

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 5:30 P.M. on this 2nd day of June 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 Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson and Village Attorney. Community Center Director Diana Rossi was absent.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Trustee Perchinski: I have a little discussion, I made a mistake, I think the whole board made a mistake, but, I made the motion to move this meeting to 5:30. That wasn't on the agenda. We never should have voted on that.

Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen All I have are two reminders for this weekend: We have the Steger Day of Prayer to be held by the Gazebo on the 7th. Also, we have the Car Show that is being sponsored by CHICO South Suburban at Veteran's Park and that is from 11-4. They have some vendors, and they have about 40 cars signed up.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper None.

Fire Chief Mike Long None.

Police Chief Greg Smith I attended the Community Oriented Policing "COPS" Hiring Grants Webinar. I also contacted our Lexipol Grant Writer Anna Graham discussing the

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conflict between the Federal and State funds. Through Kwame Raoul our communications with ICE will not allow it, so I think they are going to pull the Federal money. We are still looking into that and some other grants. I reviewed the Lexipol "Removing the Involved Officer after Use of Force" policy.

We met with New York Life Representatives to discuss our insurance and investments. I attended the 80th District Meeting. Administrative staff and Investigations was to meet with the 6th District State's Attorney, but, they had to cancel, so hopefully we will be meeting with them this week.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson None.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi None.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT The Annual Communities for Christ Day of Prayer is this Saturday starting at 10 am at the Gazebo. The Village of Steger has filed two separate \$1.5 million grant applications with the Illinois Department of Transportation for local road resurfacing and reconstruction. The applications also include new sidewalks. The Village of Steger has received word that we are approved for a 50/50 grant of \$7,500.00 for a 3-D signage. I will be reaching out to some of our businesses in town to cover the other half of the grant.

VILLAGE CLERK The Village has received Certificate of Election from Cook County for all of our newly elected officers. Certificates were distributed to all.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None.

BILLS

Trustee Stewart made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available. Trustee Thurmond 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 table as we need to update the language of ORDINANCE NO. 1335: AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL MOTOR FUEL TAX IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Trustee Stewart 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. 1336: AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL GROCERY RETAILERS OCCUPATION TAX AND A GROCERY SERVICE OCCUPATION TAX IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Mayor Joyce: For those of you who have questions about Ordinance No. 1336, it is the 1% Grocery Tax that will take effect January 1, 2026. It will go into effect when the state's 1% Grocery Tax is removed. There will be no change in the amount of taxes charged, just the direction it's going. Previously, the state did have a 1% Grocery Tax, but it went to the local communities. The state decided to stop doing it and make the local Communities do it themselves.

Trustee Perchinski: We have gone over this multiple times, the original application date on this is March which doesn't look favorable upon this board with working with other businesses.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the new business license application for Up in Smoke at 3502 Chicago Rd. 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: this one is exactly two months old, very similar business to Up in Smoke. The gentleman has been to at least one of our meetings I am sure.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the new business license application for Blue Smoke at 14 E. 33rd Place, pending inspections. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond: with the adoption of the business license for Up in Smoke, we are now 10 operating facilities that have Vape services. Some kind of Vape products. With that I would like to table until we have a discussion about possibly putting an ordinance together to draw a fine line as to how many we can accept. Or, willing to

have. Trustee Trotier: Don't we have that? Mayor Joyce: We do not have an ordinance that restricts the sale of vape products or smoking products in any way, shape or form. If that is something you would like, we can discuss it at the next Committee of the Whole meeting and bring it up for action before the board. Trustee Perchinski: I also believe that this is a legal business, the guys got a whole business plan, I think the public will decide if this is a viable business or not. We have people in place to make sure they are doing everything by the law. My feeling is, let the dollars vote.

The motion to table overrules the original motion. Mayor Joyce asked if there is a second for the motion to table. For lack of a second, please move forward with roll call for the motion to approve.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart and Trotier. Trustees Thurmond and Perchinski voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to approve adding 3 part time maintenance positions in Public Works. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Trotier: So, three part time people, I don't know if we have a full staff right now, Trustee Stewart? Mayor Joyce: we do not. Trustee Perchinski: we are woefully understaffed. Trustee Trotier: we have already budgeted for, how many full time are we lacking? Administrator Seehausen: We have two open full-time positions. These are in addition, so we are going to replace those two full-time positions. The three part-timers are not to replace anything. It is to be an addition if needed. We are asking for three positions, we will not fill all three positions unless we can afford to do so. This is to enhance the department to have maintenance people to assist so that the other full timers can do higher level stuff and focus on things other than grass cutting and those kind of things. Also, to be able to utilize these part timers if they don't exceed the hours to help out during the winter as well. Trustee Trotier: If those two people come back on, can we still afford the three part timers? Or, will we hire as need be?

Mayor Joyce: at this point, we are only approving the positions. We are not approving to hire anyone until the funding is present. Trustee Trotier: Who decides that? Trustee Stewart: we already have appropriations in our budget for the full-time employees. What happens in the over all appropriation that was approved, that is where Administrator Seehausen has to go in with the Mayor and say we have the funds because we are not using funds that were allocated for X, Y and Z, and we can shift it within the appropriation and cover our new expenses. Trustee Trotier: So, Administrator Seehausen and Mayor Joyce will make sure we have the money. Administrator Seehausen: We will vet this with Finance. Trustee Perchinski: So my question is: what are the hours for these folks, what is their pay rate, what is the cost of them with all that goes with payroll? I know we have used outside vendors in the past for cutting lawns and I felt they were pretty affordable. Mayor Joyce: It's not just for cutting lawns. They are maintenance positions, and they are for whatever the supervisor deems that they need to be doing. It could be working with them on a water main break, it could be working with them patching sidewalks, it is a very broad position. Trustee Perchinski:

Well, we have had other expenses: The increase in our health insurance, cutting down the weeds in the detention ponds and doing the patchwork over at the ballpark. I still don't know where we are getting that money from. Have you identified that money and if so, where does this money come from? Mayor Joyce: Go ahead Mary Jo.

Village Administrator Seehausen: We have a lot of moving parts in our budget everyday. So, I don't work off the appropriations, I work off my working budget which is a moving target everyday. There will be some concessions that will have to be made as we go through this year because there are a lot of things that are going on. The money for this is going to come from General Fund. We are going to have to increase our transfer to Public Works because it is going to sit in the negative with this. Now, we are asking for these positions to be approved and asking you guys to let me vet it, if one, we need it and also vet it through finance that the monies are there. Yes, our appropriation is 16 million dollars, but that has a lot of factors. Sarah in finance and I are watching that closely, I work closely with Dave to know that we have what we need. To have the option to come to you and say we need one or two positions to assist would be a wonderful thing to have on the books. That is why we are here doing this, is to be ready. We are a training ground. We have people come and go all the time in almost every one of our departments. You're asking about cost, we are thinking about \$20 per hour. Your asking about the other costs, we are going to keep them un 1,000 hours, so we are not paying pension. We will be matching Medicare, matching Social Security, that is it. Trustee Perchinski: Increase payroll will increase Workman's Comp. Administrator Seehausen: I understand that, but I am also 6 months into this budget. Trustee Perchinski: and we are already over \$100,000 in just three things that I know of outside of our budget. So, I just want to make sure.... Administrator Seehausen: I understand that, but then you understand that it is our job internally to make sure that we are pulling that from some other line item. I know that some of us think about the appropriations, some of us think about the working budget. We work in real numbers, especially my office. Understand that I am not going to be asking for stuff that we can't afford, and if we come to a point where we can't afford it, then these are people who can be let go without any issues. I am not looking to hire them tomorrow. I am just looking to venture this out for us, so that when I do lose 2 people because they go to another village that pays more and have more opportunities, our Public Works is not hurting so badly. Trustee Kaminski: and the possibility for one of these part timers to move to full time. Administrator Seehausen: Absolutely. It gives Dave a deeper bench to pull from.

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Delia Gayton of 352 Tiverton Ln. came before the board to ask if we have an ordinance against burning stuff in your own back yard like trash, tree limbs, grass cuttings. Steger

Fire Chief Long stated that there is a county law that restricts burning. It is allowed only in a contained fire pit and you are restricted on what you can burn. Ms. Gayton was advised if someone starts a fire outside a fire pit, she should call the Fire Department by dialing 911. The Fire Department will then handle the fire situation.

Ramona DeLaRosa of 34 Morgan St. came before the board to put on public record regarding her neighbor at 3400 Morgan St. Previous issues regarded junk inside the fenced yard. The fence has since been screened to block view of the yard, but now blocks view when trying to pull out on to Steger Road. Ms. DeLaRosa reminded the board of the many issues with the property as well as issues with another property the resident has on Sangamon St. Dave Toepper: He is a daily issue for Code Enforcement and the Police Department. We go to both houses regularly, ticket him regularly.

Mayor Joyce: The gentleman at 34th and Morgan is a daily conversation. There is more at this point that is being worked on besides just writing tickets because there have been a lot of tickets written, but he does not pay attention to the tickets. He just meanders on and gets the next set. There are a lot of laws that prohibit the village from stepping in, and unfortunately there is nothing we can do about the lights he has installed.

Ms. DeLaRosa also mentioned concern for kids on motorized bikes, mini-bikes. They are running up and down the street. Mayor Joyce: If you see them and they are in the streets with mini-bikes, golf carts or four-wheelers, please call the police. Let them come out and deal with them. There is a lot of that all over town, but if you see them please call the police.

Brenda Thunherst of 22720 Cottage Grove came before the board for an update on the fence her neighbor installed. Mayor Joyce: I have talked with Dave and Mary Jo about that. We are working on a solution for it, hopefully something soon. When I do have it, I will reach out to you and Connie and let you know what is going on.

Kathy Hannon of Miller Woods asked about the house next door to Ron Butkus that has long been in disrepair since having a car run into it. Is there anyone that can make them fix this damage? Dave Toepper: She has been issued citations. Ms. Hannon: there has been a lot of issuing, but no one does anything. Mayor Joyce: They have recently issued new tickets on the house. That is the first step. The next step.....

Ms. Hannon: This has been 2 ½ years. Mayor Joyce: I understand, and I have been here a whole 4 weeks. Please give me a little bit of time. That is one of my concerns.

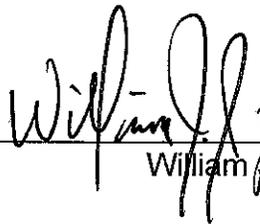
Ms. Hannon: They have all been here. Mayor Joyce: I understand. They are working on it. I promise you they are working on it.

Being no further business:

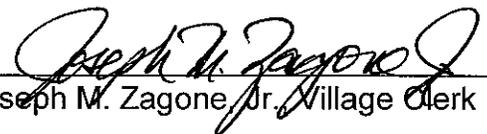
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.



William Joyce, Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk