

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 19th day of May 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; 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, Community Center Director Diana Rossi and Village Attorney.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5th meeting as all members have copies with changes to page 4 regarding sales of food, beer and wine and the tabling of the business license for Blue Smoke being done because the previous request for Up in Smoke had also been tabled. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen All of the ComEd relocation work regarding the Water Tower project has been completed. They need to remove two poles that will be done earlier this week and then the project for the Water Tower will be able to move forward. We have also requested a refund of the deposit from ComEd for the engineering portion.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper To date we have done 239 lead line replacements. For the month of April, Code Enforcement has written 108 48 hour notices, issued 30 tickets, issued 30 permits, 59 business license inspections, 56 re-occupancy inspections, did right around 200 locates in the month of April and we had 5 water-main breaks.

Fire Chief Mike Long For the month of April, we had a total of 159 calls for service, 132 medical, 27 fire and 24 mutual aid calls were given out. Last Friday, firefighter Munoz, Lt. Stevenson and I taught First Aid Class at the Intermediate Center to about 50 kids. We had to do some charades acting out First Aid Scenarios, taught them how to care for injured students. This Thursday we have the graduation of Nathan Baine and Izaak Amero, they are graduating from EMT school, so hopefully within the next month or so we should have 2 new EMT's on the street. Happy EMS Week to all the firefighters and paramedics.

Police Chief Greg Smith Good evening. I will start out with meetings, conferences and training: Deputy Chief Fajman and I attended the South Suburban Chiefs of Police Conference. Karina's Law took effect May 11th, that law is for Domestics and Orders of Protection. You can get a warrant at the same time for the police to seize the weapon. I completed the Emergency Medical Response course, Deputy Chief Fajman and I completed "Mastering the Leadership Challenge in Law Enforcement". Our Monthly Police Law Training was on CIT and De-Escalation.

Special Events: Steger Police provided police presents at Columbia Central Track Meet, We provided traffic control for the Little League Parade and we provided an escort for Jimmy Martin.

Warning tickets are up 121% from last month. State tickets are up 17%, Local Ordinance Citations are up 33% and Misdemeanors are up 10%. Felonies are down 100% which is great. Case reports are up 22% and crashes are down 27%.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson We had earlier this month, the Little League Parade. We are starting to get some guys out on the weekends now that Summer is here. We have a few new applicants we are working through.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi Attendance for the Community Center for the end of April through May 19th; we had about 1500 people come through the door. We also have a new program starting, the Cartwheel Club; and it starts June 9th. It is tumbling classes for ages 4-10.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT Due to all the Village Officials being invited to the Columbia Central Graduation on June 2nd, we will be moving the board meeting to June 3rd or do we prefer to start earlier on the 2nd?

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to move the next Board Meeting to 5:30 pm on Monday June 2nd. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following

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Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

I would like to invite everybody in the public and the officials to the Memorial Day Celebration Remembrance at 10 am at Halsted Boulevard and Steger Road. This year the VFW is hosting. It will start a little earlier than that, but at 10 am the ceremony will start. Everyone is welcome to attend. After the ceremony there, then they will go over to the VFW Hall and they will have refreshments there for everyone.

Also, after our Committee of the Whole Meeting tonight, one of the subjects that we are talking about for the Farmer's Market, on your way out, help yourself to the fresh produce that is out in front of the Firehouse on the picnic table. It is a gift from the folks that are wanting to do a Farmer's Market.

VILLAGE CLERK No Report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None.

BILLS

Trustee Stewart made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski questioned: I don't see Fast Freddy's on here. Did we pay Fast Freddy's? Mayor Joyce: Yes. Trustee Perchinski: He did not fill those cracks in. Mayor Joyce: So, where he is today, we were out there today, the asphalt work is all done. They did the first coat of sealcoating on the walkways and around the ball fields. They have completed the asphalt where the bleachers were, what they did not expect was there was 6 inches of spongy material under the bleachers, so they had to remove that and add stone that was provided by the Village. It was compacted down, so that is complete. What is left is they are going to do a second coat on the seal coating, but before they do that, they are going to go through and fill all the cracks in. Trustee Perchinski: I noticed on that contract there was to pay them when the work is done, which I don't think we should do first of all, I think it should be board approval. Secondly, I did want that work done, but again, we never identified where that money was coming from. And, it's not just that \$14,000.00, it's the \$86,000.00 increase we are anticipating in our Health Insurance. Or, the money being spent on the detention pond by K-Mart. Who did that work? Mayor Joyce asked Dave Toepper who did the work. Dave Toepper: Thornton Equipment. Trustee Perchinski: Did that come before the board? I don't remember seeing that. Mayor Joyce: It is called maintenance. Trustee Perchinski: Even when paying an outside contractor? Mayor Joyce: If we don't have the ability to do it, we

hire contractors to do it. Trustee Perchinski: Just like the paving done. Mayor Joyce: We did approve the paving. Trustee Perchinski: Then why did we not approve these other jobs? Mayor Joyce: Because the paving was not normal maintenance. Trustee Perchinski: Was this normal maintenance to cut down the weeds? Mayor Joyce: Should have been done for the past 15 years. Trustee Perchinski: I just think something like that should come in front of this board. Mayor Joyce: so you want every decision that the departments have to make to come before the board? Trustee Perchinski: not every decision....Mayor Joyce: How do we determine that? Trustee Perchinski: How much money did we spend on the weeds? Mayor Joyce: the first one is in the bills. There is a second bill that will be coming. Trustee Perchinski: So how much is it? Mayor Joyce: First one was how much? Dave Toepper: \$3,500.00. Mayor Joyce: and what is the second one? Dave Toepper: I haven't seen it yet, but think it is around \$8,000.00. Trustee Perchinski: So, about the same as we spent on the paving. That is all I am getting at. Mayor Joyce. Okay.
Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1197: A RESOLUTION DECLARING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF VILLAGE TRUSTEE. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Mayor Joyce announced the appointment of James Hanus to the Trustee seat that was vacated by now Mayor Joyce. This term runs until 2027.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the appointment of James Hanus to the office of Village Trustee. Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Village Clerk Zagone gave James Hanus the Oath of Office, installing him as Village Trustee.

Mayor Joyce asked for roll call:

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Joyce was present.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer from Currie Motors with uplifting done by EVT for a total of \$64,367.25 at the request of the Steger Police Department. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Mayor Joyce: At this time I have one more announcement to make. The next phase of the Lead Line Service project has been awarded. It is going to the low bidder, 5-Star Energy who is currently working on the current phase, so they are going to continue on to the next phase. They came in roughly \$700,000.00 under the next bidder. So they are going to continue to work with Robinson Engineering.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Beth Butkus of 3033 Peoria St. came before the board with concerns about all the Vape/Smoke Shops and gambling. I don't know how much revenue they bring in, but I am sure it is a lot. I just think there should be limits on these types of businesses. Trustee Perchinski mentioned that the next meeting would be covering this subject. I went on line to get a list of current businesses in town. I was informed that that will be updated soon. I ask because, is there any way any of the businesses that are closed, especially smoke shops, gambling establishments, can remove their signs? I think it hurts the image of the town. Next, I want to thank the new board, the retention pond cleanup looks so much better when you come down Chicago Road. Most importantly, what you did for the Little League field was a miracle, and I know it cost money. It makes a big difference for our kids. Ms. Butkus also asked for an update on the house next to her Dad's on Steger Road. Mayor Joyce: I will talk with Dave Toepper, Village Administrator Seehausen and our Village Attorney to find out the status of this property.

Connie Lundin of 22735 Cottage Grove came before the board to get an update on the fence that was installed on Cottage Grove that is not to code. I want to know what the next step is to get the fence down. Mayor Joyce stated that he does not have an answer, and I don't want to make an excuse. I will talk with Dave Toepper, Administrator Seehausen and our attorney and I will call you tomorrow afternoon and we will talk.

James Thomas of 20 E 33rd Pl. came before the board to discuss his Barber Shop and programs he wants to provide for the community. He presented plans to have a barbeque in front of his business to offer free food and discount haircuts for the kids. After that he wants to offer First Responders and Community Workers a free week of haircuts. Since it is not Village Property, he just needs to talk to his neighbors. Village Minutes May 19, 2025, page 6

Administrator Seehausen is going to review the flyers and reach out to Mr. Thomas tomorrow morning.

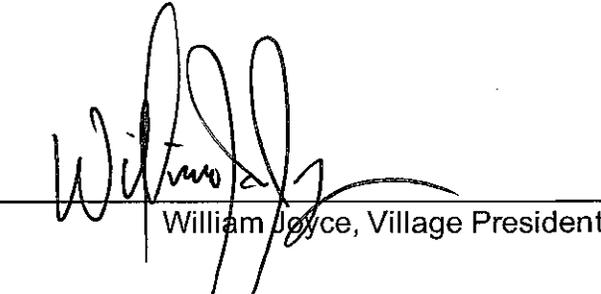
Jim Hicks of 3411 Green Street came before the board regarding cars going the wrong way on Green Street, which is one way and the condition of the alley between Halsted Blvd and Green St. Dave Toepper stated that repairs on the potholes are in the works. Mayor Joyce recommended getting with the Police Chief regarding speeders going the wrong way on Green St.

Before we end the meeting, I want to thank Dave Toepper and the Public Works guys for all the work they did around town the past three weeks, especially the parks. They did a phenomenal job. I want to thank the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the ESDA Chief for all the work they did to make sure the opening day went successfully for the Little League. There have been a lot of compliments on the park and on the parade. Thank you all very much. I'd like to thank Mary Jo in the office for keeping everything moving forward. With that I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

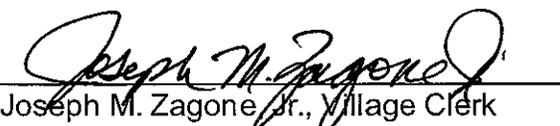
Being no further business:

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 7:31 pm.



William Joyce, Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk