

**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 7:55 P.M. on this 17th day of February 2026 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Clerk Zagone led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

Clerk Zagone entertained a motion to appoint Chairman Pro Tem for the evening:

Trustee Stewart made a motion to appoint Trustee Thurmond as Chairman Pro Tem. Trustee Hanus seconded the motion.

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

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, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers, Village Engineer Melanie Arnold and Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes. EMA Chief Jason Stevenson was absent.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Pro Tem Thurmond: The only thing that I would like to add to the recognitions, is I know that we boast about our First Responders, our Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, ESDA, Code Enforcement. Some of the ones that are in the shadows that no one really recognizes all that much is our Police and Fire Commission. I witnessed first-hand the hard work that they are involved in. They work hours and they due diligent work to find us the right candidates for our Police Department. I really want to thank Ms. Brittany Stone, Chairman Pat Rossi and Ms. Dawn Porter. All three are very exceptional people and they put a lot of time and effort into making those candidates vetted for our Police Department.

MINUTES

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5th Executive Session and for the minutes to remain closed. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.
Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT

In his absence, Mayor Joyce would like me to remind everyone that the first and third Monday the Village Hall Office is open extended hours to 7 pm before each board meeting.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

Village Administrator No report.

Village Attorney No Report

Village Engineer I just want to bring to your attention the consideration for services on the agenda tonight. The documents have to do with the Lead Line Replacement Program year 3. I want to go over some of the highlights: We are in the middle of year 2 of what we expect to be a 4-year project. We are getting ready to bid for year 3. For Year 3, IEPA has allocated \$6 million to the Village. \$2.46 million of this was 100% principal forgiveness. The remaining \$3.54 million would be a 40 year no interest loan. The Village decided for this year to only accept (as you did last year) the \$2.46 million in forgivable loans. We estimate that the \$2.46 million would allow you, we're assuming 175 lead service lines. For year 4, IEPA is saying that is going to be the final year of the program. That could change, but we would anticipate that the Village would take maximum forgiveness again then any remaining Lead Service Lines, which we approximate would be 100 and 150 services, if it is the last year of the program, the Village may opt to take the 40 year loan to complete the project. We anticipate that there were about 1,000 lines to replace. We did 276 in year one, in year two anticipate doing 240. We are anticipating we will do 175 in year three. If we do another 175 in year four then we will have 150 to do after that. Trustee Perchinski expressed thanks to Robinson Engineering for their efforts on behalf of the Village to get this done. Trustee Thurmond: And, just so the audience knows, there is layers and layers of processes involved in getting this lead line project completed. Robinson Engineering has been start to finish, above and beyond excellent on getting this thing done for us. We do applaud.

Police Chief Greg Smith

Meetings, Conference and Training:

- New Illinois Laws
- o Traffic Law & Changes to the IVC.
- o Firearm Possession & Use.
- o Sex & Human Traffic Crimes.

- o Statutory Additions & Revisions
- o Law Enforcement Operations & Procedure.
 - Command Staff attended the yearly South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force meeting.
- o Review of Cases for 2025
- o Dues will remain at \$2,000.00
- o Review of Equipment & New Technology
 - Chief Smith attended the 80th District Safety Meeting
 - The Will County Department of Health presented a class on "Suicide Prevention for First Responders."
- o Provided resources for Crisis Response Team (CRT) & Peer Support
- o Discussed information on FOP IL. State Lodge Chaplaincy Program.
- o Highlighted Veteran Resources.
 - Command Staff held a meeting with representatives of the National Child Safety Council.
 - o Discussed new material for Child Safety Programs.
 - Chief Smith & Detective Darge attended the monthly Bloom Trail High School First Responder meeting.
 - Sergeant Hillman began Taser training for the Department. Training will continue throughout the month.
 - Command Staff and Detective Hoppe attended the annual Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (S.M.A.R.T.) meeting.
- o Total Activations 2025 = 61
- o Steger Activations = 1
- o Annual Membership remains at \$1,000.00
- o Currently the Steger Police have a vacant opening
 - Command Staff attended the monthly Will County Chiefs of Police meeting
- o Training / Guest Speaker- Urban SDK- Traffic Data Solutions Provider – Data to Support Speed Enforcement, Roadway Safety, and Community Response.
 - Webinar- Coraum K-12 All in one security platform. Uses existing platform & Equipment.
- Special Events:
 - Partnered with CCSP and Southland Voice for Project Light Saver
 - o Provided free light repair including headlights, taillights and license plate lights.
 - o Prescription Drug take back – Approximate 6 pounds collected.
 - o Documents collected for offsite shredding – Approximately 20 pounds collected.
 - o Electronic Recycling – Approximately 75 pounds collected.
 - o Emissions Testing – Approximately 11 Vehicles Tested.
 - o I-Pass on Demand Booth
 - o Secretary of State Vehicle Registration Booth.
 - o I would like to partner with the CCSP for another event when the weather is warmer.
- Other:
 - Steger Police received \$17,966.80 in grant funds from Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) for the purchase of six Taser Seven Bundles.

Fire Chief Mike Long During the month of January, our department responded to a total of 181 calls. This included 34 fire calls and 147 EMS calls. Additionally, we provided 41 mutual aid responses to neighboring communities.

Notably, Assistant Chief Ragusin and Captain Stevenson attended an educational class focused on electric vehicles and solar panels. Their participation in this training ensures our personnel are prepared to respond safely and effectively to incidents involving these technologies.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone

Good Evening! It's nice to see a break in the weather.

Now that the snow is gone, Public Works will be picking up garbage that was hidden by the snow piles. We will also be patching pot holes.

Since the last board meeting, there have been four water main breaks and one water service line repair.

Lead Line Update:

From 2/2/26 – 2/16/26

Five Star has done 40 home inspections, Replaced 44 services, and hydrovac'd 97 holes for inspections.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis Fay distributed the calendar of events happening at the Community Center for the month of February. The calendar is available to view at the community center along with any other programs that may be added. We have story time, kid's club, parents are welcome to socialize in another room. Chis will be working with kid's club and it will be athletically driven. They will enjoy fun gym time. We are also offering homework help. There is a new sculpting class, a sewing class and a Cricut Class. The painting class for seniors has taken off. We have many programs coming up through June: Red Cross is coming on the 12th, The Will County Assessor will come and discuss taxes with our Will County residents on June 9th, the DMV is going to pup up from 9 to 3 on June 8th, we will have the missions there from the 15th til the 18th. We are going to try to set up a Rib Fest. There will be a Four Winds Casino Bus, contact the Community Center for details. We are planning a campout with parents and kids.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson Jack Willett reported we only had two calls in the month of February, we hired two more people and we are talking to a third person. Our Command Unit is almost ready to be put in service. Hope to present it to you in March. Trustee Thurmond recommended having it out front at the first available Board Meeting after it is put in service to show everyone.

Code Enforcement Good evening Board of Trustees. From January 1st until now we have done 31 permits, I have written 46 tickets, I have done 30 48-Hour Warning Tickets for garbage cans, etc. Four dogs have been taken to County Line. I assisted Public Works, Fire Department and Police Department on their walk-outs. Thank you very much.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond: I wanted to mention, the 250 Committee has been meeting every other Wednesday. The committee is staying in a large group. No one has baled on them. It has been pretty productive. Everytime they come to the meetings, they are adding more programs to the event. The committee had a very successful fundraiser over the weekend. It is adding to paying for the event for the 250 Signing of the Declaration of Independence for us. I hope to have a representative from the committee at the next board meeting to give a report.

BILLS

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Stewart made a motion to table Resolution No. 1207-2026 to allow legal to more carefully review. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Trustee Perchinski: I would like some discussion on this. Vlado in the minutes from our last meeting it said you were going to look this over. Village Attorney: I looked it over briefly, I just need additional time to make revisions. Trustee Perchinski: So the audience understands, the way this currently stands is, there is no insurance requirement for contractors that we hire. That could put us at risk if they are injured on the job and they don't have the proper coverage. If they fix something for us improperly and it causes an accident that could go against our general liability. The other thing is it give unilateral power to our mayor to spend up to \$35,000 without Village Board approval. I don't think anyone in this room would spend \$10,000 without making a plan for it. VA Wiszowaty: We have had some discussions about the insurance matter, the requirements for contracted serves out, we do feel that there should be some type of requirement and protections for contracted services with the village. Right now there is none. We believe

it would be best if we segregated that out in it's own policy as opposed to being part of the purchase policy. Purchasing is one thing, contracted services is another. To Trustee Perchinski's point, we need to have some kind of assurance from our contracted vendor that they are providing that insurance. Trustee Perchinski: We currently have many contractors that have done work or are doing work for us that don't have this protection. VA Wiszowaty: You are right. We have independent contractors that work for the village currently that are not insured that we pay. It's been happening for years. Trustee Perchinski: I don't agree with that. I have been talking about this for years. VA Wiszowaty: How do you require a referee to get insurance? You can't, they are independent contractors. I agree that we need a policy for requiring insurance, but I don't know that it needs to be in the purchase policy, but it needs to be in a policy. I think it needs to be stated that if we are contracting for services, that vendor absolutely needs to have insurance and we should be named as an additional insured. We can't change the past. We have to fix moving forward. Best practice is: anyone doing contracted services for the village under a contract should have insurance. Trustee Perchinski: as an example, the electrician here, he has general liability, but no worker compensation. Trustee Stewart: So, in that case if he has employees he has to have worker comp. He could give us an exclusion. Trustee Perchinski: No, even if he doesn't have employees he needs it, the exclusion doesn't mean anything if he gets hurt on this job and he is working directly for us. He will be in a bad spot and will sue us. Having a contract helps a little bit, but to really protect ourselves, we need to have that additional insured language and workmans comp. VA Wiszowaty: and it should be spelled out in a policy, but not necessarily in the purchase policy. Trustee Perchinski: Then I want that policy before we pass the purchase policy. VA Wiszowaty: I think we need the purchase policy for internal controls. I think the purchase policy should stand on it's own. Trustee Perchinski: I don't think preparing this policy for insurance is going to take a lot of work. Village attorney will look into creating the insurance policy. So on this purchase policy we have to look at like the Village Hall Rehab, the administration told us it was going to be \$25,000. So you are going up to \$35,000 unilaterally being able to spend money, but if you say 35 and now it's 45, what happens then? VA Wiszowaty: To your point: if you were contracting services out for one vendor to do a remodel project, that is one thing. But, if you are contracting this out in bits and pieces with different vendors, and trying to save money and economize. Trustee Perchinski: I am OK with hiring our own, I just don't want to say we are going to give him all this unilateral power, and now what happens if he goes over? VA Wiszowaty: Right now there is no internal controls. Trustee Perchinski: There isn't, and we need it now more than ever because like the Village Hall remodel, we had no say so on that. We should have been part of that decision. VA Wiszowaty: I am sure there have been other instances where money has been spent within the budget. Trustee Perchinski: I have been doing this for 15 years and every other administration, anytime it was over \$10,000 it came to the board. Trustee Thurmond: I disagree with that. I have been here 4 years. Trustee Perchinski: I am telling you it's right.

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

The owner of ARG introduced herself and gave an overview of the new business she is bringing to the Village of Steger.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license for ARG Diagnostic Testing, LLC located at 28 E. 33rd Place for diagnostic testing and occupational health services; pending final inspections.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve an agreement for Professional Engineering Services with Robinson Engineering for Design, Construction Engineering, Application and Bid Documents for Lead Service Line Replacement Program Year 3.

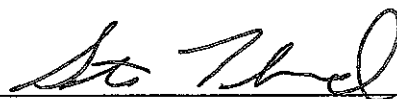
Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

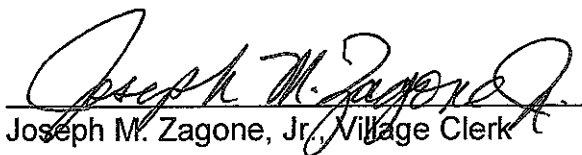
Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.



Steve Thurmond, Chairman Pro Tem



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk