

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 8th day of September 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, Community Center Director Fay Kiaurakis and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers. Also present: Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes. Fire Chief Mike Long, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson and Village Engineer Melanie Arnold were absent.

RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS None

MINUTES

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2026 meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.
Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kathy Hannah of Miller Woods came before the board with questions regarding the most recent Warrant List of Bills for the Village of Steger. She first questioned facility cleaning fees of nearly \$12,000.00. Mayor Joyce: That cost was due to extra cleaning at the Community Center following it's use by the American Red Cross as a shelter following recent storms. Ms. Hannah then questioned payments to Cannon Financial Services. Ms. Hannah then questioned payment to West Water Wood Working for almost \$11,000. Mayor Joyce: These bills covered outside service for Tree Service for branch and tree removal following recent storms. Ms. Hannah then questioned payment of \$38,800 for generators for Excel Electric. Mayor Joyce: during the deratio when the power went out in town, we had to pay Excel Electric to hook up the generators to the wells so the water would work. Ms. Hannah: My other question is: Heritage F/S, Inc. for \$22,000. What is that? Mayor Joyce: That is our fuel company that supplies Diesel fuel and gasoline to the Village. Ms. Hannah: Secure View, Inc. for \$23,000. Mayor Joyce:

This is for camera systems being installed at the Community Center, Village Hall and Department of Public Works, Fire Station and the Parks. Ms. Hannah: Then we have Brites Carthage for almost \$4,000. Mayor Joyce: this is for stone used to back-fill for water main breaks. Ms. Hannah: Then, \$39,000 for M&J Underground, Inc. Mayor Joyce: That is for sewer repairs. Ms. Hannah: I also have a question on our last meeting, I thought we were talking about garbage today? Mayor Joyce: It will be on the next meeting.

Connie Lundin of Miller Woods commented that the Tree Company that cleaned up the storm debris in front of her house did an awesome job. Ms. Lundin also questioned when Surf Internet will be coming down her street (Cottage Grove Ave.) Mayor Joyce: I do not know. Right now they are on the south east side of town in Will County.

Danny Peich came before the board stating that the branches had been picked up, but the larger logs are still on his parkway. Mayor Joyce: Once they get done with what they are doing now, we still have to go around one more time to pick up the bulk items that are left. They will eventually be picked up. Any tree stumps in the parkway will be ground out between now and next spring.

Trustee Thurmond: I just want to give you an update, we have Oktoberfest coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 25, 26 and 27. Friday is from 5-11 pm, Saturday from 11 am – 11 pm and Sunday is from 11 am – 6 pm. Our events include Friday night Karaoke, Saturday: Kid's Games, Scarecrow Contest, Pumpkin Carving, Bounce Houses for Kids, Bob E. Lee Band, Rockaholics. Sunday: Polka Band, Chile Contest, Football, Kid's Games, Food Vendors, Craft Vendors, Police and Fire will be taking part in activities. We are working on adding more to the event. Please follow our Social Media, Facebook and Website for more details. We are hoping to make this really good event for everyone.

A resident questioned if the Village has generators for the well houses. Mayor Joyce: We have a generator that has been on well houses 1 and 2. Sometime in the distant past they did an upgrade to the circuit board on it. When the power went out the board was found to not be the right one for that generator so it didn't run. The generator is not yet fixed and the estimate to fix it is very expensive. Right now, we have an agreement with Cook County Emergency management who has generators available if we need them again. We approved a change to add manual transfer switches outside the buildings that will allow us to plug the generators in and just throw a switch rather than paying \$38,000 to an electrical company to hook up. We will have water in the event of another catastrophic event.

REPORTS

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Joyce: Tomorrow I will be attending a training session with the Illinois Liquor Commission on how to perform inspections and verify that our Liquor License holders are complying with State Law. Other than that, on Friday is the 25th Anniversary of September 11th when the planes crashed into the World Trade Center. We will be having a Memorial Service at the Gazebo by the Veteran's Memorial. It will start at 9:59 am, it will end by 10:30. It will be posted to social media tonight. Public Works with help from others will place 477 American Flags in front of the Police Station and then another 477 Flags in front of the Memorial that will honor the lives of Firefighter, Police, Paramedics and Military personnel that perished that day.

Mayor Joyce then went on to read a Proclamation Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to make the Mayor's Proclamation making September 11, 2026 a day of remembrance in honor of the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001 part of the permanent record.

Trustee Thurmond 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

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I have a few updates for you this evening. We currently have the request for information outstanding with both garbage service proposers. This is why we are not making a decision on this tonight. Once I receive this information, I will get this compiled and submit it to the board of trustees for your review and consideration. I anticipate bringing this back before the Village Board for a decision at the September 21st meeting with the proposed contract anticipated for consideration and approval by October 5th so that we can begin that transition process.

We will be having a Committee of the Whole meeting on September 21st before our regular meeting regarding the proposals for the Village Website. This will provide the board the opportunity to review the proposals, discuss the options and provide direction before moving forward on that.

With regard to the storm debris and tree limb clean-up: Our contractors for tree limb pick-up should be substantially finished this week with some final clean-up work that will be done throughout the community. The Village has completed the pick-up of tree trunks and wood throughout the Village. There are a couple of exceptions, we will be going though and grabbing what we can throughout the entire Village this week. If the residents have any tree trunks remaining on their property, those materials should be hauled off site by the contractors that cut them up. The Village will not be responsible for removing anything that is left on your private property. Residents should not place additional storm related tree branches on the roadside on or after October 11th. The

Public Works Department will be making a final pass through the Village during that week of October 12th. Any branches placed along the roadside after that will not be picked up by the Village and may result in citations.

Storm damage and FEMA reimbursement, with the storm related tree debris removal substantially complete, we have estimated that the Village has handled over 3,500 tons of tree debris alone. At this point, our estimated storm damage and recovery cost are currently at \$1,094,658.00. Based on FEMA's reimbursement formula and our current estimates, we are seeking potential reimbursement of approximately \$766,260.00. We have submitted our preliminary damage and cost information to the State of Illinois and are currently awaiting the States request for a Presidential disaster declaration. The deadline for this submission is October 10th, so this is an important step in the process. We will continue to provide the state with the documentation and information to support the Village request for federal assistance.

Community Center: We have finalized the insurance claim related to the 2025 tornado damage to the Community Center. We are currently obtaining quotes and expect to have a proposal for the board's consideration at the September 21st meeting. The replacement of the Community Center shingle roof. This was valid insurance claim that unfortunately was not filed with our insurance carrier in March of 2025. We have now initiated that process and are awaiting final determination and numbers from our insurance carrier. Once we receive the final insurance information, I will present those to the board for your consideration. We do not expect to have to do a Request for Proposals on this because the project is being addressed as part of the Village's insurance claim and their replacement of the damaged roof.

Mr. Mayor, that concludes my report.

Trustee Perchinski: I have a couple questions Joe. Months ago we were talking about a spending ordinance. Where are we at with that? Mayor Joyce: We haven't done anything with it. It has been put on the side while we are working through everything else lately. It will come back up. Trustee Perchinski: What about the Health Insurance quote? It went up 25%, that is a huge expense. VA Wyszowaty: That is a huge expense, we are in the process of the budget right now, so we are going to begin looking at different options as far as what we are able to do within the terms of our current contract. Mayor Joyce: One of the things that I want to make the board aware of, we can do that, but in shopping around the open market for insurance, our current carrier is no longer required to comply with what we have with them now and they can change the pricing and reissue new pricing based on that. Trustee Perchinski: If we go out for bid? Mayor Joyce: Yes. Doesn't mean we are not going to, I am just making you aware of what we have been told. Trustee Perchinski: Who did you get that information from? Mayor Joyce: Our insurance broker. Trustee Perchinski: Thank you. Mayor Joyce: You're welcome.

Mayor Joyce: Two quick things before I go on to you Vlad, one, for those residents, a mailer that is going out explaining the Steger Utility Bills. The board should have it tomorrow and mailed to residents by the middle of next week. It will explain the changes to the utility bills.

Village Attorney No report.

Village Engineer No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith

No report.

Fire Chief Mike Long

Deputy Chief James Baine had no report.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone

Trustee Stewart read report for Roy Stone:

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the contractors for your assistance with storm cleanup. Special thanks to the Public Works Team for pushing through the storm cleanup and handling everything that has come your way, from day-to-day operations to emergency water main breaks. I am proud of the DPW team.

DPW repaired 6 water main breaks since the last board meeting.

In addition, 3 sanitary sewer repairs were completed by M&J Underground and Sunset Water & Sewer.

The 2026 road project resumed today.

The backhoe is going in for repairs. DPW will be renting one from McCann Industries Inc. so that we can continue with day-to-day operations.

Dumpsters were removed on Friday, September 4th.

Branch pickup is ongoing and will conclude on October 16th. Please do not put out additional tree debris after October 12th. Normal branch chipping will resume in the spring of 2027.

Well 3 was repaired today. The 8-inch water main spool was replaced by Gaskill & Walton.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis

Good Evening Everyone,

The Community Center is still having work done, we are hoping to open back up very soon. I do not have a date yet for when we will be opening, but as soon as I know, we

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will be calling all of our members to let them know. We miss everyone as much as they miss us, maybe even more. The changes are amazing and the few people that have stopped by, love what they see as much as I do. I'd like to thank Bob and his employees for all their hard work, you can really see that they enjoy what they are doing. I'd also like to thank Scott, Roy, and the boys at Public Works for everything they do to help me. Also, a big thank you to Joe and the Mayor for talking me into the color scheme, it looks very inviting.

Trustee Perchinski asked that she mention the Senior Luncheon. Fay Kiaurakis: The Kiwanis Club Senior Luncheon will be September 22nd from Noon until about 2 pm. We will have a flyer, that has been sent out. Trustee Perchinski: Please RSVP 708-754-7300.

Trustee Trotier: I would like to add to that. We were supposed to have Flu Shots for September 19th. The Community Center is still planning on hosting that event.

Connie Lundin asked for an update on when Senior Bingo can resume. The Village is making every effort to resume this as soon as possible.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson

Deputy Chief Randy Johnson: Good evening, since Jason last report, we have participated in five patrols on the weekends, we had three assists on incidents and we also assisted Public works with the main break. We have also done traffic control for branch collection on Chicago Road and Union Avenue. We assisted South Holland with their 4th of July make-up event. I attended the funeral of former chief of Mokena EMA for 35 years. We had Braniff out last month to do maintenance on the Tornado Siren and everything was good. I was informed today that a former Deputy Chief passed away recently.

Code Enforcement Paul Myers

No report.

TRUSTEES REPORT

None.

BILLS

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1220-2026 A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) Synopsis: Authorizes Mutual Aid for our Public Works Department during disasters or other major events.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

BOARD ACTIONS

Before taking a motion regarding the demolition of 3500 Green Street, Mayor Joyce explained that this is a home that the Village acquired. It was a hoarders home, it was cleaned up once and given back to the resident. We then obtained the title to it after they passed away. The home is full and the only thing living in it currently possum and raccoons. Trustee Perchinski questioned which account this was coming from and VA Wiszowaty explained that the account being used was recommended by our Finance Advisors.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve the demolition of 3500 Green Street (a Village owned property) by Holland Asphalt Services, Inc. based on a proposed cost of \$18,200.00, payable from Accounts 01.50.38900.

Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Trotier: Has anyone spoken to Joe Van Dyke about the Land Bank and having them do the demolition of houses? I know that I have reached out a couple of times. Mayor Joyce: Is this Cook County Land Bank? Trustee Trotier: No, this South Suburban Land Bank. Mayor Joyce: I have not talked to them. Trustee Trotier: It is probably something we want to look into. VA Wiszowaty: To your point Trustee, this would be an excellent opportunity for the South Suburban Land Bank if the property was owned by another entity. If the Village did not own the property, we could engage the Land Bank to acquire and demo the property. Trustee Trotier: Maybe we can consider it in the future. Mayor Joyce: We can go forward, but this property has been on the Villages books for a while. We are finding as we go through records we are finding more and more properties we own that we didn't know we own.

Trustee Perchinski: So why is this so much cheaper than the half burned house on Hopkins? This is about \$9,000 less. Mayor Joyce: I don't have an answer on how they price out demolition. VA Wiszowaty: The house on Hopkins was significantly larger.

Trustee Perchinski: But, it was also burned halfway to the ground. Maybe we should get RFP's for these. I think this is a great company, but we have to keep them honest.

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

Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

William Joyce, Village President

Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk