

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 21st day of January 2025 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, Community Center Director Diana Rossi and Village Attorney Julie Diemer.

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, I do not.

Trustee Lopez, do you have a nomination?

Trustee Lopez: I do not.

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, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustees Thurmond, Stewart and Joyce voted no. Motion failed.

Clerk Zagone asked counsel how we proceed. Attorney Diemer stated that we need a quorum to name a Pro-tem for the meeting. Clerk Zagone was informed he could run the meeting, but, without a Pro-tem, none of the business of the Village could be done. Trustee Thurmond asked if another nomination could be made. The Village Attorney said yes, he could.

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

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to appoint Trustee Lopez Chairman Pro-tem for the meeting as we have done this every meeting for the past 12 years. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Trustees Thurmond and Stewart voted no. Motion passed.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson introduced John Zajac who recently retired from Steger EMA after 40 plus years of service. Through efforts of police and EMA representatives, the Police Hall of Fame has awarded Mr. Zajac the Civilian Medal of Appreciation. All but one current member of Steger EMA has been trained by Mr. Zajack.

Chief Stevenson read the letter awarding Mr. Zajac the Civilian Medal of Appreciation on behalf of the Police Hall of Fame. In addition, Mr. Zajac was presented with a Plaque of Appreciation from the Steger EMA. Mr. Zajac expressed his overwhelming appreciation for the recognition and for the opportunity to serve the Village of Steger.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jessica Berger of 3335 Carpenter St. read a prepared statement regarding dogs being kept outside in unsafe temperatures at a residence known for being a problem property at 3400 Morgan St. Copy of Ms. Berger's statement has been entered into public record.

Audrey Fisher of 3205 Florence Ave. presented concerns for the same dogs being left outside at 3400 Morgan St. Ms. Fisher filed a report with the Police Department, seeing no change, she contacted Will County Animal Control. The Steger Police Department has a statement that has been placed in the public record. Ms. Fisher plans to continue to pursue this situation.

Theresa McHale of 3611 Sangamon St. came before the board to speak regarding the resident across the street from her, David Caldwell Williams who resides at 3620 Sangamon. Mr. Williams does not own the residence, but has other people living there. This is the same person who has the property at 3400 Morgan St. Mrs. McHale voiced her concerns about abandoned cars, visitors of all kinds and spot lights directed at her residence.

Will Barr of 3446 Morgan St. lives on the street with the dog situation at 3400 Morgan St. There are two large dogs in the yard, and he can no longer walk his smaller dog down that part of Morgan as one of the dogs is capable of jumping the fence. He would like to see something done about the dogs and all the junk around the house. Mr. Barr would like to see Will County or the Humane Society to step in and do something to save those dogs. On another subject, Mr. Barr asked who is in charge of Parks and Recreation. Trustee Trotier is liaison to the Steger Rec Board, though she is not involved in running them. Mr. Barr who spent many years working with Steger Little League questioned why it is being run differently now. Clerk Zagone pointed out that these are questions to be

presented to the Steger Recreation Board that oversees the youth programs for the Village of Steger.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No Report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Introduced new Code Enforcement Officer, Romel Stanford. He has a history in corrections, he worked for the corrections department and worked for a school district in Indiana. He has been through some training and some school next week. I am happy to have him on board.

New Code Officer Stanford addressed the entire audience and assured them, your voices have been heard, all your concerns have been noted. I do believe in thorough and complete investigation of everything that comes across my desk. Feel free, when you see me out there, flag me down, we can have a conversation about anything you need. I am here.

Fire Chief Mike Long For the month of December, we answered 183 calls for service. 170 of those were medical and 13 were fire. Our total for the year was 2082 calls, 1789 for Medical and 296 were for fire which is 7 calls shy of 2023. Last year we brought in approximately \$150,000.00 in grant funding and outside donations for equipment. We are on track to add 2 new Paramedics to the roster and have 4 new hires that started EMT school last Thursday. We added one new Lieutenant to the Officer Staff and are on track to add a second in the coming months. Our continued growth of our Paid on Call division and Cadet program is right where we want it to be, to continue to serve the fine residents of our Village in the coming year. Just a note to residents: we have seen a large spike in respiratory related illnesses so if you are immune compromised, please keep yourself protected while in public. Trustee Perchinski commented Chief Long on his efforts to build the Paid on Call ranks as they are all volunteers. We appreciate all the efforts of everyone at the Fire Department.

Police Chief Greg Smith We started out this month with Monthly Police Law training (New Illinois Law – 2025 Part 1), Chief Smith and Detective Darge attended the monthly School District 206 Safety meeting. Sgt. Lane graduated from North Western “Staff & Command” and Chief Smith and D.C. Fajman attended annual SSMCTF meeting. Det. Darge attended Chicago Police Officer’s funeral, we have placed two new 2025 Ford Explorers in service.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No Report

Community Center Director Diana Rossi For the last three weeks we have had approximately 700 people come through. We are currently taking registration for softball and t-ball, volleyball has quit taking registrations and their season has started. We still are taking a couple of basketball registration for spots available, you have to call the

coach for that. If you call the Community Center, we can put you in touch with the coach.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT No Report.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None

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, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

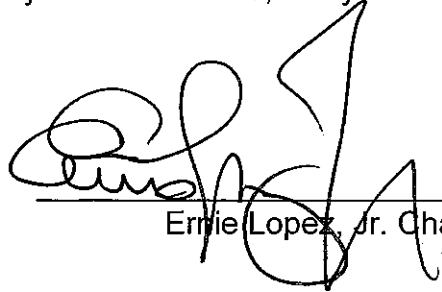
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE No. 1330: THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK COUNTY AND WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

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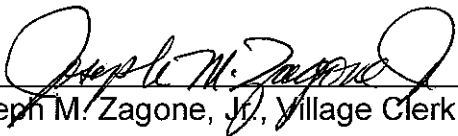
Being no further business:

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 7:45 pm.



Ernie Lopez, Jr. Chairman Pro-tem



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk