

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 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.

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

**RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Village Engineer Melanie Arnold gave a presentation regarding the Village of Steger's water infrastructure improvement project that has been developed through meetings with Mayor Joyce, Village Administrator Wiszowaty, Public Works Director and the Water Operator in charge to understand the Village Water Infrastructure needs and develop a plan to move forward with. The three areas of need in the Village are: Capacity, Distribution and Water Quality. This evening the board will be asked to vote on a task order, Task Order Number 3 which would include a water systems analysis, a hydraulic model in preparation for IEPA Project Plan for submission to secure funding. The future needs at this time as determined by Robinson Engineering include, Future Well #4, Well House 2 Building and Site Improvements, Well House 3 Building and Site Improvements and Water Main replacements broken down by need into 3 phases. These would include looping of dead-end lines. Current needs total approximately \$16 million. We are applying for SRF Funding through the IEPA which would include a low interest rate of 1.62% with up to 25% forgiveness. On a \$16 million loan, the Village would see forgiveness in the area of \$4 million. If passed by the board tonight, we could have a project plan approved by March of 2027 which would put the Village of Steger in the running for funds to be approved by the IEPA by the end of June of 2027. The water system as it is today could not handle additional new homes or businesses. Adding a 4<sup>th</sup> well would allow for growth in the community. Mayor Joyce added that a new well would most likely be located on the east side of town near Rte.394 to allow for commercial development in that area and to provide long promised fire hydrants to areas that do not currently have them for fire protection.

## **MINUTES**

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2026 meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.  
Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

## **REPORTS**

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Joyce gave a report on Steger 250 Event and Carnival is ready to kick-off on Thursday and will run through Sunday. Mayor Joyce gave a rundown of events, times and programs reading from the list of events advertising the event.

Cook County notified the Village today, July 20<sup>th</sup> that they will be closing Steger Road east of State Street on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will be in the Cook County Presidents office discussing the late closure notice and see if we can push it off to a later date.

There is a notice that will be put out stating changes to the Village of Steger Utility Bills. Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 is your utility bill going to double? The answer is NO. The Village of Steger is implementing important updates to the Utility Billing to improve customer service and support critical water and sewer infrastructure investments. All utility customers will transition to monthly billing. Minimum usage decreases from 670 cu. ft bi-monthly to 335 cu. ft monthly. Your water rate changes from .0563 to .1039 per cubic foot. Capital Improvement and Debt Service fee will be \$6.00 per month beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Next year it will increase to \$8.50 and then adjusts annually thereafter. There is a \$100.00 fee to reconnect your water service after it has been disconnected for nonpayment. Sewer rehab charges fees change from \$13.34 bi-monthly to \$6.67 monthly. Qualified senior citizens enrolled in the Illinois Benefit Access Program or BAP will receive no minimum usage, no capital improvement and debt service fee and a \$16.88 monthly credit will be available after verification. Multi-unit properties served by one water meter will be assessed sewer rehab, capital improvement and debt service fees based on the actual number of units served. If you have any questions you can contact the Village of Steger utility billing department at Village Hall. You can visit the Village Webpage at [villageofsteger.org](http://villageofsteger.org) to find a calculator to see what your new bill will be or you can bring your bill to Village Hall and we will calculate it for you.

We have been notified by Thorncreek by letter notifying us that they are adjusting up the fees they are currently charging residents for their service. Once we decipher what the change will be, we will pass this on to you before it goes into effect by Thorncreek.

One note I would like point out everyone, if you filling a swimming pool, please contact the water department before you do that so that you can get a water reading when you start and another when you are done so that you don't pay a sewer charge on water going into the pool.

The Village has received a letter from the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, Anthony DeLuca our state representative and Patrick Joyce our Senator showing an update on the amounts of money for DECO Grants that were awarded to the Village. The total sums are: \$500,000.00, \$250,000.00 we were just awarded for new infrastructure improvements. Ones we have existing that we are using are \$100,000.00, \$200,000.00, \$75,000.00, \$25,000.00, another for \$100,000.00 and another for \$100,000.00. These total \$1.3 million came from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. This money is being used in various capacities, I believe \$300,000.00 of it is going for retention pond dredging, that we are working on getting quotes. \$500,000.00 went to purchase a building, another \$100,000.00 went to purchase another building, we have a couple other grants that paid for the water tower work that we did last year.

The last bit of information that I received today which will be news to everyone, working with Conrad Kiebles, a representative from Robin Kelly's office, we have reached out to the rural development portion of the Federal government and the results is the Village of Steger appears to be eligible public body applicant for a water and environmental programs. Our population has 9,584 with a medium income of \$53,427.00 for the 2021 census. Improvements to our water system and flooding midigation efforts appear to be eligible under Federal projects for water and environmental assistance. That was the first part of it, we also comply that we are eligible for a community facility direct loan program through the Federal Government to make necessary improvements to Community Centers, Police Stations, Fire Stations, Equipment, Child care, Education, Town Halls and Court Houses. We will be pursuing these aggresively with Conrad through the Federal Government for additional funding which may offset what we are doing here.

**VILLAGE CLERK**      No report.

**Village Administrator**

I am pleased to report that the Village received two responsive proposals for residential refuse collection services. We will begin conducting our comprehensive evaluation of each proposal utilizing the established scoring criteria. We will also be participating in interview process with proposers to further evaluate the pricing, level of service, operational capabilities and the contract terms to assure that the Village secures the lowest responsible cost together with the highest quality of service for our residents. Issuing a competitive RFP at this time was a prudent decision, several municipalities in the southland and northwest Indiana have realized measurable cost savings and improved services through this process. Our preliminary review indicates that the residents of Steger will receive a reduced cost beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally, we will be reviewing the proposals received for the Village's website at the next Community of the Whole meeting. The goal is to select a platform that provides improved accessibility, transparency and communications while offering residents a more modern and user-friendly online experience. Mr. Mayor, that concludes my report. Trustee Perchinski: Back in March when we were doing the budget hearing, I brought up the fact that I really felt that the health insurance was going to go up and maybe the conglomerate with a whip was not the best option. We spoke about consensus, have you gotten anywhere with that? VA Wiszowaty: I have reached out to the representative with Hub Insurance. He is going to be doing a comprehensive evaluation of our insurance over the next several months to determine whether we can retain our current insurance plan, while offering additional plans as an option. Trustee Perchinski: Have we considered going to a local man, we have a local broker that has a great business here. VA Wiszowaty: I have not, I have only been working with ones that have been working with municipalities, so if they work with municipalities, I can talk with them. Trustee Perchinski: For Jonny Rockets, have we gotten that contract? Mayor Joyce: I did receive a working agreement, I received it today at 5 pm. I will send it out as soon as I can scan it.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Village Engineer** No report.

**Police Chief Greg Smith**

### **Meetings, Conference and Training:**

#### **Police Law**

This month's **Legal Update & Review™** reviews current statutory and case law regarding the use of drones by hobbyists, businesses, criminals, and law enforcement.

Topics include:

An introduction to unmanned aircraft;  
Federal drone law;  
Federal crimes involving drones;  
Illinois drone laws;  
Investigating drone violations; and  
Uses of drones by law enforcement.

Chief Smith received training on "CIT & De-Escalation" & "Officers Legal Questions Answered 2026".

Chief Smith met with ILEAS Coordinator – Received twenty (20) Starcom Radios for the fest.

Department wide CPR continued.

Sgt. Lane and Det. Hoppe attended "Officer Involved Shooting" training.

Rifle qualification.

Chief Smith attended LCC Operations Budget Meeting.

**Special Events:**

250<sup>th</sup> Meeting

School District 194 Luncheon.

Attended Game Night at the Community Center

**New Business:**

Amendment to Service Agreement – Andy Frain

Andy Frain has submitted an Amendment to the Service Agreement (see attached) for billing of crossing guards and crossing guard supervisors. I have also attached the contract from 2024. Previous or current rate \$23.14 an hour. The new proposal is \$24.04 an hour, or \$.90 an hour increase.

**Fire Chief Mike Long**

All I have tonight is we look forward to the event this weekend. If you are coming out to see the helicopter, be there promptly as they will not be here very long.

**Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone**

Good evening,

Public works has been extremely busy with daily operations including patching previous water main breaks and cleaning up extensive tree damage from the storm on July 9th. The chipper truck has been out and will continue with an estimated cleanup time of 5 to 6 weeks.

Once again thank you to EMA and Code Enforcement for providing additional boots on the ground for traffic control, cleaning catch basins, and tree removal following the storm and flooding on July 9th. The much-needed help was appreciated.

The recent flooding has exposed many infrastructure failures in catch basins and storm sewers. One issue was a sinkhole found at the intersection of 32nd and Florence. M&J Underground was called in to televise the 48-inch storm sewer and make repairs. The sewer had separated at the joint of the pipe.

Public works is also an essential piece in the preparation of the Steger 250 Celebration taking place later this week.

Mayor Joyce added that we have met with Robinson Engineering, we are preparing a phase study of smoke testing the combination sewers on the Northwest portion of town to find out where the sewers are tied together.

**Community Center Fay Kiaurakis**

I want to say Thank you to Trustee Kaminski for helping with the hotdogs for our campout. Thank you, Miss Connie, for helping with donuts for our basketball players.

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Go Steger 250 and see you this weekend!

**EMA Chief Jason Stevenson**

No report.

**Code Enforcement Paul Myers**

Good evening everyone, can't wait to see everyone this weekend and have a good time.

**TRUSTEES REPORT**

**BILLS**

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

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: Is GWA usually \$9,500.00 per month?

VA Wiszowaty: Yes. That is the contracted price.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**      None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1353-2026 An Ordinance approving an amendment to Ordinance # 1343-2026 (Salary Ordinance) Synopsis: this Ordinance establishes salaries for Police Records Assistant and Records Clerks and establishes Event Stipends for EMA Members.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

**BOARD ACTIONS**

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve an Addendum to the Original Agreement dated July 19, 2022 with Andy Frain Services, Inc. for Crossing guard Services to the Village of Steger term of agreement from July 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027.

Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve a proposal for emergency Demolition of a Village Owned property at 3541 Hopkins, Steger, Illinois with Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. in the amount of \$26,200.00.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mayor Joyce: Once the \$26,200.00 is approved for this, it will be eligible for reimbursement through the DECO Grant of \$100,000.00 that we used to purchase the building. Trustee Perchinski: You mentioned that we were going to use the Fire Department. Mayor Joyce: Our Fire Chief will be happy to explain that. Fire Chief Long: The building did not meet the requirements for burning as a training opportunity. It is too close to the Community Center, the building behind it and it had already partially collapsed. The EPA would not give us a license to burn with a partially burned structure. It has to be fully intact and able to have inspections done on it plus it is awfully close to the Senior Center. There were a lot of strikes against us on this one.

Trustee Perchinski: We probably should have had that discussion before we approved buying the building.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve service repair with EJ Equipment, Inc. on pump of Sewer Jetter Vehicle, estimated at \$7,723.35 with an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 to be paid from 06-0031700 and 07-00-31700.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Trotier: Motion to approve, the numbers are the same? VA

Wisowaty pointed out the GL numbers are different: 06 and 07. Trustee Perchinski

asked how much we have put into this truck? Mayor Joyce: This is not the vacuum part of the truck. This is the physical jetting of the sewer rodder jet and it's on the truck.

Trustee Perchinski: Yes, but I am asking for the vehicle, how much have we put in.

Mayor Joyce: I couldn't tell you off the top of my head. Trustee Perchinski: Could you get

that together for me? Mayor Joyce: Previous repairs were for a different part of the truck.

I will get those numbers to you as soon as they are available. Trustee Perchinski: It is a

1989? Mayor Joyce: 1990. Trustee Trotier: Do we know what an actual truck costs? VA

Wisowaty: A demo is \$450,000.00. Mayor Joyce: They go anywhere from \$450,000.00 to \$1.2 million. When we contract out to have someone else do this work it can be \$600 to \$1,000 per hour.

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

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve a Municipal Vehicle Program Agreement with PACE for municipal vehicle for Village use.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Hanus made a motion to approve Pace bus Division Drug and Alcohol Policy and Testing Program as revised.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan (SSEPP) in conformity with PACE's SSEPP.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Joyce: Just so everyone is aware, the three policies we just passed allow us to benefit from the hard work of Conrad Kiebles who worked with PACE over the last few months. Within the next three weeks, once I sign the agreement with them, we will have a community vehicle available for seniors and residents. It is handicap accessible, it has a wheelchair lift. The slated hours for this bus to be used will be from 6 am to 6 pm Monday – Friday and from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturdays. You will be required to call 24 hours before use to see if there is slot open. It will be housed at Village Hall and I will be getting something out to let everyone know when it has been put in service. Trustee Trotier asked if it will serve Will and Cook counties. Mayor Joyce stated it is for all of Steger. The bus will be able to travel north as far as I-80, west to I-57, south to Goodenow Road and east to the state line. We are waiting for exceptions to go to 3 facilities in Dyer.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve Scope for the Drainage and Stormwater Infrastructure Review Committee Scope.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Joyce: This committee is the Drainage and Stormwater Infrastructure Review Committee. There have been a lot of residents who have expressed their expertise in this field and want to point out how they can help. This committee is being created because I am going to ask those residents to participate in the review process instead of claiming they are in the dark so they can be part of this process. Our village engineer will be on it, our director of public works will be on it as well as some of the other staff that we have that work with flood mitigation. If you are interested in being part of the Drainage and Stormwater Infrastructure Review Committee, before you leave tonight, please leave you name and phone number and email address with our Village Administrator.

## **Mayoral Appointments**

Mayor Joyce Named Ralph Gazzillo and Tracy Jimenez to the Recreation Board.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to approve the Mayoral Appointments to the Recreation Board. Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Hanus made a motion to approve Task Order 3 Water System Analysis, Hydraulic Model and preparation and Submission of IEPA Project Plan by Robinson Engineering.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

At 8:13 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 Trotier seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried

At 8:49 pm:

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

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Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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William Joyce, Village President

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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk