

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 6th day of October 2025 in the Steger Fire Department Firehouse in 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: Executive Administrative Assistant DaVanna Terry, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, and Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes. Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper and EMA Chief Jason Stevenson were absent.

Mayor Joyce asked for a motion to move the Audience Participation segment of the meeting for the convenience of the large crowd in attendance.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to move Item J on the agenda, the Audience Participation section of the meeting to the next agenda item. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Terry Sims came before the board on behalf of herself and neighbors in the Lake Hills Subdivision. Ms. Sims presented pictures and concerns regarding potholes in the streets in the subdivision. Mayor Joyce said he will contact Public Works and get back to Ms. Sims with updates. Ms. Sims also referred to some overgrown trees behind her home that are on Village property. Mayor Joyce told her he would call her tomorrow afternoon.

Bob Wagner came before the board for a second time regarding unlicensed motor bikes and ATV's speeding up and down the road by unlicensed minors on Ashland Ave. and Kings Rd. Mr. Wagner provided an address where many of these offenders come from. Mayor Joyce responded that the Village of Steger is in the process of creating a new Village Ordinance to address this problem. At this time the Police Department is not authorized to chase these vehicles. The liability of causing an accident involving these minors would fall on the Village. If we have an address, send it to me and we can work on it in a different way.

Cameron White what happened to my brother was never supposed to happen. This is a tragic accident that no one should ever go through. That woman is still on the street knowing what she did was wrong. Too much going on at once. We just had to put my brother in the wall. I can't even cry anymore. All I can do is just smile.

Rabbi Michael Ben Yosef introduced himself as a Human Rights Activist, Anti-Violence Activist in Chicago. Before he began he asked the family of the victim to stand. Mayor, tonight I bring before you in the council of family of Mark Anthony Plambeck II. This is a grieving family. They are seeking justice. We are here to speak publicly so that our voices can be heard in the highest form of accountability. On September 17, 2025 Steger Police responded to a residence here in the city to Jocelyn Garcia pertaining to a shooting. Ms. Garcia shot and murdered Mark Anthony Plambeck II in cold blood. Cold blood means premeditated with no regard to human life. Even worse, no charges were brought and filed against the perpetrator. Even more heartache and pain for this family, the family responsible pretending that they did not know Mark. The Press Release issued by the Steger Police Department states that Mark was an intruder. That is a false narrative Mr. Mayor and it needs to be corrected. The girlfriend and Mark are seen in pictures together. (Mr. Yosef provided pictures to the police chief) We ask the Village Council to expedite with a sense of urgency as if this was your loved one. The fact is that Mark was murdered and was silenced because of this perpetrator. We are demanding the sense of urgency as if this was your loved one. We need you to investigate and look at all the evidence and to update the press release that was sent out. It was not an intruder, but a homicide. I hope and pray that the words I say tonight resonates in your heart and see this as what it is. A tragedy. This family should not be here right now. They should be with their family at home doing what they do as family instead of being here in this state of grieving and sadness. I thank you for listening to me, now we will bring the family up and I want you to pay attention to what they have to say, because this is a heart breaker. Thank you so much.

Mark Plambeck: Mr. Mayor, Trustees and everyone on this council. I am the father of Mark Anthony Plambeck II, who lost his life on September 17th in Steger. I am only here asking that the police, the detectives conduct a thorough investigation. This tragic incident is not a one night thing. Imagine if they do background on my son, background on the person that took my sons life. There have been countless times when her daughter has snuck into one of our homes. His aunt, his mom, we never shot her. We comforted her whatever she wanted and we made sure she got back home safe, whether that evening, the next day or the day after. And we communicated as adults, as parents. We didn't pull our firearms and shoot. This case is more about one night and I am begging the detectives on this case to do the background work on Jaclyn Garcia. This is something she has spoken about to many other people. She said a million times, I am going to kill that f---ing boy. This is not about one night. This goes back months. Jackie was my son's manager. I told Jackie I will manage this. We manage our children together. She was the mother at work of my son. My son listened to her as a mother. Sometimes more than me, to be honest with you. This didn't have to happen. I just want the council, the mayor, police department to just please look deep. This not about one night. Thank you.

Shameka Taylor: Good evening everyone, mayor, council members. I am the mom of Mark Anthony Plambeck II. When I tell you that my son was not the type of person that would (unintelligible) in anyone's life under any circumstances, he was not raised that

way at all. This demonic lady that tried to have me locked up for no apparent reason, I never had a conversation with this woman or anything. I tried to warn him that these people don't like you, but he was in love with her. I couldn't tell him anything about her to the point I accepted her into my home. I just don't understand, my heart is literally shattered. All I am asking is for it to be a thorough investigation. I just need for our voices to be heard. That is all I am asking. Thank you.

Natalia Moore: Good evening Mr. Mayor, Trustees. Again, I am Natalia Moore. I was here at the town hall meeting in August. At that time Mr. Mayor, you allowed me to announce my candidacy. I was asked to come back tonight to re-introduce myself to the residents, to let you know that my heart is with you and that I am running for judge in the 17th Sub-Circuit to bring integrity, quality and respect to the judicial system. Again, Natalia Moore.

Felesa Melvin (elected not to speak)

Arianna (Ava) Johnson: Hello, good evening everyone. I want to send out a huge thank you to the mayor for coming out and greeting my family properly and giving us a warm embrace. As Mark's cousin I advocate to reduce gun violence and bring more resources to empoveraged communities. This is not my first time participating at a council and bringing issues to the forefront. This story does look a lot different than what I am used to. I know it is really easy to look at this case and think it is just another black man who just lost his life. Or, maybe be comforted with the excuse of maybe their still trying to find the killer. Maybe they are still searching and narrowing down suspects, but that is not the case at all. We know exactly who is responsible for this. We have seen this person on a regular basis, so there is no mystery to it. I need you to really look at this case and know exactly who Mark was. He was not a number. He was definitely not an intruder. He is not a statistic. He is not just another black man who had a toe tag waiting on him. He was a loving father, a loving son, brother and great friend to many. He was only 23 years old with so much life to live. His daughter has so many years to live with him, and the thought of her mother having to navigate this as a single mother, not because the father chose not to be there, but because his life was cut short by someone that he knew. This really breaks my heart to the core. It is huge disconnect between community and the system put in place to protect and serve us. A large part of that disconnect has to do with the lack of injustice concerning the crime that affect our everyday lives. Steger Village, we are dependiing on you to bring justice to our family. The family that took my cousin's life get to sit at the dinner table filled with laughs and the warm embrace of their loved ones while we are sitting at the dinner table broken hearted, crying, grieving over memories of our family member. We thank you all in advance for your hard work and consistant efforts to bring this justice to our family and be the support that we need. Thank you.

Aaliyah McCall: We are here for Mark and for justice. As we said in the Pledge of Allegiance, what stood out the most is "Justice for All". So, as we come today, we ask for justice for Mark. As everyone has already said, the background of Mark, a loving

father, a loving cousin, a loving uncle, we just ask that you guys do a thorough background check and check on who did this to our family. We wish we could be coming here for more of a community thing like branches and potholes, but today we talk to you guys for justice for Mark. Thank you.

Mayor Joyce introduced Deputy Police Chief Pete Fajman:

Deputy Chief Fajman: Thank you to Mark's family for coming out. We sympathize with what you guys are going through. I assure you, the case is ongoing. We are investigating this fully to every extent that we can. It is not just the Steger Police Department that is working on this. The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, currently we have numerous search warrants that have been filed. Until they come back, we cannot present things to the States Attorney and the Family. I can tell you that we are making a lot of progress on the case. It may not seem like it from your point of view, but we are making progress in the case. I assure you that this is not going to go by the wayside. This is going to be investigated fully, I myself have been with the department for over 20 years for 15 years I was detective, Major Crimes Task Force for over 10 years now, this is not going away. I assure you that. I have given Mark's mom my number, my email, feel free to reach out. I will update you as best I can, however with investigations we cannot always give information. Like I told Mark's mom, we cannot share information that could hinder or hurt the investigation. We don't want a case to fall because of a technicality. That is what we are trying to prevent by performing a thorough investigation, everything that you have said here today, we have looked into. We know about everything you have said. We are looking into it, we are following up on stuff and if you want I can meet with you and Rabbi, after and give what information that I can and I have some questions.

Mayor Joyce: I want to thank you for coming. You are always welcome to come to a board meeting. As the Deputy Police Chief and the Police Chief assure you, it is an ongoing investigation that will not be dropped. At this time I would like to take a recess.

At 7:24 pm:

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to recess the meeting for 10 minutes. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:36 pm:

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to reconvene the regular Board Meeting in the Steger Village Hall. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Joyce introduced Police Chief Greg Smith:

I would like to recognize several officers for a Certificate of Appreciation from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Award in recognition of commendable DUI enforcement. These officers are:

Sgt. George Hillman
Det. Daniel Hoppe
Ofc. Jacob Cavazos
Ofc. Edgar Hillman

These officers couldn't be here today, some are on shift and some are off today.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; Ayes: Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Trotier and Perchinski. Trustee Thurmond voted no. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Village Administrator No report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper Roy Stone reported: We are busy. We have been working on picking up some branches, been doing some roadwork restoration, having some equipment worked on getting ready for changeover to snow plows.

Fire Chief Mike Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith The Departmental training for the month: 2025 U.S. Supreme Court Rulings and Vehicle Seizures and Inventories was department wide. I received 13 credit hours for my ILETSB mandate training. I also attended the Attorney General's Open Meeting Act Training. Special Events: we participated at October Fest and Cops & Community Event, I thought it went very well, I thank everyone for attending. We also did the School District 194 Lockdown Drills. We went to each school as they practiced. The Department also had its Mandated Yearly Wellness Screening. We all passed.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No report.

Community Center Director Christine Meyer reported that Community Center will hold it's annual Halloween Party on Saturday October 25th. There will be activities and food during the afternoon festivities. The Cartwheel Club is off to a good start.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT Bloom Township is having it's Spooktacular Skelebration on October 29th from 5 to 7 pm at Veteran's Memorial Park in Glenwood. Trustee Trotier is working it. St. Liborius Catholic Church is having it's 10th Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday October 23rd from 5-7 pm. For our Octoberfest, I believe was a success from the positive feedback we got from the participants and residents. Over the two days we had 26 vendors, the inflatables, the police department was out there with their Cop's Night Out. We had a band Saturday night and the Bears Game and Chile Cook-Off on Sunday. I want to thank Public Works, I want to thank the Police and Fire Departments for the events they put on especially the water car races by the fire department. This Octoberfest would not have happened without Sheila Thurmond. She is the one that got it all together. Thank you...on to the next event which will be Halloween. It is 2-6 for Trick or Treat hours and 6-9 pm in the park with the Bonfire and Kiwanis is doing Hot Dogs and drinks. Trustee Trotier added thanks to Bloom Township for sending volunteers to help with Octoberfest.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

VILLAGE ENGINEER No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None.

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify bills paid on September 26, 2025. 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 pay all 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 Thurmond made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1339: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54, SECTION 54-33 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS, REGARDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Hanus seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mayor Joyce asked for clarification: Police Chief Smith: With the help of legal, we added some language to include the lateral and the bonus for the hiring. It's broken down into several different stages, it's \$5,000 up front, \$10,000 after satisfactory completion of the 18-month probation and the final \$5,000 after 3 years of service. We have tried to stay consistent with other towns. We hope this helps to get some bodies in the door. Mayor Joyce: For the audience, what we are doing is passing an ordinance creating an incentive for full-time police officers from other departments, to entice them to come to Steger. One of the benefits of doing that is we don't have to pay for the Police Academy. Since we are not incurring those charges, this is a way to entice them to come here and to keep them for at least a 3 year period. Trustee Perchinski: are there any other local municipalities that are giving it all up front? Police Chief Smith: None that I saw. Originally, it was my idea, but I saw that most waited until after the probation period. Trustee Perchinski offered some changes and Mayor Joyce asked that we try it this way and make changes if it is not effective. Police Chief Smith is happy the way it is written and would like to go as written.

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

Trustee Trotier asked for a breakdown on Oktoberfest on what the Village paid for, what Kiwanis paid and the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Joyce: this week I am sitting down with Sheila and Steve Thurmond, Frank, and we are going to put a report together. The report will list all the vendors that were there and it will list each of the vendors that we paid out, what they were paid out and what funds they came out of.

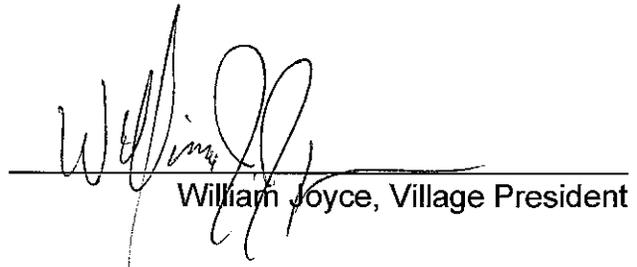
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Moved to earlier in the meeting.

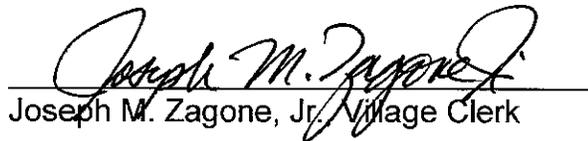
Being no further business:

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 7:50 pm.



William Joyce, Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk