

**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 17th day of March 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 James Vasselli.

Clerk Zagone: Discussion and final Action to fill the Vacancy in the office of the Village President was tabled at the last meeting. Unless someone motions to remove it from the table, I will entertain a motion for Chairman Pro-tem.

Trustee Lopez made a motion to appoint Trustee Tim Perchinski Chairman Pro-tem for the meeting. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion passed.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3rd 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

Michael Mims of 23017 Cottage Grove Ave. came before the board as a new resident asking if there was any information regarding the upcoming election. Trustee Perchinski stated that there are three parties running for open spots, details are on line or he could question trustees further after the meeting.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Reported that the lead line replacement project was moving forward. The areas currently being worked on were explained as well as how they are moving down Richton Rd to begin moving back on Stella Blvd. ComEd is making progress on the power line relocation, I would expect that they will be finishing up next week. Once we have a clear idea when they will be done, we will coordinate that with the crew working on the water tower.

Fire Chief Mike Long No Report.

Police Chief Greg Smith Reported that monthly police training: part of the unfunded mandates, part two of the new Illinois Laws, also Psychology of Domestic Violence was conducted department wide. Detective Darge and I attended the monthly School District 206 safety meeting. I met with the Will County Health Department to talk about suicide prevention for officers. Deputy Chief Fajman attended SMART meeting regarding traffic reconstruction. Steger Police Department hosted the Will County Chief's of Police Association meeting at Scrementi's. It was well attended. Sargeant Hillman received training for the Corina's Bill, which we will be getting more in depth. It is a new law taking effect on May 12th. We will cover that as it gets closer. Our evidence room was audited by Portions Plus. We had a couple of minor issues, but overall, we did a really good job. Let's talk a little bit about partnership with the Crisis Center of South Suburbia. That is attached to my report. On the Cook County side they are the ones that handle all our protections, counseling things like that. Approximately 56 cases were submitted, and they found 27 times when they actually provided protection and other things for our victims. Will County side they have to go to accounting which they can do on line. I attached the February activity statement and just for a follow up, referencing the dog from TTS Granite, I had the opportunity to go over and meet the dog. He is huge, a big dog, they understand that they need to keep the dog in the yard. The only other thing I have is the correspondence from Cook County Government Animal Control about the influenza in birds. It is attached to our facebook page, you might be seeing more dead birds in the area. It does describe how to dispose of the birds. It is broken down by the amount of birds being found.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No Report

Community Center Director Diana Rossi Over the last two weeks between our clubs, fitness classes and our overall members coming in, we have had about 1050 people coming in, so it has been very busy. Everything is going well.

Village Attorney Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT No Report.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier:

Attended the South Suburban Landbank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) Executive Meeting on Feb. 20, 2025, at their headquarters in Tinley Park, IL.

In short, the SSLBA rehabs distressed properties, sells them, and brings in tax dollars from new owners who pay property taxes.

In the last few years, the SSLBA has made a positive impact on our economy through home sales, the creation of jobs, and in the revenue of tax dollars.

Next, I was able to attend our School District 194 Board Meeting also on Feb. 20th at Columbia Central JHS (Media Ctr.).

It is always a pleasure to learn something new each time I stop by. As an example, the school is further strengthening the No Cell Phone Policy by utilizing YONDR. YONDR consists of a pouch, lock, and magnet that secures a phone during class time. The next School District meetings are scheduled for March 19th or April 17th.

In addition, I attended our Village of Steger Athletic Board meeting held the last Tues. of every month at the Louis Sherman Community Center along with our Village Administrator, Deputy Village Clerk, and Village Attorney.

Here's the latest:

Basketball is wrapping up the recreational league on Sat., March 15th.

- Playoffs begin on Sat., March 22nd.
- The championship games will be at the LSCC on Sun., March 23rd.
- The AAU Basketball Steger Wildcats will be in full swing for all age levels next week. The games will start at the beginning of April.

Softball is wrapping up registration this week.

Thank you to all the Coaches and volunteers for their continued non-stop energy and support of the programs.

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As a reminder, the Village of Steger will host our own Earth Day on April 26th. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, our Electronic Recycle event will take place the last Saturday in June. We look forward to everyone's participation.

We look forward to everyone bringing their family and friends to future events.

Register by emailing FDesk@villageofsteger.com or call Village Hall at (708) 754-3395.

Thank you for your time.

Trustee Thurmond:

On January 30, 2024, Mayor Peterson announced the appointment of the ADHOC water committee, nominating me, Steve Thurmond, as chair. The committee members included Trustee Joyce, Trustee Stewart, VA Seehausen, and DOI Toeper. Over the past year, the water committee has met seven times to discuss Steger's water quality, water system, and potential remedies to connect dead ends. Through these meetings, the committee has come together to prioritize these challenging issues.

We recognize that we first need to make infrastructure changes to ensure consistent water flow throughout the Village. Once these changes have been completed, we can monitor the impact they have on our water system's quality. With the help of our Village Engineer, Clay Shipley, we now have a comprehensive layout, including an aerial overview, loop locations, technical memo, and cost review for the identified eight projects. These projects aim to connect approximately 6,000 feet of water mains to loop our water system at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. Notably, Mr. Shipley worked on the drawings and documentation free of charge to the Village. These changes will allow water to flow consistently throughout the system.

Additionally, we have a reported 416 fire hydrants, of which a dozen is inoperable. We have 35 miles of main piping that is in moderate to poor condition, with an estimated cost of \$1 million per mile, and an estimated total of \$35 million. This board has already approved a \$750,000 renovation of well tower #3, set to begin this spring. We are committed to finding low-cost solutions for the Village of Steger's water challenges.

With teams already in place, all avenues for funding are being explored, including but not limited to capital funds, EPA, Department of Health, State, and Federal sources. Through the efforts of our engineers, administration, governmental consulting solutions, and strong relationships with state representative Anthony DeLuca and Senator Pat Joyce, these projects will continue to gain traction.

The Steger Water Committee is dedicated to addressing the Village's water challenges through strategic planning, infrastructure improvements, and securing necessary funding. We are confident that with continued support and collaboration we will achieve our goals and ensure a reliable and cleaner water system for the residents of Steger.

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Thank you.

Trustee Perchinski had some follow-up questions: Trustee Thurmond stated that this was not open to discussion, this is just a report. When we have further things to give to the board as far as.. Trustee Perchinski: this is just some questions on your report. Trustee Thurmond: What's that sir? Trustee Perchinski: first of all, you said Mr. Shipley did the engineering at no cost, but the committee has a bill for \$4883. Trustee Thurmond: I was told by Mr. Shipley on the phone that there was no charge to the Village for the drawings. Trustee Perchinski: So you are the Chairperson of this committee. Trustee Thurmond: and again if there was an expense, we did not authorize it. Trustee Perchinski: Ok, and then, the information that you came up with in the past 14 months has been in our GIS system for multiple years and you probably remember that back when you first got on the board you voted against putting the automatic flushers in. We had already recognized where these issues were. Trustee Thurmond: Not true, I did not vote against the flushing. Trustee Perchinski: I have the minutes that say...May 3rd, 2021 you voted no. So did Trustee Joyce. That is what I wanted to clarify. Thank you.

BILLS

Trustee Lopez made a motion to pay all bills as listed 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

Village Clerk Zagone read a letter of appreciation from the family of former Mayor Kenneth Peterson. The letter has been made a part of the Public Record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Trotier made a motion to appoint Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen as authorized representative for the Village of Steger to sign necessary documents regarding the Public Water Supply Loan Program. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1194: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN
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PROGRAM DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called.

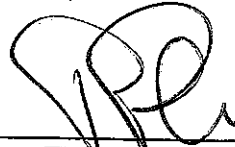
The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Motion carried

Being no further business:

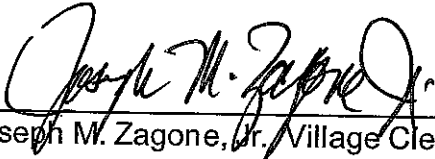
Trustee Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Tim Perchinski Chairman Pro-tem



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk