

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 6th day of April 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 Consultant Conrad Keebles gave a presentation on the Five-Year Plan he is preparing for the Parks and Recreation Programs for the Village of Steger. He reviewed the last plan prepared for the Village and showed how with grants both Veterans and Hecht Parks were improved. He went on to describe current grant opportunities he is pursuing on the part of the Village of Steger and how Residents can offer ideas and assistance. Through a Resolution passed by the Village Board of Steger, his plan is to pursue grants offered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve parks one at a time over five years. Plans will include improvements to Hecht Park, Veteran's Park, Critter Park (off Susan Lane), Sandy Ridge Park, the park on Durham Drive and research on a park that would be part of a Steger extension to the Crete Bike Path. Information will be ongoing as he continues to develop the five-year plan.

Mayor Joyce explained that this is the second step in acquiring grants to improve parks and recreation. The first step was achieved when the Village Board passed the Resolution to create the five-year plan and pursue the IEPA Grants. The next step will be scheduling public hearings which will be at the Community Center. We will start scheduling them toward the end of this month so we are ready to start applying for grants in September. Your input is greatly needed and wanted.

Village Clerk Zagone read a Proclamation designating April 2026 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt the Proclamation designating April 2026 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond, Trotier and Perchinski. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2026, meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond: I just wanted to clarify with the audience that it said that there was a previous mayor who was approved by the board to use a vehicle. No sitting mayor, Village President has ever been awarded the use of a vehicle by approval of the board. There is no record of it in the minutes, nor is there an agenda stating such. It was misinformation on Trustee Perchinski's part in saying someone was awarded vehicle use. Trustee Perchinski: The Village of Steger did buy Mayor Sherman a vehicle. As a matter of fact, Mrs Sherman still has it. Mayor Joyce: She no longer has the vehicle. Trustee Thurmond: The vehicle was Village asset and Mayor Sherman was given permission to use the vehicle as a special assistant to the new mayor. Mayor Joyce: noted for the record.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026 Special Meeting with the School District 194 Board. Trustee Hanus seconded the motion. Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Carol Lindemann came before the board to discuss issues on John Street. Years ago I came here and asked about a resident who was allowed to keep trash in his front yard. There are now four or five houses over there that have the same issue. Mayor Joyce: before you leave, talk with Mr. Myers and give him the addresses where you have concerns and he will address it. We are doing everything within the laws of the state to deal with properties that are filled with trash.

Ms. Lindemann went on to ask what is being done about abandoned houses in the Village. Mayor Joyce: If you know of houses that are abandoned, get the address to Mr. Myers and he will begin the process the Village is required to follow in dealing with these homes.

Jerry Prokop of 150 E. 34th St. came before the board to remind the board of a problem with residents parking their cars on sidewalks and blocking safe right of way to pedestrians. In addition to cars parked on sidewalks, it is an ongoing problem with residents leaving their garbage cans on the curb after trash pick-up. Mayor Joyce stated that it is his pet peeve as well and that our ordinance officer is actively ticketing residents for both offenses.

Laurin Kalus of 3753 Crescent Drive came before the board with complaints and concerns regarding aggressive dogs that are allowed to run loose. She went on to describe these dogs attacking her and her dog as she tried to take her dog for a walk. The same dogs have attacked other residents as they tried to walk their dog in the neighborhood. Mayor Joyce asked Village Administrator to pull our Ordinance as it refers

to resident pet responsibility, he asked Police Chief Smith to research state law on the subject and present their findings to our legal counsel to explain what the Village can do to protect citizens.

Dwight McTizic introduced himself, he is the outreach coordinator for a nonprofit organization called The Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council. I am here just to introduce myself and make you all aware of the wrap around service that we offer for the community. This is part of my region now, so I wanted to make sure I put a name on the face and not just email the board all the time. We offer services to families in crisis, mental crisis, trials with food, housing placement and things like that. There is no charge to help families in crisis. I have brochures to hand out. Mayor Joyce: Leave the brochures with us, get your information to our Police, Fire and ESDA Chief's and we will be happy to help where we can. Trustee Kaminski also offered to get him contact information through our schools.

REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT

Before I give my State of the Village report, for all the residents and board members, I want to make you aware that Governor J.B. Pritzker's proposed State Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at legislative district level is seeking a reduction of the local distributive funds. What this fund is, it is the fund that takes money out of your income tax you pay the State of Illinois that is earmarked for the Villages and Communities around the state. Originally it was supposed to be set at 10% and the State of Illinois has been repeatedly taking money out of that fund to help balance their budget with no concern for local municipalities. This proposal for the next fiscal year would short change 60 million dollars in revenue going to the local governments statewide. It is an estimated loss of \$509,245 per Illinois state representative district and another \$1,018,485 per Illinois State Senate District. These reductions directly affect the funding of our essential services and the infrastructure that we deal with at this local level. I am urging all of you to please contact your state representative and your state senator to voice your concerns and displeasure with the state budget proposal.

For Board members and informational for residents, Governor Pritzker has also forwarded a housing preemption proposal, and I am asking that you contact your state legislatures to oppose preemption of local housing land use and zoning authority. What is happening is the State of Illinois under J.B. Pritzker is proposing that the state would take over zoning. Their rules would override any local ordinances, any land use or any zoning authority that the Villages have. The State would take over and we would have to follow what the state law is. I ask that you contact your legislature and oppose this. If this goes into effect, we will be subject to people who are in Springfield telling us how our town should be made up.

This year we have the Steger 250th Anniversary Committee, they are celebrating America 250. In this event they have a Revolutionary War Reenactment Camp that is going to be taking place in our park July 24, 25 and 26. If anyone is interested, I was asked to pass this information on. The same group is doing a reenactment Memorial Day Weekend in Vincennes, Indiana. We have information if anyone is interested in attending.

The Village Board had a joint meeting with Steger School District 194 that was called to order on the 18th of March. The meeting shared ideas on how we can work together and work to help each other between the school district and the village. There was a lot of good conversation and a lot of information that was passed back and forth. We had discussions and I will let the board know that we did get a copy of the intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Steger and School District 194 which will be on the agenda of our next board meeting. The school board has agreed to a lot of the things we talked about in sharing costs of maintenance equipment.

Today is the 364th day that I have been in this position. Tomorrow will be one year since the village board appointed me acting mayor and subsequently becoming the elected mayor.

Mayor Joyce went on to present his State of the Village that will be attached and made part of the public record.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

Village Administrator Thank you, Mr. Mayor, great state of the village message Mr. Mayor, I agree that the state of the Village is strong. It's stronger because of your leadership and vision and the support of the Village board. Just an update on our open Clerk's position here at village hall. We have had over 60 resume's submitted. We have completed round one interviews with candidates we identified meeting the minimum criteria. We are going to be scheduling the round two interviews with those candidates that scored well in round one. Payroll and Accounts Payable have been completed timely without any disruptions. Business, Liquor and Contractor's licenses are due to be renewed May 1st and reminders have been sent out. Businesses should be returning their renewals on a timely basis. I will be asking the board at some future date to consider some changes to the license and fee structure for those in 2027. Staff and I kicked off a meeting this morning with Surf Internet that will be beginning their next phase of installation of fiber optic cable. We will be working with them to get that project permitted and underway. They have invested about \$8 million in the Village of Steger so far. Finally, tonight the board will be voting for the final TIF payment for 3760 Corporation which is under the terms of the redevelopment agreement for Will County TIF #2. This figure represents the maximum cap under the agreement. There are no further payments due for this. With this payment, it brings the total paid out under this agreement to \$1,104,172.00. Mr. Mayor, that concludes my report.

Village Attorney No Report.

Village Engineer No Report.

Police Chief Greg Smith We have hired three people that have passed all their tests. They will be heading to Police Academy.

Fire Chief Mike Long I want to thank everyone that came out to our Easter Egg Hunt. Special thanks to all the donors that helped make it possible. Extra special thank you to Fay Kiaurakis for hand stuffing over 700 eggs.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone Good evening,

DPW continues with day-to-day operations.

There has been 1 water-main break since our last meeting.

Public works was called out due to the flooding that overwhelmed the sewer system.

Crew members assisted with cleaning catch basins and putting up barricades.

Lead Line Update: Since the last board meeting,

Five Star has done 40 home inspections, replaced 30 services, and hydrovac'd 60 holes.

Five Star is on hold with services, as they are going to catch up on restoration work which includes concrete, asphalt, dirt, and hydroseeding. This will most likely take care

of the funds allocated for this project. When the new funds are released for the next

phase, Five Star will continue with work.

The Village had a meeting with Surf Internet today. They expect phase 2 to begin around May 4th. Surf Internet will begin on the Northwest side of town: 30th and Chicago Road, West to Carpenter, South to Steger Road. This is subject to change depending on where Five Star is completing restoration work. Information regarding Surf Internet will be available on the Village Website soon.

Mayor Joyce added: For Miller Woods residents, Village Administrator Wiszowaty, Public Works and myself were out during the last flooding incident on Friday. We were out in the water because I wanted to survey how the water was actually moving. One of the area at 227th and Frederick and Sherman Road, part of the flooding has been alleviated because with Public Works we found where part of the system was clogged. When public works went out to clear the dirt, the water in the adjacent area dropped about 4 feet. It was piping under Sherman road that was clogged. We will follow it more and see if we find more areas to unclog.

Community Center Fay Kiaurakis

Good Evening Everyone, I'd like to start by saying I am extremely proud of my team.

Without Christine and Nick's guidance and hard work I wouldn't have such good news to offer tonight's meeting and Mr. Calamese is doing a very nice job with his classes and the classes that I offer are doing well also. We need to do a little more fine tuning, but nothing we can't handle. I went over the numbers for 2024 and 2025, then I compared them to our numbers in 2026. They are as follows: Memberships: 121 paid

memberships = 2024 + 2025 217 paid members + 21 Steger minor memberships=238 = 2026 16 Hall rentals = 2024 + 2025 29 Hall Rentals = 2026 1 Gym Rentals = 2024

+2025 8 Gym Rentals = 2026 44 Punch Cards sold = 2024 + 2025 25 Cart Wheel Club

Memberships = 2026 Total Funds in from 2024 + 2025 from Jan. 1 to April 4 = \$11,905.00 Total Funds in from 2026 from Jan. 1 to April 4 = \$14,962.00 I attribute these increases to having extended hours, new programs, being aloud to rent the gym for events, and the hard work, sincerity, and dedication that Christine and Nick have always shown here, even before Kris and my arrival. Our March Attendance Totals are as follows: (These are totals from daily attendance sheets, so they are rolling totals) Tops – 100 Over 50's – 120 Sewing Club – 18 Chair Fitness – 161 Senior Balance – 133 Fitness Class – 161 Homework Help – 4 Cart Wheel Club – 40 Kids Floor Is Lava – 21 Matchbox – 14 Girl Scouts – 10 Movies – 15 Intro to Cricut – 5 Intro to Painting – 15 Intro to Sewing – 2 Hall Party – 195 St. Patrick's Day Traps and Treats - 8 Marine Event – 40 Boy Scout Event – 15 Pee Wee Assessments – 100 Steger 250 meeting – 40 Basketball Rented Assessments – 30 Members coming in – 1151 Totaling: 2398 people walking in the door all month Recreational Basketball has a regular schedule in our gym Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. If they need a make-up practice, because there school gym was closed, we always work them into a spot in our gym on a day that is not there regular schedule. We do not keep track of these numbers at this time. We have new flyers and calendars available for April please feel free to take as many as you like before you leave. We are creating a couple Summer Camps for here, after we have ironed out all the details we will post these at the District 194 website, our village website, and we'll have flyers here. I found a couple of STEM opportunities for the kids and have sent them over to the district, 1 is "Friends of the Chicago River Exploration Day" and the 2 nd is "Energy Summit" they are both put on by the Exelon Company in conjunction with Comed. We have those flyers available here as well. June Event update: Camp Out! June 13th with us in Veteran's Park! This is a family event, please bring your tent, some hot dogs to roast on the fire. We'll have \$1 S'mores kits available the day of. The Cook County Sheriff's department will be doing a Dog Demonstration and we'll weather permitting have a movie out here, too. Please pre-register for your tent spot space is limited, I'm also taking suggestions on the movie choice, please help decide what movie would be a hit. Lastly, we are hosting a blood drive at the Louis Sherman Community Center on June 12th in the hall, while the Cook County Sheriff's Dept. will be in the gym doing a Spot the Bleed, certification class. Please sign-up here for either or both and as always thank you to everyone that walks through these doors. This is your center and we always enjoy seeing you and your families come in

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson We have hired two new members that are currently in training. One is an experienced member, so he is up and running pretty fast. They both know the Steger area very well. I want to announce that we have completed Phase I of our new Command Unit. We have it here and invite you to come down into the bay area and see it. It is recycled from an ambulance that was replaced by the Fire Department. It is well equipped and wired with full communication capability.

Code Enforcement Paul Myers Good evening Mr. Mayor. So far this year, January 1st to now, Code Enforcement and the ladies downstairs have received over 100 permits. Looking back into the history, this is a higher amount than it was in previous years. That is over \$8,000 that we have collected in permits. There is no parking on sidewalks, there is no parking over sidewalks. I will be giving tickets out and warnings out for that. I have

already started, I have given 25-30 warning tickets for parking on sidewalks. We and the police department are working on a dog abuse case, the dog is still in custody at County Line Animal Hospital. I have given out 25 tickets for garbage cans left out and junk vehicles. That is my report for tonight.

Mayor Joyce: What was the fine total for the last hearing? Mr. Myers, the last adjudication was \$10,000.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

BILLS

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

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: Why did we spend \$45,000 without board approval? Is that why we waited to pass the purchase policy? Mayor Joyce: If you are referring to the Vermeer bill? A repair bill under Illinois State Law does not fall under the purchase policy. We did talk about fixing the Vermeer at many board meetings and have had many discussions on it. The Vermeer is our woodchipper. It had a locked-up motor. In the process of sending it out for initial charge to replace the motor which was \$17,000, they found that the radiator was blown open by sitting in a field for 8 years. Beyond that, there was the belts were dry rotted and then, if you put a new motor and radiator in, it was decided that we ought to fix the drum that actually does the work of cutting and chipping. Once that was done, the company Vermeer that built it had genuine concerns of us taking a machine that was fully operational that had all the safety devices disabled at some point prior to it being locked up. It was an additional \$8,000 to repair all the safety devices so someone wouldn't fall into the machine. The bill was much larger than was expected when we originally talked about it. I felt the safety devices on a piece of equipment was nonnegotiable. At this point we were already \$30,000 into it, so we moved forward with that repair. In that we priced out a used replacement, a 10 year old unit was \$127,000, we looked at a 4 year old unit that was more than that and we couldn't even afford the new ones. Yes the bill is quite large, much larger than we initially thought it would be, but it is a useful tool for Public Works in the event we get hit by storms. It has been 10 years since the village had an operational woodchipper. There will be a branch program starting up again. Trustee Perchinski: So, are we going to pass a purchase policy? Mayor Joyce: The purchase policy right now I just received from Village Administrator and our legal team, an updated copy of that, once it has gone through review I will send it to the Village Board Members to review so that we can discuss it.

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

Trustee Hanus made a motion to approve and authorize a final TIF payment of \$26,532.21 to 3760 Corporation from Will County TIF #2 pursuant to a Redevelopment Agreement. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

CORRESPONDENCE Village Clerk Zagone read a note of thanks from Marie lafollo for the evening of recognition of her 100th birthday. She expressed her gratitude for the Proclamation, the cake and the flowers she received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1344-2026 AN ORDINANCE STIPENDS FOR REFEREES, SCOREKEEPERS AND OTHER SERVICES FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, With the changes to exhibit A that specify referee 1 and referee 2.

Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Kaminski made a motion to Ratify a Settlement Agreement with a former employee and the Village of Steger. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Hanus, Kaminski, Stewart, Thurmond and Trotier. Trustee Perchinski voted no. Motion carried.

Trustee Stewart made a motion to approve a Business License, subject to inspections, for the Steger Chess Academy at 3234 Chicago Road in Steger, Illinois.

Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

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

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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 8:12 pm.

William Joyce, Village President

Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk