

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**

Police Chief Greg Smith introduced three new full-time Police Officers that will be going through Police Academy:

Officer Carlos Luna, Officer Valeria Aguilar and Officer Christian Silva  
Village Clerk Zagone gave them each their Oath of Office.

Village Clerk Zagone read a Proclamation designating April in Honor of Earth Day which is observed on April 22, 2026.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt the Proclamation Honoring the Month of April for Earth Day. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion.

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

**MINUTES**

Trustee Trotier made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026, meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Phillip Long of 3752 Stella Blvd came before the board to address a safety concern in the alley behind his house. A substantial sink hole has developed and hoping the Village can help out with this. Mayor Joyce instructed Mr. Stone to meet with Mr. Long and see

what can be done. Mr. Long went on to voice concern with dying tree in the easement in front of his house. Mr. Stone will evaluate the tree when he looks at the alley.

Carol Lindemann came before the board to follow up on her concerns with homes on John St. She saw that one had cleaned up a bit, but not the other. Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers stated that he had looked at the area in concern and issued citations and got some of the vehicles moved. Waiting for court date to see results of citations written. Ms. Lindemann further voiced concern that there is much going on for the citizens of Steger, but no one knows about it. Can we have a newsletter or something? Mayor Joyce said we are working on it. Most events are posted on Facebook.

Debbie Armitage shared a friendly encounter she had with Steger Police Officer Dale Banicki. I thanked him for his service and told him that I love living in Steger. I love the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Public Works Department. He asked that I come to the Village Board Meeting tonight and share these thoughts.

Kath Hannah of Miller Woods stated that Code Enforcement Officer Paul Myers is fantastic being in charge of anything that happens in regard to Code Enforcement. I appreciate that you got this job.

## **REPORTS**

### **MAYORS REPORT**

For my report: Little League is having Opening Day this Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> (since changed to May 2<sup>nd</sup>) they will have a parade that will start at Columbia Central, goes down Halsted Blvd. to Steger Road, Steger Road west to Morgan Street then into Harold Hecht Park. All of the teams will be there for celebrations.

The only other thing I have to announce to the board and the public is, Lobby Day for the Illinois State Legislature is the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Myself, Joe Wiszowaty and Trustee Thurmond are scheduled to go down on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> to meet with different State Legislature to advocate for Steger.

**VILLAGE CLERK** No report.

**Village Administrator** I don't have a report per se, but I just want to say I really do appreciate the job that Police and Fire Commission did. It's not easy. They are all volunteers and they put in a lot of time and a lot of effort in the hiring and onboarding these new Police Officers. So, I just want say thank you to our Police and Fire Commission for all your hard work.

**Village Attorney** No Report

**Village Engineer** Good evening Mayor, Board of Trustees, Clerk and residents of Steger. We had bid opening on April 8<sup>th</sup> for year 3 of Lead Service Line Replacement.

The lowest responsible bidder was M&J Underground. This will be put before you under board actions tonight. Additionally, I want you to know that we will have bid opening this Thursday afternoon for the 2026 MFT Resurfacing Program. We will present a recommendation to award at the May 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

### **Greg Smith Police Chief**

First I want to echo what the Village Administrator said. The Police and Fire Commission did an outstanding job. It did create great recruits, so thank you!

Meetings, Conference and Training:

Police Law:

The charge and penalty for using a license plate flipper;  
Guidelines for monitoring public meetings and lawful responses to unwelcome conduct;  
Body-worn camera use in hospitals and medical facilities;  
Public indecency arrests when there is no cooperating witness;  
Enforcing the law outside and across home jurisdictions;  
Lawful entries onto private outdoor property; and  
Towing vehicles from private driveways

Chief Smith & D.C. Fajman met with ILEAS coordinator.

Updated member passwords, Reviewed ILEAS activations & assignments

SSMMA Public Safety Committee

Ofc. Velazquez attended the monthly Bloom Trail 1st Responders meeting

Sergeants Meeting, Department meeting

Met with Bloom Trail Truancy Officer – discuss issues.

Range Handgun Qualifications, Special Events / Assignments:

K9 Search at Columbia Central: Collaborated with W.C.S.P. to conduct K9 Search.

Provided pizzas for LCC Dispatchers – National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

### **Fire Chief Mike Long Monthly Call Volume & Statistics**

During the month of March 2026, the Steger Fire Department responded to a total of 187 calls for service. The breakdown of these incidents is as follows:

- EMS/Medical Calls: 136 (72.7% of total volume)
- This includes 46 ALS transports and 77 BLS transports.
- Fire/Service Runs: 51 (27.3% of total volume)
- Notably, we responded to 17 structure fires.

Mutual Aid Performance

- Mutual Aid Given: 51 times.
- Mutual Aid Received: 9 times.

I want to specifically highlight the dedication of our Paid-On-Call personnel. Their high turnout rate allowed us to man our own apparatus and maintain local coverage with minimal reliance on outside agencies. When Steger residents need help. It's almost always a Steger paramedic delivering that care.

Personnel Highlights & Training

We are pleased to recognize Cadet Elijah Wedding for his initiative in attending a weekend training in Colona, IL. The Cadet program is vital for the future of this department, and Elijah's commitment to furthering his education reflects the "Duty, Pride, and Tradition" we instill in our members.

**Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Roy Stone** Good evening, DPW continues with day-to-day operations.

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

Five Star has completed their lead line replacements for Phase 2. They are currently finishing restoration work, and it should be done within two weeks, weather permitting. This project included 108 full replacements and 90 partials.

The Woodchipper is back after being repaired. A schedule for chipping will be forthcoming.

DPW has been working on the Vac Truck which has been out of service for quite some time. Last week, we did a test run. DPW was able to successfully vac out eleven structures. This truck will help in saving the Village money. If this work is contracted out, it is \$600.00 an hour. The jetting portion still requires some maintenance.

Hydrant Flushing has started and will continue every Tuesday through October.

### **Community Center Fay Kiaurakis**

The Community Center logo is finished!

I passed my notary & food handlers license. Kris has passed his food handlers license. So we should be able to start cooking classes as soon as next month. If we can get some equipment in time. Cook County Sheriffs are coming to do a Luncheon and games with our kids on July 8, sign-up now. There is a 70 child limit, per the Sheriffs criteria, they will be bringing us a dog demonstration for our Camp Out June 13th, and we are also partnering with them for a "Stop the Bleed Certification" program. Please sign-up for all of this now spaces are limited. The Community Center is offering a Movie camp, kids will decide what movie, they will create props, sets, scout locations to film, Film, sound, and editing, sell tickets, and have a movie Premiere right at the Community Center. This will be a 5 week camp starting July 6. There will be day and evening class times, we will provide food (either lunch or dinner). Camp will cost \$175 for the first child in a Household and \$75 each additional. Money will be used for food and supplies. Stop by the Community Center to sign up. We are also going to be offering a kids camp of some kind. As soon as Kris irons out his details, I will bring that to the board. Cook County Assessors are coming on June 9 with Will County Assessors to help our citizens with a number of things. We have flyers available from Will County, I'm waiting for the Cook County flyers to come in any day now. The Steger Library is coming to be part of our June "Community Assistance Month". They will be at the Community Center June 20 with a prize wheel and we are working on having something else that day, but we are still working on the details. DMV has confirmed they will be here on June 8th from 10am-2pm. As soon as they approve our posters and flyers we will have them posted at the Community Center.

Our Numbers

for the month are as follows:

April 1-18<sup>th</sup> Tops – 75, Over 50 Club – 120, Sewing Club – 10, Silver Club – 10, Chair

Fitness- 90, Senior Balance- 90, Fitness Class- 161, Home work help -4, Cart wheel Club – 9, Kids Floor is Lava – 15, Match box – 4, Girl Scouts – 5, Movies – 10, Intro to painting – 6, Nutrition Class- 7, Hall Parties – 730, Steger 250 meetings – 30, Members – 641, Totaling – 2017 people

**EMA Chief Jason Stevenson** No report.

**Code Enforcement Paul Myers** Good evening Mr. Mayor. I have begun writing tickets and warnings for tall grass. We have done from 4/13-4/17, the ladies downstairs have brought in over \$6,000.00 in permits. The total this month is \$11,000 in permits. Permits have skyrocketed since last year. Code Enforcement also did 30 A.O. tickets and 75 warning tickets. Those are the 48 hour tickets where you can call me and talk about the issue. Kathy Hannah voiced her concern that because of heavy rain, some people can't cut their grass because it is too wet. Mr. Myers stated that he will discuss it with the mayor, but generally, the yards being ticketed have no good reason to not be cut.

## **TRUSTEES REPORTS**

### **BILLS**

Trustee Stewart made a motion to pay Application #3 for Lead Service Line Replacement Year 2 to Five Star Energy Services, Inc. in the amount of \$712, 944.90 to be paid out of the Water Grant fund #06-00-38950.

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 pay the bills as listed with the changes given to us at the beginning of the meeting when funds become available. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Joyce read a letter he wrote to Illinois Representative Anthony DeLuca to be place on file with the Village Clerk. The letter is a request for flooding mitigation to the Village of Steger and specifically asking for \$250,000 for the acquisition of equipment to clean out ditches in our area. I had a conversation with Representative DeLuca about this and he asked that I send a letter to him. I sent the letter along with pictures of our recent flooding in Steger.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to make the letter from State Representative Anthony DeLuca part of the Public Record for the Village of Steger in the Clerks Office.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Voice vote; All ayes. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**      None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Hanus made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1345-2026 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SMOKE/VAPE SHOPS IN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER.

Synopsis: This ordinance establishes a six-month moratorium on new Smoke/Vape Shops. No new business licenses to any establishment shall be made. The village will conduct a study of the issues and impact and report with recommendations and changes.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: So where did this come from? What prompted a 6-month moratorium and who is going to do the study? VA Wiszowaty: Staff is going to be doing the study. We will be reaching out to legal in terms of what are the best practices. What makes the most sense for developing long term strategies for permitting these types of businesses within the village of Steger. This came off overwhelming applications for this type of business. We are going to take a good look at it and give some recommendations to the board. Trustee Perchinski: So what if we get a Binnie's that want to open a liquor store that would want to come into K-Mart? Village Attorney stated that individual Smoke/Vape Shops would be separate from businesses that sell primarily other products, but include tobacco products as a small portion of their business.

Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1346-2026 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE XIV OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARKING IN VILLAGE-OWNED PARKING LOTS. Synopsis: Prohibits semi and bus parking on any Village parking lot; prohibits overnight parking on village owned parking lots without proper permit or approval to do so.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: I think this should be with proper permit. Approval could just let anyone just park their big yellow dump truck with their trailer in the middle of the street with no plates or Village Sticker. Mayor Joyce: Actually, it has a Village Sticker and license plates registered to that address.

Trustee Trotier 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 accept the proposal from Holland Asphalt company and award the contract to Holland Asphalt Company in the amount of \$14,825.00 for parking lot repairs, including crack filling, sealcoating and restriping at the municipal lot

located at Steger Road and Union Ave with payments to be made from the appropriate TIF Funds. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Stewart made a motion to award the contract for the Village's Lead Service Line Replacement Program (Year 3), including full lead service line removal in accordance with permitted right-of-way requirements to M&J Underground, Inc. (low bidder) in the amount of \$3,535,522.55.

Trustee Perchinski 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 accept the proposal and award a contract to Above and Beyond Home Remodeling for roof replacement at the concession stand at Hecht Park in the amount of \$6,633.34 and to accept the donation of roofing materials.

Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 14-foot Utility Dump Trailer from Buffalo Trailer Manufacturing of Steger, Illinois in the amount of \$10,605.00, to be paid from the Water Grant fund #06-00-38950.

Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Thurmond made a motion to approve an engagement letter with Miller Canfield to serve as bond counsel for the Village of Steger.

Trustee Kaminski seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Perchinski: So, this to go for the \$3 million bond that is going to cost us \$6.5 million for the new village hall? What is their cost for service? Mayor Joyce: This is just the engagement letter. Trustee Perchinski: So, are we just going to go with one bid? Mayor Joyce: I don't know one bond counsel from another so I am taking our Legal Counsel's advice on who is the expert in that field. VA Wiszowaty: Miller Canfield is one of the most preeminent bond counsels in the state. Trustee Perchinski: Just to double check: we are looking at a \$3 million bond that is going to cost us \$6.5 plus we are going to take another \$2 million approximately out of the reserves to build a Village Hall. Mayor Joyce: Right now what we are doing is get bond counsel to guide us through this process. There are no final numbers on anything Trustee Perchinski. Trustee Perchinski: I just want to make sure everyone understands what we are voting on. Mayor Joyce: Yes, we are going to refinance is what we are going to end up doing. What the end result is going to be we don't know yet.

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

Trustee Kaminski made a motion to accept the proposal from National Wash Authority, LLC (low bidder) for cleaning the exterior of the water tower at Hecht Park, in the amount of \$8,900.00. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion.

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 7:55 pm.

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William Joyce, Village President

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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr. Village Clerk