

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 15th day of September 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; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Joyce was present. Trustee Stewart was absent.

Also present: Executive Administrative Assistant DaVanna Terry, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson and Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2nd meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Village Administrator No report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper For the month of August: Public Works repaired 19 water main breaks, we did 167 locates, the Building Department performed 54 inspections and issued 26 permits. The water tower rehab is scheduled to get started tomorrow with the welding service moving in to start doing some of the updates at the top of the tank.

Fire Chief Mike Long For the month of August, Steger Fire Department ran a total of 193 calls; 153 were medical, 40 fire and 31 mutual aid to surrounding communities. Brendan Munoz passed his National Paramedic Exam, so we have a functioning paramedic coming up soon. We had 4 new hires start this week and we have one more going through processing.

Police Chief Greg Smith The training for the month was called "Slower is Faster", I met with representative from Secure View, I also attended the 80th District Public Safety Advisory with State Representative Anthony DeLuca; I met with Steger Intermediate

Center Principal Solis to discuss the new drop off and pick up procedure. My administrative staff met with ILEAS Liaison. D.C. Fajman and I attended the 6th District State's Attorney's meeting; we also met with Crete Animal control, Monee Police and Crete Police and attended the Will County Animal Control meeting in Joliet. We discussed possibly adding on to their facility in Joliet or possibly putting something out East for us. Det. Darge and I attended the Bloom Trail monthly security meeting. Special Events that we took part in: Attended the CubeSmart Storage Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Steger Police & W.C.S.P. Auxiliary provided traffic control and security at "Jimmy Palooza".

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson EMA had 3 patrols over the last month. We had 4 assists to other towns and we assisted with "Jimmy Palooza" benefit.

Community Center Director Mayor Joyce reported: They have an upcoming children's Halloween event coming up the week before Halloween. More information will be posted on the Village Website.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer No Report.

MAYORS REPORT I would like to remind everyone that Octoberfest is September 27th and 28th on Halsted Blvd. They are currently accepting applications for vendors. There will be a band, Phoenix Rising. Sunday will be the Kiwanis Chile Cook-off and the Bears game will be shown on big screen. We have gotten some quotes for Station No. 38 roof repair. It will be coming up at the next board meeting. The roof is in very bad shape with multiple leaks. Upcoming this week, the Water Reclamation District has a virtual tour of the Deep Tunnel if you would like to do that, there is more information on the Village Website. You can see how the storm system works in our area. Bloom Township has a Spooktacular Skelebration, it is at Veteran's Memorial Park in Glenwood. It is open to the public and it is October 29th from 5-7 pm if you are interested in participating. Trustee Stewart is still under the weather, he is doing much better than he was, but, he still will be out for a little while. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

I have one appointment:

The Village Board of Trustees, the following individuals are named to the Naming Policy Committee, which will review and document their findings in a report within 6 months of their first meeting. Those named are: Patrick Rossi, Tory Recupito, Tim Perchinski, Michelle Helsel, Star Kaminski, Jason Stevenson. These positions will expire upon completion and adopting of the Naming Policy.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the appointments made by Mayor Joyce. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

VILLAGE ENGINEER No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None.

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available except for two bills for maintenance of motorized vehicle equipment for Mr. David Wheeler.

Being no second, Mayor Joyce asked for a new motion, at which time Trustee Trotier offered a second to the motion as long as we have enough funds. Trustee Trotier: Can you expand on the David Wheeler bills?

Mayor Joyce: We brought in a mechanic who fixed our Sewer Truck and went over our Wood Chipper and he is now asking to be paid.

Trustee Perchinski: So this person came in after hours, it is Bill's brother and he had no insurance. Trustee Trotier: so, what do we do about that?

Mayor Joyce: The decision on how to run the town should be left up to Mayor and the Department Heads. Trustee Perchinski: and, the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Joyce: That vehicle sat for 6 years and had never been fixed.

Trustee Trotier: Let's get down to the bottom line, it doesn't matter what happened, do we need insurance for this to happen? Do we need to hire people to come to the Village and be insured to do work? Is that a yes or a no?

Trustee Perchinski asked the Village Attorney's opinion. I don't mind paying the guy, but if he got hurt on that job, talk about screwing the Village over.

Trustee Trotier: We just want to make sure, is that a yes or a no, doesn't matter what or who happened. Do they need to be insured to work for the Village?

Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes: I think it is good business practice for the Village to require insurance.

Mayor Joyce: and, he will not be doing any more work until he turns in his paperwork, which he is going to do. But, at the end of the day, the work was already completed.

Trustee Kaminski: So, I am not asking if it is good practice, is it legal or not to hire someone like that. Attorney: Was there a contract? Mayor Joyce: there was no written contract. He came in and repaired the vehicle. Last time I checked, we don't ask any of our other 1099 vendors to hand over their insurance. He has agreed to do this, but I am more curious why you are so concerned about this one thing.

Trustee Perchinski: It's not just this one thing, there's many, many things like bringing in employees on a Sunday with Village Property.

Mayor Joyce: he did this work during the week, during the day.

Trustee Perchinski: There are many other things and this is just one. This is our job as trustees for checks and balances. We need to protect our town. It's not about this guy not knowing what he's doing, it's about making sure our town is properly protected.

Mayor Joyce: We have a motion to pay the bills minus David Wheeler and we have a second. Roll Call: The following Trustees voted aye: Trotier. The following Trustees voted no: Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond and Perchinski. Motion failed.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1337: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF WILL AND THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1338: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WARNING SIGN IN THE 3500 BLOCK OF MORGAN STREET. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

The owner of Dr. Air came before the board to describe the new business he wants to bring to Steger. This business was formerly Community Heating and Cooling, long standing business in Steger.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the new business license application for Dr. Air located at 3649 Chicago Rd.; pending inspections. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve Halloween Trick or Treat hours of 2-6 pm in the neighborhoods and 6-9 pm at Veteran's Park. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve a Special Event Liquor License for the American Legion for the two-day Oktoberfest Event: Saturday September 27th from 10 am to 10 pm and Sunday September 28th from 10 am to 10 pm. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Courtney Reynolds came before the board: I noticed in the Press Release today that my name and my Rescue was not mentioned in the investigation at that house in town. I was kind of curious about that because I gave them all of my evidence and I was not mentioned. Nor, was my name cleared, nor was my Rescue cleared. I talked to Sleepy Smith outside and he said he didn't even know who I was. I want to know what is going on. He acted like he's never seen me before in his life. They have spited my name and defamed my name, not to mention what John Darge has said about me, but, yet, John Darge was in the home today and hopefully between January and now he learned to count because before he could only see 2 dogs on the property. He was in the house on the property today and I seen over 10 dogs. I am just trying to get some clarification.

Mayor Joyce: As far as the public release statement, I did read it, I have a copy of it and I will ask for all the information that is pertinent to go to it. If there is need for it, it will be corrected. As far as disparaging your name, I have not heard that from any of the police officers. I have talked to all of them. I do not appreciate you referring to my Police Chief in that manner. Ms. Reynolds: I have no idea what his name is. Mayor Joyce: His name is Police Chief Greg Smith. As far as your animal rescue, I have not heard anything bad about it, Chief do you have anything you want to add to that? Chief Smith: No. We have never said anything bad about her thing and we do share stuff in common; we are both very passionate about our animals. We have a bunch of animal lovers and she definitely is an animal lover. Why we can't work together, I am not sure.

Ms. Reynolds: I help Steger PD, South Heights and Crete and Markam and Dolton, numerous Police Departments. I have answered numerous animal calls for Steger, anytime an officer calls me day, night, if they came to my house or called me. I was there to answer the call for them. I did more than one investigation for them. On my time, my

resources, my gas, taking time away from my family to help the Police Department because they don't want to do everything that is required for the investigation or to help the animals. I help them, sometimes daily. I even helped them with the hording case with cats and the dogs near the library. Mayor Joyce: we appreciate it...we truly do.

Ms. Reynolds: I just want my name and my rescue cleared. That's all. I will help these guys still, but not until my rescue is cleared.

Mayor Joyce: I will sit down and talk with the Chief tomorrow and then I will call you and set up a meeting. Ms. Reynolds: I want my name cleared. I want a press release, just like they defamed me, I want the press release for the public that says I was never lying about anything, my pictures and my videos about this house are not fabricated and if I do need police, fire or EMT assistance that I was denied by John Darge, I will get police or ambulance at my house if I need it.

There will be further discussion on whether or not body camera footage exists regarding a confrontation with a homeowner.

Mayor Joyce is going to look into all of Ms. Reynolds concerns.

Julie Stone of 3301 Hopkins St came before the board to ask when the next phase of storm drainage project will proceed. The Village Engineer stated that the Lou Sherman Drive Storm Sewer Improvements, I am currently working on right now. We are working with the Army Corp of Engineers on this project. The current schedule shows that the project will go to bid in the winter and the construction in 2026. So right now, we are looking at the funding because it is 75% Federal funding and 25% Local match so we are working with the Army Corp to see if there is any more funding that can be obtained. As of now, bid in the winter by Army Corp and construction to commence in 2026.

At 7:30 pm:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the Village of Steger: for the purposes of discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (1)

Trustee Hanus seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

At 8:02 pm:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to reconvene to discuss possible action regarding the purchase or lease of real property discussed in executive session. Discuss and possible action of matters related to employee compensation.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the independent contractor agreement we discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was

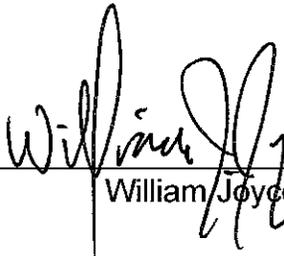
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called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

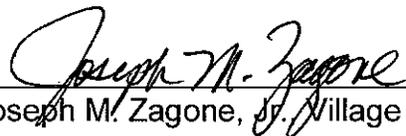
Being no further business:

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 8:03 pm.



William Joyce, Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk