

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 20th day of January 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, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Joyce was present. Trustee Stewart was absent.

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

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.
Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT

The remodeling of the Village Hall part of the building is progressing. Conrad Kiebles located \$15,000 in grant money for help finance the work. Work continues on the budget for view by department heads this week and trustees next week. Public hearing on the budget will be on February 2nd at 7 pm with the board meeting to follow immediately. We have a help wanted sign out for part-time bus driver. We have two openings. We need two drivers to get the Pace Bus back for our Seniors. Steger 250 Committee has been meeting, and plans are in motion for the upcoming events. The first event will be at the Steger American Legion on February 15th, they are having a Daytona 500 Watch Party with fundraising raffles. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information please see one of the committee members. We are working on putting out for fiscal year 2026,

Capital Bill requests for SSMMA. We are putting in for \$6 million for a new Village Hall project, \$10 million for drainage work for stormwater and flood control, \$3 million projects for sidewalk replacement, \$7 million for resurfacing of local roadways, Infrastructure to 45 acre parcel, running water and sewer, which would be on Sauk Trail and Cottage Grove we are asking for \$3 million. Infrastructure to the 90 acre site at 394, we are putting in for \$5 million for water and sewer. Bike Path connecting from Steger to Crete we are asking for \$1.5 million for park work that is there and then Park improvements for multiple parks we are asking for \$1.25 million. The total request will go out for \$30,750,000.00, keep in mind in fiscal year 2025 we requested \$28 million and we got zero. It is a wish list that is going out. Current money that we have on hand for projects from ECO, building construction, public works and Village Hall, we have \$100,000.00. Infrastructure improvements, this will be for the stormwater continuation on Lewis Sherman Dr. we have \$100,000. Water Tower rehab, the way that it is being let, will have to be used for the West Water Tower work for repairs and cleaning. Infrastructure improvements, \$25,000 to be put towards sidewalks, once it is released. Capital improvements \$100,000 for Well House No. 1. This will cover the money that the board approved for repairing Well No. 1. Infrastructure improvement, Fire House and Public Works roofs is \$100,000. Drainage improvements, \$200,000 and we are looking to purchase a mini excavator and dump trailer for Public Works to work on the Miller Woods area in cleaning up the drainage ditches. The last one that we have on the books currently is \$500,000 that can be used for Public Safety, Economic Development for purchase of a new Village Hall.

VILLAGE CLERK Reminded residents that the MLK holiday this week is not delaying garbage collection. Garbage collection will be on it regular Wednesday schedule.

Village Administrator

This evening you have before you a Resolution adopting the Village's Purchase Policy. The Village currently has no Purchase Policy in place and for many years our Auditors have recommended that we strengthen our internal controls. Our Financial Advisors strongly recommend adopting policies which strengthen our internal controls and segregate duties of staff...this is the board's first look at this resolution this evening, I would recommend that you consider this at your next meeting and table it for tonight so you have time to study it. If you have any questions, you can direct those to me.

I want to clarify a point I made at our last meeting. When in conversation with our Financial Advisors GW & Associates, I stated that their monthly fee was \$8,000 for their services, when in fact that was \$9,500. My apologies for any confusion I just wanted to set the record straight....

Tonight you have before you two proposals for consideration:

1- Is for Geotechnical services for core samples in preparation of our MFT Roadway project for 2026 on Kings Road.

2- Is for GIS Services with Robinson Engineering to map out our watermain breaks. This will allow us to more readily identify areas which will require replacement of watermain so that we may be able to better develop a Capital Improvement Plan

The Illinois EPA has notified us that during Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2025, \$2,004,394.20 in Federal Funds have been used for disbursements for our Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Work continues for this program

Finally, as the Mayor said we have Budget meetings for FY 2026 scheduled for Department Heads this week and our Village Trustees for next week. We will have Public Hearing on our Budget for February 2, 2026 and the Budget will be available for public inspection prior to that time.

Village Attorney No Report

Village Engineer Good evening, Mayor, Board of Trustees and residents. Just a couple of items, just to touch on what Village Administrator Wiszowaty mentioned earlier in board actions later in the meeting, we do have a proposal for pavement cores to be taken on Kings Road. That will be in preparation for an MFT Program that we will be designing now so that we can have it ready to go as early as possible in the Spring. We need the cores, Kings Road is not in good condition and to make sure that we put down a road that is going to last for many years to come and not just break down in a couple of years. The next item is GIS Services, so we are going to take the water main breaks that have been mapped from 2018 to 2026 and put them into the existing GIS data base so we can start to work towards a future watermain replacement program for the Village.

Police Chief Greg Smith Meetings, Conference and Training:

Chief Smith attended the LCC monthly meeting (December).

Chief Smith met with CCSP Project Light Saver.

Monthly Police Law "New Police Law 2026 Part 1"

Special Events:

Police assist Fire & Police Commission New Police Hire Orientation.

Project Lifesaver will still be on January 22nd, but, due to cold weather, it is being moved from the K-Mart parking lot to Police Department where we can make use of the garage.

Fire Chief Mike Long In December, the Steger Fire Department responded to a total of 170 calls, including 146 EMS calls, 24 fire calls, and 29 mutual aid responses. For the year 2025, our department has handled a total of 2,011 calls. These figures reflect the ongoing commitment and dedication of our team to ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. We continue to deliver timely and effective service, both within Steger and in support of neighboring departments through mutual aid.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone

Good Evening

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Public Works has been busy completing daily work orders and Julie locates through the 811 system, as well as patching potholes and working on equipment.

There have been three water main breaks since the last board meeting.

DPW has been called out four times to salt or plow icy roads.

Led Line Update: From January 6th to January 16th

Five Star has Hydrovac'd 81 holes, completed 40 interior inspections, and replaced 30 lead line services.

Trustee Perchinski: We got some bills for Rush Truck Centers for repairs, are we not using our inside help? Roy Stone: Rush is for parts only.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis Good Evening Everyone, I would like to start my report with something I left out at the last meeting. The Community Center will be hosting a Community Assistance weekend June 6, 7 & 8, 2026. We are ironing out the details, but I am pleased to announce that the DMV will be bringing a pop-up to the Community Center on the 8th and that is what prompted this endeavor. They will be joined by Red Cross for a blood drive, Gift of Hope to sign-up people to be organ and tissue donors. As a recipient of a spinal donation, I can tell you personally that it is a great program, and they are very respectful. I am waiting for a response from a few other programs, but I'll keep you updated as we progress. Also, I created a new Building Usage form for the Community Center as well as an updated Code of Conduct that I had given everyone in the packet I handed out at the January 6th meeting. Those were the 2 things I wanted to make sure I updated everyone on.

Now, I know this is a numbers meeting and I have lots of numbers for you. We had 11 programs in December and our attendance was as follows: Tops: 75, Pinochle: 10, Chair Fitness: 60, Fitness Class: 92. Cart Wheel Club: 40, Movie Night: 8, Hall Parties: 120, Girl Scout meeting: 10, Senior Christmas Party: 80, Members 600 and we brought in \$3,330 from our programs, memberships and donations and we are only into the 3rd week of January. My numbers for this month are only from January 1-19: We have 18 programs running right now and our attendance is as follows: Tops: 50, Sewing Club: 10, Silver Club: 6, Chair Fitness: 72, Senior Balance: 53, New Year New You: 4, Fitness Class: 92, Homework Help: 3, Cart Wheel Club; 22, Floor is Lava: 4, Matchbox Playtime: 30, Game Night: 8, Autism Dances: 4, Movie Night: 8, Hall Parties 120, Girl Scout meeting: 8, Basketball Assessments: 200. Members: 506 and we brought in \$4277.00 from our programs and memberships. Again, this is only from 2 weeks in January, I feel we are on course to have a record month. We had our refreshments for the Autism Dance donated to us by My Path, My Purpose, Erikka English a non-profit and personal friend of mine and resident of Steger. She also donated 8 cases of Ensure and 3 boxes of pretzel chips that we have handed out. In 2024 the center brought in \$22,627.00, in 2025 the center brought in \$19,454.00. I believe if we can keep costs low and bring in new fresh programs that our residents will want to be a part of this and we can have a Stellar Year.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No Report.

Code Enforcement Good evening Mr. Mayor and Board of Trustees. Since the last meeting, Code Enforcement has issued 20 warning tickets, 10 AOA Tickets, 25 Re-occupation inspections, taken in 5 dogs to County Line. Code Enforcement was called out this last weekend, two times for car verses house, had to call Public Works out to assist with board up. The second was a business operating after 9 pm. That's all I have.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay the bills as listed when funds become available with a correction to how the insurance payment is listed on the warrant list.

Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

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

CORRESPONDENCE None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table Resolution No. 1207 to the next meeting.

Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to accept the proposal for Geotechnical Engineering Services for Kings Road (Steger Rd. to Richton Rd.) with GEOCON Professional Services, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 (MFT Roadway Project).

Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: Even though it's MFT project, we are doing this prior to having the funds. Mayor Joyce: Just to explain what this is: currently this is going to be the engineering that we have to do on the road either way we fund the project. If we currently go with the federal dollars through SSMMA that was taken away and we have gotten back, the road work will not happen until 2028. Either way, we have to do the engineering, so we are going to move forward with the engineering and do this in MFT dollars that we have sitting in the bank. Trustee Perchinski: my question is, will the engineering services be included in the MFT or that out of our pocket? Mayor Joyce: It will be MFT.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to accept the proposal for GIS services with Robinson Engineering for Water Main Breaks not to exceed \$2,500.00 (Water Fund)

Trustee Hanus seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: We have some GIS information already? I know the water committee spent some money on this too. Is this all going to be tied in? Village Administrator Wiszowaty: Very good question. The GIS is going to analyze where the watermain breaks have occurred since 2012 so that we have a better understanding of what area within the town have had watermain breaks. When we are looking to do a water line replacement, we are going to hit the highest priority areas first. Last year we had 126 watermain breaks and we are trying to get ahead of this so we are not just fixing watermains but being proactive. Trustee Perchinski: Moving forward, we have the GIS System. Should we be reporting to it every time we have a break. VA Wiszowaty: Once we get all this data in there, we can add to it. Village Engineer: We are going to take your existing GIS that you already had and use that as the base. They already have the breaks logged through 2017 and we are going to add from 2018 to present. Trustee Perchinski: Where is that information located? Village Engineer: It is stored in the Cloud. Future watermain breaks will now be added as they occur.

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

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to table scheduled Executive Session. Trustee Trotier 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 7:30 pm.

William Joyce, Village President

Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk