

**The Board of Education of Steger School District 194,
Cook and Will Counties, Illinois
Meeting with the Village of Steger
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
At
35 West 34th Street
Steger, IL 60475**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:52 p.m.
Roll Call: All Present – Helsel, Raymond, Page, Edwards, Butkus, Geraci, and Turner

Meeting Attendees: All seven School District 194 Board members as well as Dr. Patricia Hahto, District 194 Superintendent and Mr. Eric Diehl, District 194 Business Manager. Representative from the Village of Steger included: Mayor Ken Peterson, Trustees Bill Joyce, Tim Perchinski, Ernie Lopez, Ryan Buxton, and Joe Zagone, Village Clerk. Absent Village Trustees included Lenny Skrezyna and Mark Kozy. In addition, Police Chief Ken Boehm, Inspector, Dave Toepper, Matt Wenzel, resident involved with Village PR, and Village Manager, Mary Jo Seehausen were present at the meeting
2. Prior to the start of the meeting, Chief Boehm gave a tour of the new Steger Police Station.
3. Mrs. Helsel reviewed the agenda items.
 - a. Communication between the School District and Village of Steger
 - b. Working Relationship between School District and Village of Steger
 - c. Mutual resources – how to make the most of them
4. Mr. Butkus informed the Village that people have approached him about the upcoming District 194 School Board elections in April 2019. He reported that he was told Village board members have been recruiting people to run in the election. He was informed that the people approached to run for office were told they needed to get elected so they could vote to allow the vacant Central Junior High property to be sold to the Village. Mr. Butkus asked the Mayor directly if these rumors were true. He stated that if the Mayor or any of the trustees had an issue with him or any of the board members running for re-election then why didn't they talk to the members directly and voice their concerns. Mr. Butkus stated he feels like the kids are getting short changed if all the Village wants is for people to run for office to acquire the land and not do what is best for children and their education. Mrs. Helsel and Mrs. Turner also stated that they were approached by individuals who reported the Village board was recruiting people to run in the election.
 - Mayor Peterson stated that the Village and the School Board has “buted heads” over the land. He stated that he was upset about not being able to

develop the down town area because he would like to see the land developed instead of being a vacant lot in the middle of town. He stated that people have talked to him about wanting to run for the school board. Mayor Peterson stated that he has not recruited anyone. The person he talked to was a younger resident of Steger who he was encouraging to get involved. He said there are rumors all of the time.

- Mr. Perchinski stated that the Village has not recruited anyone, and rumors happen all of the time. He also stated that the Village has “moved on” in regard to the vacant land and that it is no longer an issue except that the Village would like to see it developed.
 - Mrs. Helsel stated the Village Board and the School Board need to work on developing trust if they are to work together for the benefit of the community.
 - Mr. Perchinski agreed and stated that if the Village wants to have people run in the School Board election they will notify the School Board. Mrs. Helsel stated she would have no problem contacting the Mayor if the School Board had intentions to support people to run for the Village.
5. Mrs. Helsel voiced concern about what she and others have observed in town that makes our community look bad.
- She voiced concern about the doghouse that sat in front of Rob’s Furniture Store for weeks and about a broken down truck leaking oil on a village street. Both eye sores in the community. She stated that when she shared these concerns with Matt Wenzel, both situations were addressed within days.
 - Mayor Peterson reported that there is a process to address issues raised by Mrs. Helsel as well as similar issues that go against village ordinances. He stated that the people responsible for being non-compliant are given a ticket. If they do not comply with the ticket they may go to court where the judge allows the individual time to “fix” the problem. The judges want villages to work things out. This tends to be a long process if the person is not compliant. Mayor Peterson stated that there has been more success with judges in Cook County than Will County.
 - Mayor Peterson reported that there have been many issues addressed that people may not be aware of, and that the village is working with homeowners and business owners to comply with Village codes and ordinances.
 - Mrs. Helsel asked how other communities address these issues.
 - Chief Boehm stated that they have strict code enforcement and ordinance policies in place. He also stated that people and resources are needed to do an effective job.
 - Mayor Peterson stated the Village needs to be selective in who they choose to go after because of the limited resources of the Village.
 - Mrs. Helsel, Mrs. Page and Mrs. Edwards offered to volunteer to assist with identifying property in town that needs investigation.

- Mayor Peterson said we are not where we want to be with getting property owners to follow ordinances but he stated the village is moving forward.
6. Mayor Peterson reported that there are new businesses coming to town:
 - Tito's Tacos, a candy store, chain for hot dogs and hamburgers
 - He stated there would be no more vape shops.
 - They are trying to attract other businesses and not looking to increase video gaming or liquor licenses.
 - K-Mart transferred property to another company. He is not sure if they will close on November 24th like previously stated. Mayor Peterson said he is talking to consultants about the K-Mart property. There may potentially be a grocery store or another viable business. However, the Mayor stated that if the business wants a tax break, the need to leave the building empty for 2 years.
 7. Dr. Hahto shared information regarding School District 194
 - Dr. Hahto informed the Village about the Superintendent search and the interview process involving teachers, administrators and school board.
 - Dr. Hahto informed the Village that all three District 194 schools have obtained Commendable status as ranked by the state. This status is based on student learning and achievement.
 - Dr. Hahto shared information about Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and how it is transforming education and learning.
 8. Meeting Adjourned at 9:23 p.m. Motion made by Susan Edwards, seconded by Karen Turner.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education