vision for a better future and to implement the necessary changes to achieve that vision. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of the Board, for your support and guidance as we embark on this journey together.

**Village Engineer** Asked if anyone had any questions about the STP/SSMMA submissions that are shown in this evenings Resolutions. I want to let you know that the numbers expressed regarding cost of these projects would all be funded if any or all of these projects make the active list, they would all be 100% funded by SSMMA. Those costs would not be born by the Village at all. They would be Federal funds that would be authorized to use on behalf of the SSMMA. The applications are due tomorrow, so I will be submitting these tomorrow.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Treasurer** Trustee Hanus reported that the Village of Steger Financial Report dated December 15<sup>th</sup> for the period ending November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025: The Village remains in a stable financial position. Total revenues are on track with budgeted projections with property taxes from Cook County being delayed. Expenditures remain within approved budget limits with no significant variances to report at this time. The General Fund remains adequate to meet current operating obligations, and all payroll/vendor payments and debt have been paid in a timely manner with no unforeseen financial impacts. Revenues and expenditures are closely monitored and any material changes will be reported to the board as they arise. Thank you.

**Fire Chief Mike Long** For the month of November, the Steger Fire Department ran a total of 136 calls for service. We had 114 medical, 22 fire and 20 mutual aid calls to our surrounding communities. We had one structure fire on December 13<sup>th</sup> that was contained within 5 minutes of our arrival with minimal damage to the structure.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** reported on Meetings, Conference and Training: Chief Smith & D.C. Fajman attended the annual SSERT meeting, Steger Police administered the tabletop training at Bloom Trail H. S. With Attending Agencies: Steger Police, Sauk Village Police, Lynwood Police and Bloom Trail Staff. Chief Smith and D.C. Fajman attended the SSACOP meeting. Chief Smith attended the 80<sup>th</sup> District Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting. Det. Hoppe was certified as an Evidence Technician. Monthly Training "Law Enforcement Officer Physical Wellness". Special Events: Det. Hoppe assisted with the food collection Santa Parade.

**Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone** Reported that ComEd submitted a letter that in the months of January, February and March they will be doing vegetation management. The work location will be the east side of Woodlawn Avenue to Steger Road. Five-Star finished lead line service for Phase I and have started Phase II. As of Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> they have completed 60 home inspections, hydrovacced 85 holes and replaced 36 lead service lines. Five-Star will be shut down from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> for the Holidays. Public works has had 4 water main breaks since the last meeting and completed stone removal and salted roads on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Finally, our employee who was in training has taken and passed his CDL exam.

**Parks and Recreation** Community Center Director Fay Kiaurakis reported on the Toys for Tot collected and turned in. Thank you to everyone who donated to Toys for Tots this year. We received two letters to Santa at Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Santa has assured me that they will be answered before Christmas. We have new hours for the Community Center. Monday through Friday 8 am to 8 pm. Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm. Saturdays will be open gym from 9 am to about 1 pm. From 1 til 4 will be adult basketball. Sunday's we will still be closed. We are going to have a Movie Club starting on Saturdays in the hall of the Community Center. We have a hot wheel playtime that we will be implementing during the week on Monday from 2-4 pm. We have homework help that will be going on everyday of the week, Monday – Friday from 3:45 until about 6:15 or until there are no more kids to help. There will be a comprehensive schedule on the Community Center

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Website for further programs and details. There will be Parent and Child Autism Dance on Monday January 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 for the older kids and then on January 13<sup>th</sup> we will have it for the younger kids from 2-3:30 pm. The new Community Center hours take affect after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Membership Fees will be increasing this year. All fees will increase by \$5.00. The Senior Christmas Luncheon is scheduled to take place on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon at the Community Center. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Movie Die Hard will be shown at 12 pm and 6 pm.

**EMA Chief Jason Stevenson** No report.

**Code Enforcement** Good evening, everybody, from my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Code enforcement has issued 10 - 48 Hour Warning tickets, 10 Re-occupancy inspections, 3 Stop Work Orders and also assisted Steger Police with 5 tows of cars and one boat. Please, a reminder with cold weather setting in, give space heaters some space.

Trustee Trotier questioned alternatives for people who rely on street parking during snowstorms. Police Chief Smith has informed residents that the K-Mart Parking lot is available, or in the Police Department lot. Once streets have been cleared curb to curb, cars can return to the street for parking until it snows again.

**MAYORS REPORT** Reminded residents that with heavy snowfall, remember not to pile snow around your gas meter on the side of your house. The Christmas Food distribution will be this weekend. There is still time to sign up if you know a family that is in need. I want to thank my wife, Julie Stone, Diane, Sheila Thurmond and all the volunteers that have come out. There are way to many to remember, and I don't want to forget anyone. I want to thank everyone who came out to help, Matt, Steve, the Fire Department. Reminder, there is no parking on Village Streets after 2 inches of snowfall until the streets have been cleared curb to curb. Christmas Decorating contest is going on. We have had one home sign up for it so far. You can sign up until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. Judging will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a Senior Coloring contest going on at the Community Center. If you are a senior and would like to enter the contest, check with the Community Center for details, the winner will be announced at the Senior Luncheon. I want to thank everyone on the board, even though we do not always agree, for your input this year and I want to thank you all for the hard work that you all put in. It is appreciated. Starting after tonight, the budget process will start. The Department Heads will be working on their budgets and once we get through that, we will be sitting down with Village Administrator with each of the Trustees to go over what the changes in the budget are and any concerns you have will be addressed before we bring it before the board. It needs to be approved before the second meeting of February. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, I hope it is a pleasant time with your families.

**VILLAGE CLERK** Expressed Holiday Blessings to everybody. Thanks for a good year.

## **TRUSTEES REPORTS**

Trustee Hanus: I am please to announce that the Steger Community Center is having a Christmas Party for Steger Senior's, 60 and over on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from Noon to 4 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Anyone interested must sign up at the Community Center by the end of the day on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Community Center's hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-4 pm Tuesday and Thursday from 8 am to 6:30 pm. There will be Bingo and other games provided. I will be sponsoring the food for the Senior Luncheon along with my business Cabinet Fabrications. Food will be catered by Bambino's and Frank Elton. Music entertainment sponsored by Mayor William Joyce. I will be there to help serve food and looking forward to seeing our Steger Seniors. Thank you.

Trustee Perchinski: I just want to go over a few things that Alicia's House has been working with in our community. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, Alicia's House asked the local schools have children in need write letters. Teachers are given the letters and the teachers pick out those that need it the most. This year we served over 600 including over 100 children from School District 194 in Steger. We get these letters and then get volunteers to buy gifts. I want to thank Alice Peterson, Rick Costello, School District 194 and Dan Pohrte who grew up in the 194 District who rallied his friends and family together to take 46 of the kids. On December 13<sup>th</sup> we had the Special Needs Dinner. We had just over 70 Special Needs Children and their families. Each Special Needs child gets a gift, a hat and a coat. Their siblings would also get a toy through a raffle. We had our mayor and Trustee Thurmond there to help out. I have to give thanks to Chicago Real Estate Network and Pat Hickey, they helped us to get about 2 pallets worth of toys together. I also have to thank all the volunteers from School District 194, Melissa Cuhna been a blessing with all these events. Yesterday we had Shop with a Cop. We take second and third graders and ask them to write letters to Santa on who they want to make Christmas Special for. We took 20 kids from Steger and South Heights, we had plenty of participation from our First Responders. We want to thank you guys. We had monetary donations from Fast Pace Muffler, Robinson Engineering, Rick Costello, there was another anonymous donor, School District 170 and Jill Raymond provided drinks and cookies. Phil Panozzo donated pizzas. Special Thanks again to all of our First Responders. Next weekend is the Food Basket Distribution that Kimmy Joyce has headed up. We have had a lot of people helping with sorting and picking up the food. Our Public Works helped and our Fire Department helping with the Santa Parade. Alicia's House has been working with the Village on this since 2007. In 2006 we did 160 baskets, it was about \$6,700. We scale that to today's dollars, that would be over \$11,000. Kimmy has done a good job of going out and getting the things that don't come in the baskets like apples, potatoes and milk, but the overall cost is going to be under \$1500. We get all of the protein and a lot of the canned goods from Alicia's House. I want to ask everyone to keep Jason Stevenson in your prayers, he is going through some health issues and hopefully comes through it. Merry Christmas to all of our employees and our board and our residents.

**BILLS**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay the bills as listed when funds become available. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski.

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1201: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO ACT AS AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES ON VILLAGE OF STEGER ACCOUNTS HELD AT OLD PLANK TRAIL COMMUNITY BANK. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1202: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSEPH WISZOWATY AS THE AUTHORIZED IMRF AGENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

The owner of the business at 3205 Loverock Avenue introduced himself, described his woodworking business and described the need for the tax relief to maintain his business.

Trustee Trotier made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1203: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND CONSENTING TO THE RENEWAL OF A CLASS 6B REAL PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3205 LOVEROCK AVENUE IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Trustee Hanus seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1204: A RESOLUTION OUTLINING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE VILLAGE OF STEGER PROGRAMMING FUNDS FOR RICHTON ROAD (EAST) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. Trustee Thurmond

seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1205: A RESOLUTION OUTLINING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE VILLAGE OF STEGER PROGRAMMING FUNDS FOR RICHTON ROAD (WEST) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Hanus made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1206: A RESOLUTION OUTLINING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE VILLAGE OF STEGER PROGRAMMING FUNDS FOR KINGS ROAD ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1343: 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 Hanus seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Trotier made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1344: THE ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK COUNTY AND WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Hanus made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1345: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STOP SIGNS ON UNION AVENUE AT 35<sup>TH</sup> STREET. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

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Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table discussion and approval of a new business license application for Gettem Gone Kustoms LLC at 3310 Loverock Ave. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve a new business license application for SL Cocktail LLC at 31 W 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 1F; pending inspections. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to recommend application for installing a traffic control signal on Steger Road and Hopkins Avenue. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Layne proposal for Well #1 equipment replacement. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

At 7:52 pm:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5), to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the Village of Steger; 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. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

At 8:40:

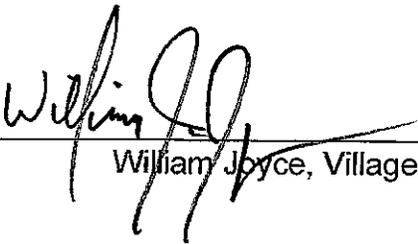
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Steger Village Board. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

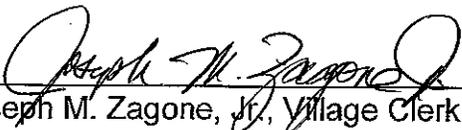
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to move forward with the agreed upon settlement in the Executive Session. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

  
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William Joyce, Village President

  
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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk