

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 18th day of May 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, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers, Village Attorney Vlado Vranjes and Village Engineer Melanie Arnold.

RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Village Clerk Zagone read a Proclamation designating May 18-24, 2026 as National Public works Week honoring those that help make the Village of Steger.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt the Proclamation designating May 18-24, 2026 as national Public Works Week in the Village of Steger.

Trustee Hanus seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

Steger Fire Chief Mike Long presented the Distinguished Fire Cadet Commendation:

Good evening, Mayor and members of the Board, and thank you for giving us this time tonight.

Before I bring up tonight's honoree, I want to emphasize just how vital our Cadet Program is to this department and this community. It isn't just an after-school activity; it is a proven training ground. Over the years, we have taken young men and women and shaped them into professionals. Our former cadets haven't just gone on to become dedicated members of our own department, they are serving as full-time career firefighters all across the state of Illinois.

Tonight, we are here to recognize a young man who is carrying on that proud tradition and represents the absolute best of what this program can produce: Cadet Ilijah Wedding. Ilijah joined us in August of 2025, and since day one, he has been an invaluable asset to our department. He is, quite simply, everything we look for in a future firefighter. If you walk into our station on any given day, you're likely to find Ilijah there working out, pushing himself to be physically prepared for the demands of this job. When the tones go off, he has been essential on our calls, showing up, doing the work, and earning the genuine respect of our senior personnel. To Ilijah's parents, a sincere thank you. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice, for being phenomenal parents, and for doing whatever it takes to fuel his dreams. The character, discipline,

and grit we see in your son every single day is a direct reflection of the foundation you built for him at home. Being a firefighter is about more than just mastering the skills; it's about answering the call to serve and showing up for others, even when life is heavy and times are incredibly difficult. Ilijah has demonstrated a level of strength, maturity, and integrity well beyond his years. Because of that unwavering commitment, We are incredibly proud to present him with the Distinguished Cadet Commendation. And to Ilijah's dad, I know how incredibly proud you are of the man your son has become. Sir, with your permission, it is my absolute honor to present this award to your son on behalf of a grateful department.

MINUTES

Trustee Kaminski made a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2026 meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.
Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Connie Lundin came before the board and asked because State Street got repaved, is there any chance to get Cottage Grove repaved? Mayor Joyce: Currently Cottage Grove is slated for Federal Funding through Cook County and Steger. Right now there is a disagreement because they want the Village of Steger to pay for the engineering work for the County. Right now that project is on hold until we clear up who is going to pay for it since it is a County Road. I attend the Transportation Committee meetings once a month and every month I bring up our roads.

Sandy G, who lives on West Richton Road came before the board to address speeding issues and mini-bikes and other assorted off-road vehicles going up and down the street. They are often young kids not wearing helmets. A major concern for her is a large pothole on the street by her driveway. She fears someone is going to hit it and lose control. Mayor Joyce stated that Richton Road is currently on the agenda for 2028. He went on to explain what the Village must go through to get the help it needs to address the bad streets in town. In the meantime Roy Stone is going to see if Public Works can do something for the issue.

Mary Montgomery, a resident of Steger addressed the Mayor and the Board of Trustees. I am a parent of a child who loves basketball. He has played on the Rec team in the past and currently plays on the travel team. The program is facing challenges that I hope you can address. Ms. Montgomery described issues with cancelled games and lack of uniforms. Mayor Joyce described issues that are being faced by the Rec Program. He explained how all Rec funds are being turned in to the Village and being receipted. The tournament that was missed occurred because the money needed to register for the tournament was not requested in a timely manner. The uniform issue is that far more uniforms were ordered than there are athletes that

need to wear them. These issues are all being addressed while the Steger Recreation Board goes through its rebuilding process. Mayor Joyce recommended that she attend a Steger Rec Meeting where the entire process can be explained.

Carol Lindemann came before the board to thank the crew that came out trimmed the damaged tree in her parkway. They did a great job and cleaned up when they were done. I wanted to thank you for that.

REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT

First thing I want to mention is CEDA has a scholarship application program to help fund students. The application deadline is June 12th by 5 pm. A copy of the application will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.

Craft Fair/Farmer's Market is set for June 6 and 7 from 10 am to 5 pm at the Steger Community Center. Fay will have more information for you, they are still looking for vendors.

Website proposals are in, it has been narrowed down to six websites. They have been redacted of all their company information. Trustees will be receiving invitations this week to come in and rate the six proposals and hopefully at the next meeting we will be able to award a new vendor for our website.

We have a Public Hearing this Wednesday, May 20th at the Louis Sherman Community Center. We will discuss the five year plan for the Village Parks and Rec Program. Residents are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to provide input and opinions.

This Friday, the Village of Steger is sponsoring an Evergreen Hill Cemetery Clean-up Event. It starts at 11 am, yes, I know it's a Friday, I know it's a workday, we will be there until 6 pm or so. We hope to clean up the cemetery for Memorial Day.

Lisa's Rainbow is doing a 5 to 7 K run at Columbia Central. It is on May 27th. I will have a link put on our Facebook page where you can register for the event. They have asked if they can use the Boulevard for part of the 5K. I will work with ESDA, Police Department and Public Works to create a safe environment so they can safely run up and down the Boulevard.

For those of you who will be in town for Memorial Day on Monday, we will be having a ceremony at 10 am at the Boulevard and Steger Road. Columbia Central Band and Choir will be there. Local Pastors and Politicians will be there to share their thoughts. Afterwards, the American Legion invites all to stop by for hotdogs and drinks.

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Finally, there will be a Village wide Garage Sale. As part of our MS4, our stormwater mitigation program, we have to participate in a Village wide Garage Sale so we get better points on our flooding water. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 11, 12 & 13 we will have our Village wide garage sale. You do not need to purchase a permit, but you do have to register, for free, by calling or visiting Village Hall.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

Village Administrator Thank you Mr. Mayor. So, tonight the Village Board has some actions items. One is to motion to authorize the Village Administrator to develop a Class 8 Economic Incentive agreement. The other is to authorize the Village Administrator to develop a request for a proposal for garbage service. Also, there will be a closed session tonight, we will likely be taking action afterward. That is all I have.

Village Attorney No Report.

Village Engineer No Report.

Greg Smith Police Chief Meetings, Conference and Training:

Police Law – Department wide training

Topics include: an overview of crisis intervention team training; recognizing mental health crises; de-escalation schemes and the critical decision-making model; tactical communication strategies; the importance of body language; de-escalation strategies appropriate for people with specific mental conditions; and Options for protecting yourself and other citizens when de-escalation fails.

Chief Smith attended the monthly 80th District Safety Meeting.

HB 4091 Sponsored by Rep Deluca, Cassidy, Guzzardi, and Slaughter
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Patrick Joyce

Help make Communities Safer

Allows qualified minors to participate in restorative justice

Passed the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee

Chief Smith & Detective Hoppe attended the monthly Bloom Trail 1st Responder Safety meeting

Chief Smith, D.C. Fajman and Code Enforcement Myers received RAVE training

Chief Smith & D.C. Fajman attended the SSCOP Conference

Special Events: 250th Meeting, Little League Parade and the Columbia Central Track Meet

Fire Chief Mike Long During the month of April 2026, the department responded to a total of 164 calls for service. The operational breakdown is as follows:

EMS Runs: 139 incidents

Fire Runs: 25 incidents

Mutual Aid Given: The department provided outside assistance to neighboring communities a total of 25 times.

Yesterday, we responded with personnel and apparatus to major mutual aid call at the Balmoral Racetrack fire. Fire crews were on scene operating for 9 hours assisting with our regional agencies with extensive fire suppression efforts. I would like to comment the personnel that responded for their endurance and professional execution during that prolonged operation.

Personnel Training & Continuing Education

In line with our ongoing push for professional development and fireground safety, our personnel completed multiple advanced training programs this month:

Regional Ventilation Training: Captain Stevenson, Lieutenant Cartalino, and FF Munoz traveled to University Park to participate in a specialized structural ventilation drill, sharpening our local coordination and tactical execution on the floor.

Advanced Fire Behavior & Smoke Reading: Captain Stevenson, Lieutenant Cartalino, and myself traveled to Hudson, IL for an intensive seminar focused on fire behavior and smoke reading. This training provides critical safety data that allows our command officers to better read structural conditions, anticipate flashover indicators, and protect our crews during interior operations.

Finally, this week marks National EMS Week with Emergency Medical Services making up nearly 85% of our total call volume. I want to publicly thank and recognize all of our Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics, their dedication to providing high quality medical care to the residents of Steger is unmatched.

The department remains fully staffed and operationally ready to protect the Village.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone Good evening!

Public Works has been mowing, completing service calls and locates, patching potholes, and doing maintenance in the shop.

There have not been any water main breaks since our last meeting.

Just a reminder that hydrant flushing is every Tuesday through October.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis Good Evening Everyone,

We had our gym power washed and balloons removed from our ceiling thanks to Scott and Roy from Public Works Dept. Thank you for making that happen.

Thank you to Trustee Cindy Trotier for her donation to the Camp-Out Event for Smore's.

I ordered and mounted a 1 on our building, so that our address reads correctly now.

The parts that are needed to boost the internet signal at the Community Center have been ordered, hopefully they will be installed by next month, so the kids and parents will have a better connection when they come in.

We've had 5 students come into the Community Center and complete their Community Service hours with us and I have written 3 of the Letters of Recommendation, 1 left before I could had him one and I am writing another tomorrow. Everyone at the Community Center is happy to help them complete their academic requirements.

I had my Easy Ribs class last week and I had my Breakfast Casserole class this morning. No one came to the classes, but I had 50 people that helped eat what I made, so I will be canceling the last cooking class for this month and try to pick it up again in July after the kids are out of school. I'm hoping that increase participation.

Don't forget June 1st, starts our "Community Assistance Month", that is one of the flyers I have with me tonight. We decided to do a water balloon fight on June 26, you'll find a stack of our flyers here for the Community Center please stop over before you leave today and grab what you need.

Our numbers for the May 1st-16th are as follows:

Tops Club-60, Over 50's Club-60, Sewing Club-10, Chair Fitness-74, Senior Balance-59, Fitness Classes-60, Silver Club-10, Intro to Sculpting-1, Floor is Lava-11, Cartwheel Club-16, Nutrition Class-14, 250 Committee meeting-13, Hall Party's-195, Members-581, Total-1,164

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No Report.

Code Enforcement Paul Myers Good evening Mr. Mayor. For the last two weeks, Code Enforcement has collected in permits only, \$10,424. We have given out a total of 185 permits. Code Enforcement has issued 25 warning tickets that include grass. I have done 25 business inspections, 10 re-occ inspections and has given out 15 tickets for garbage cans and etc. That is it, sir.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay Five Star in the amount of \$480,137.56 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski 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 Stewart made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1347-2026 An Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit to operate a Child Care Facility at 118 E. 34th St. Synopsis: This comes to the Village Board with a favorable recommendation from the combined Planning and Zoning Board of appeals. The approved use runs with the subject property unless the use is discontinued for a period of 12 months.

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 authorize the Village Administrator to develop an Economic Incentive Agreement with Rinea, LLC for a Class 8 Property Tax Incentive and authorize the Village Attorney to draft a Resolution supporting the Class 8 subject to the Village Administrator's direction.

Trustee Stewart 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 authorize the Village Administrator to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Garbage Service.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

At 7:45 pm,

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn to Executive 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

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

At 8:12 pm,

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to reconvene the general session of the Village Board Meeting.

Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to allow the reinstatement of a former police officer pending the Police and Fire Commissions final decision.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

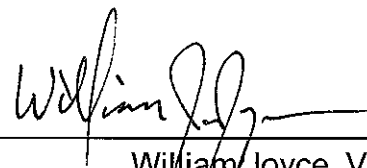
Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Mayor Joyce: Just so that everyone is aware, we had motion to reinstate one of our police officers so that effectively increases our head count in the police department as of the day the Police and Fire Board agree to it.

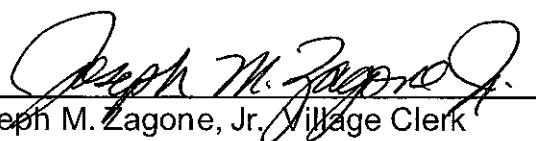
Being no further business:

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 8:13 pm.



William Joyce, Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk