

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 3rd day of August 2026 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, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski.

Village Clerk Zagone was absent.

Also present: Village Administrator Joseph Wiszowaty, Police Chief Greg Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone, Fire Chief Mike Long, Community Center Director Fay Kiaurakis and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers. Also present: Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes and Village Engineer Melanie Arnold. EMA Chief Jason Stevenson was absent.

RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Joyce brought up the Steger 250 Committee to be recognized for their efforts in organizing the Steger 250 Event that took place two weeks ago. Mayor Joyce also introduced Mr. Briggs of Modern Midway Carnivals of Steger, Illinois. Modern Midway Carnivals presented the Village of Steger with a check for \$40,279.00 as the Village's share of the Carnival revenue. Mr. Briggs stated that they travel all over the country, but wanted to bring something home to Steger. He complimented the Committee, the Trustees and the Mayor for their hard work toward a successful event. Mr. Briggs thanked everyone from inspections, the police department, EMA, public works, everybody chipped in and did a really great job. The event was very well put together and I want to thank the Mayor and the Committee.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve and remain closed, the Executive Session minutes of May 18, 2026 meeting as all members have reviewed. Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Stewart made a motion to approve and remain closed, the Executive Session minutes of June 1, 2026 meeting as all members have reviewed. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2026 meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Charles Paris, long time Miller Woods resident came before the board to discuss a clogged culvert on Sherman Road. Mayor Joyce will arrange for Public Works to evaluate the issue and see what can be done.

Mark Garrity of 314 Royal Oak came before the board with two things: We have two new stop signs on Steger Road, there is a light above flashing red one way and yellow the other way. There are no other warnings that there are stop signs out there. People are going through like crazy. It's a good idea. Mayor Joyce: The short answer is those stop signs were put there by Cook County. They are only supposed to be there temporarily until the road is re-opened which is slated for August 17th. I will make sure I call our Cook County representative tomorrow morning and reiterate your concerns. Mr. Garrity: That light should be red on all three sides. The other thing I want to mention is the storm we had last week was really bad. I know Miller Woods really had a lot of damage with the trees. If you are walking through the woods, please look up because I know 20, 30 feet up I have branches that are broke off and waiting to fall. Mayor Joyce: Thank you.

Gerald Brossmer: Good evening Mayor, good evening board, Mayor, I know you know me some people here also know me. I have a bone to pick with you Mayor. I was a Public Works Director for 20 plus years. In that 20 plus years I attended many events. What took so long for you to appear to do such a wonderful job on the party that took place in town from the security which I thought was going to be a nightmare, it was handled beautifully. I have never seen in 25 years a better festival than what Mayor Joyce put on for the town. Mayor Joyce: What I will say is that it was not just me. It was the committee, all the department heads and all the workers from the Village. Gerald: What a wonderful group and a wonderful joint effort. It was absolutely spot on Mr. Mayor. I hope there are many more and I hope you are in control of all of them.

Connie Lundin of Miller Woods came before the board and said, "I was going to say what he just said." I think it was awesome, everybody did an awesome job and then with the storm, man are we lucky we have the people we have working for Steger that we do. I know you guys were all out cutting trees and cleaning up. We are very fortunate to have the people that work for our town. I appreciate everything. I did miss one person at the Fest. Tim, where were you? Trustee Perchinski: I had family obligations. I was there for the parade.

Paul Mayer, I pretty much came here because of the storms. I noticed there are some interesting areas in our Village, particularly across the street here along Loverock going north from 34th Street and Loverock going north from 35th Street and then along the west side of Durham behind the homes going south to Richton Road by the park there are power lines that the residents have allowed the utility easement to become completely overgrown. Is the Village able to do anything, or if the Village is the owner to reduce the height of the trees and shrubbery directly underneath the power lines?

Mayor Joyce: The short answer is, it is a public right of way, it is public access for the utilities. Property maintenance for those rights-of-way is for the adjacent landowner to take care of. If you are in the neighborhood here on Wallace, you are supposed to take care of the parkway in front of your house from the sidewalk to the street and you are also responsible for half the alley behind your house. When they become overgrown, it doesn't happen a lot, but we try to help knock it down, but then it is up to the home owners to maintain it. Paul: The thing is, I don't know about the rest of the town, but I know in my neighborhood, most of the homeowners have fenced in to their property line directly underneath is fenced in and that is taken care of. The problem is, if you look at Durham and Dorsetshire, directly behind those property lines, the one that really sticks out is Loverock, Little Rock that just got put in, there are no homes between the street and the power lines, and that is what is overgrown. Then, south of 35th Street behind Dorsetshire from the power lines going towards the old folks community center is what is overgrown. I am not sure who owns that property.

Mayor Joyce: I do not know who owns that property, but we can look into that.

Hayley Lewis: This is my first time ever being at a Town Meeting but I have lived here my whole 28 years of life. I went away for College, but came back, I know a lot of people. I grew up here, my father has been part of the community. I am sure many of you are on Facebook, have seen all of the issues that we have with dogs getting out of their yards, whether by mistake or by not having a fenced in yard or not having a tie up for their dog. Our house isn't completely fenced in, we share a yard with our neighbor and that side is not fenced in. We have to physically close our gate in order to keep our dog in the yard. She has been with us for almost 8 years and is always on a tie up. I have never lost track of her once. For some reason, as I am sure all of you have seen, the issue with loose dogs has been increasingly worse. At least this past year, if not the past few years. I live over by Veteran's Park and it is to the point where I have four separate houses on my street alone where they don't have fenced in yards and their dogs are getting out and trying to attack not only people, but my dog. Just last Tuesday before the festival we were attacked walking to the park and I had to fight off my dog protecting herself as well as the other 70 pound dog. I don't know how many of you have ever had to split up a dog fight, it is not easy and it is not fun. Not many people can do it and when a dog is wanting to hurt a person or another dog, they are going to do it. There is no stopping it unless you have a physical item or a strong deterrent like maise. I have worked in animal welfare for the better part of a decade as well, so I know a thing or two when it comes to proper ownership of an animal. I don't know if this is something, obviously it is an owner error because there is no reason that you be so negligent that your dog, that you know is aggressive, is getting out attacking other people and their animals. There are proper ways to own animals like that, like I said I work in animal welfare. Those dogs can be just as good

to people, whether they like other animals or not. There is a proper way of owning them. I think it falls on the community to properly report this happening when I was attacked on Tuesday, my neighbor called the police because she saw this happening. No one came to save me until the owner finally came out their house and was able to pull their dog away. They were charged with dog at large, which is loose dog outside of their yard without a leash as well as aggressive dog/bite because he did pull blood from my dog. My issue, because I also work with low income families when working with animal affairs, my issue is not with the part of you can't afford to fence in your house, not many of us can, that is fair. I think my issue is keeping the people in town responsible and making sure they are properly charged and given the consequences for what is owed. Luckily we took care of that and the PD was really good about coming immediately, the officer had his fears of coming to that call, but he still came and properly executed the citations and I appreciate that. I don't know if this is something that the town can also work with when it comes to community aid and having resources to help people who can't afford to fence in their yards with access to tie ups for dogs because even though, it is not expensive for us which is a \$30 tie up, could be expensive for someone who is living paycheck to paycheck. Income is not what I am faulting these people with, it is negligence. It has become rampant in town, not only do we have this issue by Veteran's Park, one of my dog clients, she was walking her 90 pound Lab just down the street and she was attacked. She lives over on Susan Lane. It is a town wide issue that I am sure everyone is aware of. We are always seeing posts on Facebook about it. People need to get off Facebook and start making these people responsible. I don't know if it is something the Town can work with, making it known that there are options that these people can have, just education, because it has become a very large issue. If it were my father walking my dog or one of my neighbors, it could have been another story.

Mayor Joyce: Thank you. Please leave me your phone number. You can help me work on this. Make sure I have your information before you leave tonight.

Jim, do you have anything on this?

Jim Lewis: I am just kind of curious what the regulations are for having dogs in Steger. If they are not registered, what are you guys doing about it?

Mayor Joyce: If they are not registered, they are issued a ticket. The only way they can get a dog license in the Village of Steger is to show proof that the dog has had it's rabies shots. What we find most of the time is when they don't want to go get the dog tags because the dogs don't have their shots. If a dog bites, I believe it is a minimum of 4 tickets. They must appear in our local ordinance court. If someone is issued tickets relating to a dog bite or dog attack, you as victim are welcome to go to the adjudication hearing and the adjudicator will hear your side of the story before he makes judgement on that. I do know that all of our dogs that do bite, get a bite card and it is recorded, not only here, but with Cook and Will Counties. If it becomes a habitual thing with the same dog, then the County steps in.

Jim Lewis: It is terrible that my daughter can't walk a block to the park with our dog without getting attacked. Three times in a month, three different dogs.

Mayor Joyce: Please call 911.

Trustee Kaminski: I would like to offer my sincere thank you to the entire 250 Committee for the literal months of planning, preparation, talent and hard work that

made the Celebration an incredible success. I was grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the committee and to witness firsthand, the dedication, time and effort that went into making this all happen. I cannot say enough about our Public Works Department. Their tireless efforts before, during and after the Celebration was just amazing. They met every request we made and then some with a smile. Along with our Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management and too many volunteers and organizations to name, everyone worked together to make this a memorable and successful event. I would also like to extend a very special thank you to Steger Residents, Robert Briggs Sr. and Robert Briggs Jr. owners of Modern Midway Carnival. Through their incredible kindness and generosity we were able to provide Carnival Wristbands to several local families who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend. Just a few of the families that we were able to help was a family with five children who wouldn't have been able to pull it off. A widowed mother raising three children, these children had never experienced a carnival before and another family with three kids, one of whom has been battling pediatric cancer. For a few hours, those children and others were able to laugh, play, smile and simply be kids. Not only did the kids enjoy themselves, but the parents were able to watch their children be happy and to make memories together. Those memories are priceless. The Steger 250 Celebration was originally about celebrating our nations history, but it ended up being about so much more. It was a celebration of our community. Over the course of four days our little Village came together like I have never seen before. We shared meals, supported local vendors, enjoyed carnival rides, spent time with family and friends and reconnected with neighbors we had not seen for a while. We danced together, laughed together, watched children play, admired classic cars, witnessed a helicopter landing, listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence and honored those who have served our Country. Many denominations came together joined hands and prayed together. We lined our streets for the parade and stared in awe as the sky lit up with the fantastic Fireworks Show together, and so much more. Most importantly, we came together as a community. We honored our past and celebrated our present. It really was a celebration for every generation. Throughout the weekend I witnessed kindness, happiness, generosity and hometown pride. That is what Steger is all about. I couldn't be more proud to call this community my home and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who played a part in making the 250 Celebration a success. What was once just an idea, became a reality unlike anything we had expected. I would also like to say how proud I am of our Village for how we all handled the storm clean-up. From our Village crews to our Village employees, administrators, Village Board and residents, everyone pitched in as a community and once again did the best they could given the situation. Steger Proud.

Trustee Trotier – Board Mtg. Report

Thank You to Everyone Who Made Steger's America 250 Celebration a Success

As I reflect on the Village of Steger's America 250 Celebration – "A Declaration for Every Generation," I am reminded that truly great events are never the result of one person or

one committee. They are built by an entire community working together toward a common goal.

What began as a smaller celebration, quickly grew into something much larger than anyone anticipated. With that growth came new challenges, new ideas, and an incredible amount of planning. Yet, time after time, our volunteers, staff, sponsors, and residents rose to the occasion.

One of our biggest mountains we climbed was the accomplishment of selling 1,000 raffle tickets to help raise funds for the celebration that included a War Re-Enactment, Bands, a Professional Sound System, Kid Games, Movie in the Park (sponsored by School District 194), Parades, a Sing-Spiration, an Emergency Medical Helicopter, National Night Out, a Car Cruise, Craft & Food Vendors, a CARNIVAL, and much more. To everyone who purchased a ticket and/or helped to sell them—thank you. Your support made a tremendous difference.

I would especially like to recognize Lisa Rodriguez, for her dedication. Lisa visited businesses throughout Steger and neighboring communities, tirelessly promoting the raffle and encouraging support for our celebration. Her enthusiasm, commitment, and the ability to encapsulate her stress to meet the quota, exemplified the spirit of volunteerism.

A special thank-you also goes to our Traveling Spirit Committee, who visited local businesses, promoted them on social media, and helped build excitement throughout the community. Their efforts not only supported the celebration but also highlighted the businesses that make our community so special.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without our generous sponsors, whose financial support helped transform a vision into reality. We are equally grateful to everyone who attended the event, purchased raffle tickets, volunteered their time, and/or participated in the festivities.

Behind every successful event is a team of dedicated individuals working tirelessly, often without recognition. We owe our sincere appreciation to our many volunteers and organizations, including the Village of Steger Public Works Department, Emergency Management Services, Steger Police Department, Steger Fire Department, Will County Sheriff's Office, the K-9 Unit, our local spiritual communities, and many others who generously gave their time and expertise.

Having the opportunity to witness these teams in action was truly impressive. Their professionalism, quick response, teamwork, and ability to adapt to unexpected situations demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our community.

Just a few weeks before the celebration, the addition of a carnival significantly expanded the scope of the event. That decision required countless hours of additional planning, coordination, and strategic thinking. As attendance expectations increased, so did the importance of ensuring a safe environment for everyone.

Safety became our highest priority. Extensive measures were implemented, including a secure six-foot perimeter fence, controlled entry points, metal detectors, bag inspections, wristbands, professional security, and enhanced coordination among public safety personnel. These precautions helped create a welcoming and secure environment where all types of visitors including families could enjoy the celebration with confidence.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of all was not the entertainment, the fireworks, or the attractions, it was the collaboration. People from different departments, organizations, businesses, churches, and volunteer groups came together, shared ideas, solved problems, and supported one another with one common purpose: making the Village of Steger's America 250 Celebration a memorable experience for everyone.

This event was a reminder of what can happen when a community works together. Every volunteer, sponsor, employee, committee member, first responder, business owner, and resident played an important role in its success.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talents, ideas, resources, and unwavering support. YOU helped to create more than just an event—you created memories that will last for generations.

Together, we truly lived and experienced the spirit of "A Declaration for Every Generation."

REPORTS

MAYOR'S REPORT

I received two emails: First is from Michelle Helsel, School District 194 Board President, While I am so impressed with what each and every one of you pulled off over the past four days. From the Carnival to the acrobats to the vendors to the food trucks to the parade, the bands, the church service, the Fireworks. They were Disney worthy. Just incredible and I am so impressed. You all managed to breathe life and hope back into our community and I am forever grateful. As a thank you to everyone involved, School District 194 would like to provide lunch for the Committee, Police, Fire, EMA, Public Works for all your hard work as well as the volunteers. Looking forward to what next year brings. You made us all proud.

The second email I received: Mayor Joyce, I want to take a moment to congratulate you and your entire team on an outstanding 250th Celebration. I attended the festivities on both Friday and Saturday and I cannot tell you how impressed I was with every aspect of this weekend. Everything was incredibly well organized. It was evident how much planning and teamwork went into making it such a success. The Village Trustees, Staff, Police, Fire and Emergency Services as well as those from surrounding areas all did a phenomenal job. What struck me most was seeing so many of our students and their families enjoying time together and creating lasting memories. Things like this strengthen our community in numerous ways and the positive impact extends far beyond a single weekend. Thank you for your leadership

and for helping create such a memorable event for the students and residents of Steger. Please extend my sincere appreciation and the appreciation of our school board, the entire school district and everyone involved. Everyone should be proud of the success of this event. All the Best, Anthony McConnell, Superintendent District 194.

When we started this last year, my intention was to have a community picnic and a kiddie parade. Then I put Frank Elton, Lisa and about five other people on a committee and everytime I came back to the committee, there were new committee members that I did not remember appointing, but they were now committee members. I will say not every meeting was happy go lucky, there were some contentious moments. There was some bickering back and forth, but all in all, everyone worked well together. They asked what the budget was, well we don't have a budget for this event. It's whatever you can raise, that is what our budget is. The committee collectively raised over \$15,000.00 on their own. They did a raffle and Lisa Rodriguez was everywhere with that raffle. We had the American Revolutionary War reenactment, the cannons, the muskets, the tomahawks, spy trial and the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Then a copy of the Declaration of Independence was prepared with no signatures, and all the Committee members signed it. We had it all planned out with food trucks and vendors, then Mr. Briggs offered the carnival and we had to reconfigure the whole thing. It was the best Carnival I have ever seen. I thought the setup was great. It is a testament to the Briggs family and you should be very proud. Someone who hasn't been mentioned in any of this is Mr. Barkowiak. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes on our event to help make it a success. He did all the sound systems throughout the whole park. He brought in all the bounce houses. The whole premise of this event was we wanted stuff that was free in addition to the carnival. We lost count of armbands at 15,500 as of 1 pm on Sunday. I am still looking for the bucket with the left over armbands so we can get a final count. The final count will probably be in the area of 17,000. Because it was so successful and safe, I can only imagine, when we do this again, what it is going to become because it was a good time for everybody. I don't like taking credit for any of this, I just put together the right people and all the department heads and all the employees stepped up.

Mayor Joyce went on to announce an Emergency Declaration due to the storm that hit the Village of Steger on Monday July 27th, 2026. Mayor Joyce read the Proclamation which will be ratified later in the meeting. Mayor Joyce went on to describe help received from FEMA and Cook County who offered aid when the well house generator failed. He also offered thanks to the Village Board for making it possible to invite the Red Cross to set up in the community center where we still have families waiting for more permanent shelter. Mayor Joyce thanked Faye, Connie and Christine at the Community Center for stepping up and helping with donations that came in.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to accept the Mayoral Appointment of Cornell Hudson to the Steger Recreation Board.
Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

Village Administrator

I want to say thank you to the Public Works Crew, Roy, his whole team. Mike your whole team, Jason, Randy your whole team, Faye, your whole team. Paul Myers, the Police Department. Everyone pitched in and was doing what they needed to do. Even the mayor was out there cutting trees. Cindy, Tim, you were all out there doing what we needed to do. That made me proud to work in a place that everyone put aside personal issues we had, Tim, Star, Everybody. You all were pitching in. We all came together when we needed to come together. We got hit hard. Mike I think you got hit the hardest. When disaster hit, you got it done. I am proud to be a part of that team. The 250 thing was fantastic. I think everything has been said already, absolutely amazing. Incredible teamwork between all of us here making sure everyone had a good time and was safe.

As for my report, we have a lot of moving parts with the Disaster Declaration. We are working with the County, The South Suburban Mayors and Managers, Will County trying to get resources for the Village. They are slow in coming because there is a process. We declare an emergency, the county declares an emergency and eventually the state will declare an emergency. The mayor and I attended a meeting with other communities at Representative Martin's office. She had representatives from the state there. We are working to get more resources for Steger. We are closely monitoring our costs associated with the weather event. We are keeping track of it and will let you know what is going on and what kind of money we have gotten.

Trustee Perchinski: Joe, I have a couple questions. Mayor and the 250 committee, thank you, wonderful job. Our first responders on the storm clean-up have been just amazing. But, for the record, I just have a few questions for you Joe. Where are we at with the health insurance quote? You were going to reach out to Jeff Sopko? VA Wiszowaty: We haven't gotten quite that far because of going through the disaster thing, but I have reached out to Matt Glaros and we are trying to get our information and data to send to them to kind of give us a quote on that. I have not reached out to Mr. Sopko at this point. Trustee Perchinski: I know you have been busy. VA Wiszowaty: We will reach out to him once we kind of get a handle on that. That is on our list of things to get done. Trustee Perchinski: And, the website and garbage proposals? VA Wiszowaty: I was going to bring that up tonight as well. So, the garbage proposal, the team I have scoring that which is myself, Roy, Pete and Conrad are going to be doing the scoring, doing an evaluation, we're going to kind of come together on the garbage contract and make a recommendation. Preliminarily we are looking at least a 4% reduction on what we are paying today. So, it was a good thing that we were able to go out for the RFP. Those rates are subject to negotiation. We didn't do a bid, we did an RFP so we can negotiate those terms with the end vendor. As far as the website, we are going to be

making a presentation at the next Community of the Whole Meeting which I think is in two weeks. We will have a presentation from both potential providers.

Trustee Perchinski: At the last meeting we talked about the Vac Truck and I requested

the expenses on that thing over the last year and a half or so. VA Wiszowaty: Roy, do you have anything on the Vac Truck in terms of the expenses, the total cost of the

expenses for the Vac Truck? Roy Stone: not yet. VA Wiszowaty: Can you get that

together? Trustee Perchinski: Finally, I appreciate all the answers here, were we made

aware that the Fire Department was unable to burn the Berner house prior to or after the

purchase? Mayor Joyce: We did touch on that at the last meeting. It was in a condition

that the Fire Chief reported that it was unable to be burned by, it didn't fall within the

parameters because it had set open so long. Trustee Perchinski: Was that prior to or

after the purchase? Mayor Joyce: I can't answer that. I don't know. Trustee Thurmond:

Was there a reason for the question? Trustee Perchinski: I think the board might have

made a decision based on cost, including that demo cost which is another \$27,000.00.

Mayor Joyce: And, we have a DECO Grant that is paying us back for that entire cost of

the house and it covers the demolition. Trustee Perchinski: It is still tax payer dollars.

Mayor Joyce: It is from a DECO Grant which is made for improving the infrastructure or

the area. Trustee Perchinski: The grant is taxpayer dollars though. I do appreciate you

getting me that information, but I would like to know if you were told before or after the

purchase.

Village Attorney No report.

Village Engineer Good evening Mr. Mayor, board of trustees and residents of Steger. I

was able to come on Sunday. I was very happy to be there and very proud of a very

moving experience. Congratulations. I want to give a quick update on the MFT

Resurfacing project: The concrete work has been done for a few weeks, we have been

waiting for a handful of lead service line replacements to occur on Hereford and Green

Streets. That is going to be happening next week which means we will be able to move

forward with the asphalt milling and overlays which are slated to occur the week of

August 17th. The project should be completed by mid September. We are going to have

our preconstruction meeting for year 3 Lead Service Line Replacement project, so we

will be able to finalize exactly when those replacements on Hereford and Green are

happening. There was further discussion on the difference in asphalt mix.

Police Chief Greg Smith

I would like to defer my report to the next meeting. Tonight I would like to thank you for

the National Night Out, I would like to thank Cook County Sheriff's Police, Will County

Sheriff's Police and Lake County Indiana Sheriff's Police for coming out. I would like to

thank Frank from Bambino's for the hotdogs for National Night Out, they were a big hit.

Alias for the radios, they provided, we actually ran out of radios for the people working

the event. I want to thank Beecher and Crete for sending their officers out as well.

Fire Chief Mike Long

During the month of July, the fire department experienced an exceptionally heavy response volume, running a total of 270 calls for service. This represents an increase of approximately 120 calls over our typical monthly average. We ran a total of 181 EMS runs, 89 fire runs, and 44 mutual aid responses provided to neighboring communities.

A significant portion of this increased workload was driven by two major local events. First, our personnel provided coverage for the four-day Village 250th Anniversary Festival, which generated approximately 30 calls for service over the course of the event. Second, the major severe storm that swept through town last Monday created a massive surge in emergency responses across our district.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all Village department heads, the Mayor's office, and the Village Board for their hard work, leadership, and seamless coordination during the response and cleanup following that storm. Despite several of our own firefighters suffering personal storm damage to their homes, our personnel remained in service, staffing equipment and providing uninterrupted assistance to our residents when the community needed it most.

On Saturday we responded to a working structure fire in a residential occupancy. The fire was successfully contained to the upstairs bedrooms and the homeowner and her animals were safely evacuated and our crews executed a fast and effective fire cap. Finally, on August 22nd of this month, we are bringing back the Fire Fighters Association Street Dance. We are partnering with the Community Center who will be hosting the Rib Cook-off during the day. We will be providing entertainment by Five Guys Named Mo at the Firehouse on Emerald Ave behind the Police Station. We are finalizing some details tomorrow so we will get more information out then.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone

Good evening,

The Steger 250 Celebration was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped plan and worked the event. Thank you to all residents from Steger and the surrounding towns who came out and supported the Steger 250 Celebration.

Storm Damage: Please leave tree branches at the curb for Public Works as Public Works will not go onto private property to collect trees and branches. Currently, there are two crews out with trucks and chippers working daily. These crews are working as fast and safely as they can. Please give grace as cleanup will take some time. Complaining on social media will not speed up the process.

Flooding: Dumpsters are located at the corner of 36th Street and Hopkins Street and 32nd Street and Morgan Street. Residents are encouraged to bring items that were destroyed due to flooding or from the storm to these dumpsters. Please do not put branches, limbs, or yard waste into these dumpsters. At this moment, they are full and will be exchanged tomorrow morning.

Storm Cleanup Assistance: IDES has a volunteer program. They are asking residents who need assistance with cleanup to fill out the online Storm Cleanup Assistance Request form.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis

Fay handed out packets with pictures of what has been going on with the Community Center. As of Monday, the Red Cross has set up a shelter in the Community Center. Christine, Nick and I called every member we have to check on them the day after the storm. We also let everyone know that all programs and parties are suspended until further notice. Once the Red Cross leaves we will resume our programming. We do currently have Tai Chi classes on the usual days and times outside in the park across from the Community Center. We had 12 families stay at the shelter Monday night, Red Cross fed 50 people free meals. Tuesday we had 17 stay with 67 beds. Wednesday we had 20 stay, 78 beds. Thursday we had 26 people stay and fed 126 people. Friday we had 15 people stay and we fed 120 people. Saturday and Sunday we had about 20 people stay and fed 70 people. The Red Cross will be with us for at least the rest of this week. We hosted a free shop for everyone impacted by the storms. We had 17 truck loads of clothing, toiletries, diapers and shoes to offer. We only had one truck load left after people shopped for 2 ½ days. We donated the rest to a facility that will finish distributing them for us. I want to thank Connie Lundin and Christine Myers for staying the entire time. Christine and Connie helped me in the pouring rain, packed up all the stuff and put it back in the truck. I also want to thank Star Kaminski and Dr Anthony Graziano for allowing us to use the School Cafeteria for the free shop. I also want to thank Laura from Community Closet and her volunteers. Tim Perchinski, Julie Stone, Lisa Rodriguez, Barb Recupito, Manny Mack, Ramona DeLaRosa, Mary Beth and Barbara for volunteering at the shop. Thank you to Erica English of My Path, My Purpose, The United Way, the Village of Hazel Crest Mayor, Trustees and EMA, the city of Joliet's EMA for donations to the Free Shop. Thank you to Sam and Jesus from Verizon for their charging stations, Trustee Steve Thurmond for all the water. The Village of Hazel Crest for the 1,000 prepackaged meal kits they gave us. The Red Cross and their volunteers for all that they have done. Cook County EMA and anyone else who helped. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. I have a huge thank you to Christine for taking care of the three children we had in our gym the day of the storm. When I got the alert I told them to get to safety and I notified the Police and Fire Chiefs to let them know where they were. Lastly, I have special thank you to Cindy Trotier, Jim Hanus and Mayor Joyce for personally helping me with my three tree limbs that fell on my house, car and cable line.

EMA Deputy Chief Jack Willett

I do not have a report, but I would like to thank Manhattan EMA, South Holland EMA, Fire Department Cadets and all of our members and reserve members that went above and beyond for the fest. Thanks also to Jake who went all three nights. Everybody did a good job.

Code Enforcement Paul Myers

Mr. Mayor and Trustees, Steger Residents: The Carnival was a huge success. Thank you to all our residents and staff for coming out to help. Same thing with storm damage. It was very extensive. We had over 105 mph winds reported by the National Weather Service. We still have 10% of residents without power. We have 65% of residents out of internet. We will continue to meet with Will County EMA and Will County Command Staff everyday at 10 o'clock. We have replaced over 65 poles in the town of Steger and we have replaced the infrastructure in some parts of Steger. Remember generator safety: we have had one death, we don't need anymore. The generator needs to be outside, does not need to be in the garage or basement. Put it outside.

TRUSTEES REPORT

BILLS

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to pay the 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

Mayor Joyce presented a letter from the Cook County Department of Highways that they are please to inform the Village that improvements are to begin on the bridge rehabilitation over Deer Creek. The improvement will take place where Steger Road crosses over Deer Creek.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1216-2026 A Resolution Ratifying the Mayor's Proclamation Declaring a Local State of Emergency Resulting from the Severe Storm Event of July 27, 2026, and Authorizing Continued Emergency response and Recovery Actions. Synopsis: this ratifies Mayor William J. Joyce's Declaration of a State of emergency from July 28, 2026 and continues that for an additional thirty (30) days.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Stewart made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1217-2026 A Resolution Authorizing and Approving an Emergency Services Agreement Between the Village of Steger, Cook and Will Counties and Excel Electric, Inc. Synopsis: This Resolution waives the competitive bidding requirements due to an emergency and authorizes electrical improvements at Well House #3, including the installation of a new electrical service, manual transfer switch and 45 KVA transformer. The total project cost is \$39,330.00 to be paid from Account 001-00-39750 - Disaster Relief

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Trustee Perchinski: I have just a couple of questions. Mayor Joyce: Let me explain something, then I will take your questions. What these are, Well House #3 initially lost power, we went on generator power. Once ComEd came back on line a few hours later, we don't know if it was a lightning strike or an electrical surge from ComEd, it fried the breakers, the battery back-up, the VSD Board that controls the well as well as the computer boards in there and the variable speed drive. These repairs have to be made or the well stays out of service. Questions: Trustee Perchinski: Vlado, did you look at the language in this contract? Attorney Vranjes: Yes I looked at it. Trustee Perchinski: There is an 18% monthly late fee on this. I know this work needs to be done. Is there a way we can negotiate that out? And, while we are doing that can we clarify what normal business hours are? Clarify if there is any warranty on labor or parts? Also, it talks about an enclosure. Are we going to have to build an enclosure? Mayor Joyce: For everyone who does not understand how a well house works, our electrical systems that are in the buildings, due to corrosive nature of the chemicals that are inside the building cause the electrical components to corrode at a rapid rate and fail much sooner than they would if they weren't in that environment. We have to put this new stuff in, we will be building a 2 foot extension on the side of the well house and put the electrical components outside in an enclosure so that they are not in the chemical rooms. Trustee Perchinski: Are we going to have Scott do it? Mayor Joyce: Scott and/or Tyler, but Public Works is going to take of this in house. VA Wiszowaty: It should be worth noting that the damage that was caused by this electrical anomaly is going to be submitted to our insurance company. It is quite extensive in terms of loss that would exceed our deductible. That was all submitted to the Insurance Carrier along with the report from the Electrical contractor for them to make a determination. They will have an inspector out to evaluate the claim. Mayor Joyce: The one thing that is an addition here is the manual transfer switch. This is an insistence on my part. The ComEd feed will come into a manual transfer switch, the bottom of the transfer switch will be set-up for emergency generators so we don't have to spend \$15,000 to get an electrician in the middle of the night to plug cables in. VA Wiszowaty: And, there is no generator at well 3 at all, so if we lose power, we have no water. Mayor Joyce: With the manual transfer switch, if we have to borrow the generator from Cook County, it allows us to have Public Works set it up and plug it in. Trustee Perchinski: So about these other two things, is there any way you could negotiate that out? Attorney Vranjes: Sure. Trustee Perchinski: So we have the 18%, the warranty and the normal business hours. Trustee Stewart: Parts will be warranted by the manufacturer and by state law, labor will be for 12 months by any contractor in the state. So at a minimum, we have that. If you are looking for more than that, that is what you pursue.

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

BOARD ACTIONS

Mayor Joyce: There was a request made by Circle K for a pour license, remodel the Circle K and build an addition on the south side for a gaming room. This is the fourth gas station in town, the other three all have this. In this Circle K has agreed to tear down the eye sore car wash that has been there for 15 years. Tammy Taylor, representing Circle K was present. She offered renderings to the trustees and confirmed that the plan is to tear down the car wash. No date has been set to take the car wash down.

Trustee Hanus made a motion to approve a License to Sell Alcohol at Retail for Mac's Convenience Stores, LLC DBA Circle K #4701476 at 3507 Chicago Road, Suite B, Steger, IL 60475-1616.

Being no second: The motion dies.

Mayor Joyce: Vlado, please review our liquor ordinance, I believe we have the license available on the books, so it doesn't need board approval. If that is the case, please let me know and I will inform the trustees.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a Business License for Elissa Group, Inc. at 3008 Louis Sherman Drive, Steger, Illinois for Khaled Elissawi Retail Indoor Used Automobile Sales pending inspections. Trustee Hanus seconded the motion.

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

At 8:25 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), for discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the Village of Steger; and 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 Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

At 9.05pm:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to reconvene the regular session of the Village Board Meeting. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. 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 9:10 pm.

William Joyce, Village President

Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk