

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 5th day of May 2025 in the Louis Sherman Community Center in the Village of Steger, Illinois. Presentation of Colors was performed by Steger Boy Scout Color Guard and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Thurmond, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Trustee Lopez was absent.

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. Village Attorney was also present.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21st meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen The Little League Parade is this Saturday the 10th starting at noon.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Fire Chief Mike Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith The only update I have is we did hold our youth fire starter intervention class through the State Fire Marshall's. We would like to thank the High School staff who brought our 2 seniors to be roll players. It was beneficial to all, it was a great class.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No Report

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT No report.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Trotier:

The 3rd Annual Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 26th, was well attended. We had residents who had previously helped and new people who stepped up to volunteer. A special Thank You to our children for participating. I attended the Village of Steger's Park & Rec Meeting on April 28th. Tee ball and baseball are gearing up. Cheerleaders and Coaches are excited for the program to begin, and Volleyball is wrapping up the season. If you are interested in the sports programs, register at the Louis Sherman Community Center located at 3501 Hopkins Ave. I recommend calling the LSCC before stopping by (708-709-0288). Next, extra precautions are being implemented. All coaches, referees, and staff who interact with children must be fingerprinted. All coaches, referees, and staff must wear and display badges/IDs at all times. Please call LSCC and leave a message for one of our Park & Recreation Board Members for more information. As a reminder, SAVE THE DATE for our Electronic Recycling Event. The event will be on Sat., June 28, 2025. The location will be at Village Green Plaza – Municipal Lot (3231 Chicago Rd. – AKA next to the old Kmart). Yes, we will need volunteers. Especially volunteers who can lift heavier items. Volunteers can register at FDESK@VILLAGEOFSTEGER.ORG or by calling 708-754-3395. Thank you to all.

BILLS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials:
Judge Luciano Panici gave the Oath of Office to:

William J. Joyce, Village President
Joseph M. Zagone Jr., Village Clerk
Star Kaminski, Village Trustee
Steve Thurmond, Village Trustee
Cindy Trotier, Village Trustee

The roll of the new board was called. The following Trustees were present; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Joyce was present.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1334: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, SECTION 82-479 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON 34TH PLACE AND ROYAL OAKS DRIVE IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mayor Joyce explained that the Royal Oak HOH requested that there be a parking restriction on the streets from 11 pm until 6 am in the morning. The second restriction is placed on 34th Place from Chicago Rd. to Emerald Ave. Neighbors have been informed.

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1195: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AND THE EXISTENCE AND FORMATION OF THE ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Discussion: Police Chief Greg Smith described this is the Illinois Law enforcement alarm system, this gives us the ability for mutual aid throughout the state for situations when we need more manpower. It grants authority to call in other agencies.

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1196: 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; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for Zeldenrust Farm Market at 117 E. 231st Street, pending inspections. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to table a new business license application for Up in Smoke at 3502 Chicago Road.

Discussion: Mayor Joyce explained that this would be further discussed after our next Village Board meeting at the Committee of the Whole meeting that will take place following the May 19th board meeting.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to table a new business license for Lucky 777s Gaming Café at 3444 Chicago Road.

Discussion:

The owner of Lucky 777s came before the board to tell a little about her new business. The owner explained that the business would be the same as the previous business at that location, serving beer and wine, but no food. The owner was reminded that the business is required by ordinance to sell a set amount of food, beer and wine in order to hold the license. The owner stated that she can bring food in to make the business compliant with the ordinance.

Following discussion, Trustee Thurmond rescinded his motion to table.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for Lucky 777s Gaming Café at 3444 Chicago Road, pending inspections. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a request for a Beer and Wine Liquor License for Lucky 777s Gaming Café at 3444 Chicago Road, pending inspections. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table a new business license application for Blue Smoke at 14 E 33rd Place because we tabled Up in Smoke. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Joyce explained the 3 different bids in the meeting packet, for asphalt work and seal coating for Fireman's Park around Little League field. Also included in this is the amount of money needed to buy the materials to repair the dugouts and the bleachers. The quote for the dugouts was just for materials, the labor is being donated. Trustee Perchinski voiced his concern of finding the money before approving. Trustee Trotier stated that we have used Holland Paving before, are the materials that Fast Freddy will use comparable to Holland? Mayor Joyce stated they are actually putting down more material. Trustee Perchinski asked if the sealcoat is water base or oil base. Dave Toepper stated that it is water base. Mayor Joyce explained that we are doing the pathway up from Carpenter up between the building and the ball field, and then it would be the entire walking path through park that we have not done anything with. Cracks will be patched throughout and burn out the weeds. Public Works is going to remove the bleachers off the asphalt, the asphalt will be cut out and repaired. The bleachers will be repaired while this is happening, then be put back. The dugouts are in disrepair and should be repaired.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the repairs for the dugouts and come back next meeting to make sure we have the money in the budget for the asphalt. Trustee Trotier: is there anything else that is happening at Fireman's Park that you share with us? Mayor Joyce: the only other thing at this point is they are going to repair the rotten wood on the building. This is all we are doing at this time.

Village Administrator Seehausen stated that it was the hope to have this done before opening day. We can move things in the budget to make it happen. Both bids stated they could complete work before opening day.

Being no second, Trustee Perchinski's motion dies.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to approve repairs at Fireman's Park and accept bid presented by Fast Freddy Paving. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond and Trotier. Trustee Perchinski voted no. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

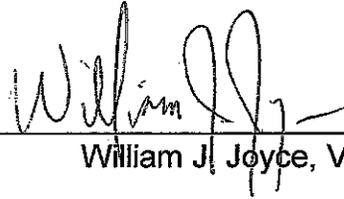
None

Final remarks by Village President William Joyce are attached as part of the Public Record.

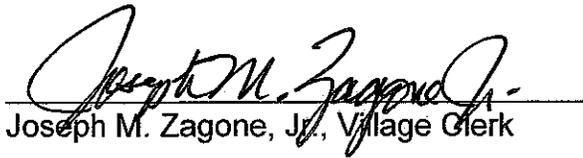
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Joyce", written over a horizontal line.

William J. Joyce, Village President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Zagone, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk

Distinguished guests... Members of the Board... Village Clerk...

Friends, family and fellow residents....

The fourth time certainly is the charm... Today I stand on the shoulders of those who came before me.... Who provided wisdom and mentorship to me... I am stronger for their courage.... I am wiser for their words....

I hope and pray my shoulders will be there to hold those up who follow me... It is my hope that my administration continues to build that foundation for our future...

Today begins we begin a NEW DAY! Today we renew our commitment to getting the Village of Steger back on track....

We have reached out to our residents... they have given us their confidence... their vote... and this mandate to restore the our Village and get us back on the right track....

I humbly thank GOD first for placing his confidence in me to lead our great Village....

Second... I give thanks to my wife Kimmy, my Mom Sandy, my Son William, my Daughter Madalyn, my adopted Daughter Jimena and my family and friends for standing by my side each step of the way....

Third... I want to thank our TEAM.... All of you who had faith and confidence in me for our mutual commitment to server our great Village...

Finally... to you our residents for your confidence in me and our team... I remain unwaveringly committed to restoring your confidence in our local government once again!

Getting the Village of Steger back on the right track will take hard work by my administration... staff and community... I do this today with a renewed sense of optimism...

I am thankful that we have a Board of Trustees who are committed to the hard work that lays ahead...

I am thankful to our dedicated Village employees who are focused on doing their job in making our community better each and every day.... And who remain committed to serving our residents...

I have met with each member of our TEAM and they know where and what to expect tomorrow morning and each and every day...

Our First Order of Business beginning today is to initiate an action plan which will direct my leadership staff...

This Action Plan addresses Five major Areas...

First our priority is getting our Financial House back in order! Getting our budget priorities established... a top-down review of all service contracts and vendors.... Reviewing our audits and management letters.... Completely reviewing our Financial Policies and Procedures... and ensuring that we have transparent processes in place.... All of these are our lead priorities...

Second our Action Plan addresses Public Improvements and Infrastructure....

Getting an updated review of our public right of ways... getting our water system properly reviewed.... ensuring our Fire Hydrant and Valves are all functioning properly and inventoried... correcting dead-end water mains... implementing a Road Improvement Plan... continue work on the drainage concerns... and removing Dead Trees in public ways are all priorities in this Action Plan...

Third.... our priorities for Code Enforcement, Inspectional Services Planning, Economic Development, and Housing will be spelled out....

Fourth... Our youth and senior services need continued focus and attention. Our Parks, Recreation, Youth and Senior Services will be addressed.

Fifth... Public Safety....

I have taken public safety seriously since taking my oath as a firefighter than as a Trustee.... Public Safety must be proactive and capable of getting the job done! Our Action Plan is to build confidence and public trust... Command Staff will focus on plans to ensure retention of our police and fire forces.... We will Strengthen our police and fire departments...

We have faced many challenges and many more are still ahead.... I want to report to you that we will be putting an end to the failed past practices from before.... And we will be focusing on best practices as it applies to our leadership, Community and Economic Development and financial management....

We will continue to work with our Counties, State and Federal Partners seeking assistance and grant opportunities to move our Village forward...

My administration will improve communications between the Mayor, Village Board and staff as well as improve communications between Village government and our residents.... This was a key during my meetings with our residents and I will deliver on my commitment.

We will amend and correct our Municipal Code to address many of our problems...

We will improve our Economic Development initiatives to promote growth...

We will focus our efforts to not only identify Grant opportunities and other sources of financing initiatives but seek them out...

We will continue with a strong approach on our Human Resource roles and training of employee's needs....

We will implement measurable departmental Goals, and Objectives which will be reviewed during a regularly scheduled Evaluation Process...

We will identify absentee landlords who have allowed their properties to go into disrepair.... We will fight blight... we will hold slumlords accountable... and keep that out of our community...

Most of all we must clean up our Village... provide adequate services... and at all times our staff will be courteous and respectful to our village residents....

We will update our planning initiatives so we have a true blueprint and foundation for the future of the Village of Steger...

Yes we still have many goals... yes... I do continue to have bold plans because this administration remains determined to raise our standards which will raise Steger's quality of life...

We will put our Village back on track....

I know that "change" is sometimes difficult for some and yet there are those who will fight it... but guess what? WE ARE GOING TO DO IT and it begins today...

We know that there are challenges that lay ahead... we know we have obstacles in our way but we will work through that to continue to build a solid foundation for our future...

Now I invite you all as partners... So that TOGETHER... let us walk forward... it's A NEW DAY... and get Steger Back on track....

God Bless you... and God Bless Steger...