

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Village of Steward, Illinois
402 Main Street
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00pm

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - 7:01pm

Roll Call - Zach (y), Bill (y), Erik (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y)

Approval of Agenda - Rylee motions to approve agenda as presented, Zach seconds. All in favor.

Minutes of February 9, 2026 Meeting - Jamie motions to approve minutes as presented, Rylee seconds. All in favor.

Visitor Recognition - Prairie Brome Solar and Karen Bonnell. Motion made to suspend the rules by Zach, Rylee seconds, allowing Prairie Brome Solar to present information. All in favor.

Prairie Brome Open House at Steward Elementary March 18, 2026, 5pm – 7pm, with ability to answer questions community may have. Sun Initiative being offer to Steward residents only through Dollar Energy Fund – Provides \$50/month deduction from electricity bill for 5 years but requires sign up; begins when Prairie Brome project is completed. Earliest expected completion is 2029. Project has a footprint of 1800 acres. Approval of permit to be submitted next month, with letters of support being requested by board members. Laura will share draft with those interested. Contact information and project information left with trustees.

Treasurer's Report - Matt presented. \$15,000 must be moved from Water Department savings account to the checking account. Items that need to be paid are repairs to water line on Miller Street. DJ motions to approve transfer and report, Rylee seconds. Roll Call: Zach, (y), Bill (y), Erik (y), Jamie (y) DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

Accounts Payable - Hugh presented. Water Department bill from Martin for water line repair on Miller Street and Willett Hoffmann for engineering services were reviewed. Zach motions to pay bills as presented, Rylee seconds. Roll Call: Zach, (y), Bill (y), Erik (y), Jamie (y) DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

Committee Reports

A. Water Info

1. **Info on Grant Application** - Water Main Identification progress – grant had to be redone. Willett Hoffmann still working on this.
2. **Items in water building** - some items removed and scrapped. Letter for identifying items provided for trustee information.
3. **Bulbs in Water Building** - Need to be changed. Now accessible with items removed for scrap. Jamie will try to get done before next meeting.

B. Park/Village Property

1. **Sidewalk Replacement Information** - Rylee has not measured sidewalks as of yet with weather. Scrap concrete removal from Rylee's property from previous sidewalk projects needs to be removed. This will cost \$7500. Rylee felt board should discuss this first. Hugh will check into access of use from township for equipment to see if we can handle this ourselves. Tabled until next meeting.
2. **Street sealing** – An engineer from Willett Hoffmann will inspect with Hugh on Tuesday, March 10. Update will be given at the next board meeting.
3. **Tree Trimming** – Karen would like to wait until trees have budded in Spring to determine what needs to be trimmed.
4. **Arbor Day Celebration** – April 24, 2026 at Steward United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend. The student body of Steward Elementary will be participating.
5. **Potential Projects** - DJ mentioned banners for Main Street would be a nice addition to our village. Hugh explained with truck traffic they get destroyed easily and are costly to replace. Trustees asked to think of other possibilities that would be long term and easily maintained.

- C. Items for newsletter or other publicity – none at this time.

Old Business:

- A. **Easter Planning** - Budget of \$400.00 was suggested. Rylee motions to approve this amount, Zach seconds. Roll Call: Zach, (y), Bill (y), Erik (y), Jamie (y) DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.
- B. **Economic Development Agreement** - (Steward Creek Solar) – currently with our attorney for review. Numerous loopholes and our attorney is reviewing to ensure village is protected. Hugh will update once they advise.
- C. **Grocery Tax Introduction of Implementation** – Illinois Municipal League recommends we format for future possibilities of a store being built in village. Hugh will send it to attorney for review to ensure this is done properly and will update next meeting.

New Business

- A. **Gaming Board Overpayment** of \$112.00. This will be deducted from next month's payment, we do not have to reimburse out of general funds.
- B. **Economic Interest Forms** - Laura reminded everyone that these must be received by the Lee County Election Department no later than May 1, 2026. There will be fines if not, payable by person who did not comply. Laura asked trustees to bring completed forms by next meeting. Returned slip is to be posted on each person's mailbox.

Next Meeting Date: April 13, 2026 at 7:00pm

Adjournment - Rylee motions to adjourn at 7:51pm, Bill seconds.