

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Village of Steward, Illinois
402 Main Street
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00pm

Call to Order/Pledge – 7:00pm

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

Approval of Agenda – Addition to New Business: B. Verification of Residency for Trustee. DJ motions to approve, Rylee seconds. Roll Call: Zach (y), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

Approval of April 13, 2026 Minutes – requested changes: Water Department, Item 3: Generators will need to be replaced prior to watermain replacement. Item 4: Rock Road mentioned this amount. New Business: Flush Hydrants – Karen and Jamie set date for May 19 at 9am. Rylee motions to approve with changes, DJ seconds. All in favor.

Visitor Recognition – Ann Marie Williams, Director of External Affairs, GEENEX – Ann Marie gave presentation of current status of the Prairie Brome Solar Project, as well as the economic benefits it will provide Steward. In addition, a Community Benefit Agreement will be discussed at a future date. Materials were provided to the Trustees, and are available on their website or by contacting the Dixon office. Lee County Building and Zoning public meeting regarding this project will be May 27 at 5pm. It will then proceed to Lee County Board on June 25 at 6pm. All are encouraged to attend.

Karen Bonnell – Arbor Day was a success! Steward still qualifies for Tree City with the replacement of trees that were removed. Two replacement trees will be on current fiscal year expenses.

Treasurer's Report – Matt presented. Need to transfer \$2000 from water department savings to water department checking. Rylee motions to approve report and transfer, Zach seconds. Roll Call: Zach (y), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

Accounts Payable – Hugh presented. Need to add \$2500 to General Checking, J&J Construction for concrete removal. Zach motions to approve, Rylee seconds. Roll Call: Zach (y), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

Committee Reports

A. Water Department

1. **Need to get Phase 2 of water restoration plan initialized.** Hugh will continue working with our engineers. He will report when information is available.
2. **Hydrant Flushing** – Revision - Saturday May 16, 9am. Signs will be posted, Facebook posting as well. Jamie and Hugh will complete.

B. Park/Village Property

1. **Sidewalk replacement info** – Have not completed concrete removal from Rylee's yard. 3-4 loads are mixed with dirt and must be hauled to a different dump that is further away. J & J will require an additional fee of \$1500, with the total for the project @ \$9000. Zach motions to approve, DJ seconds. Roll Call: Zach (y), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor. Sidewalk estimate will be completed after this is done.
2. **Street Sealing Information** – Engineers not responding with information. Hugh will continue to try to get this finalized.
3. **Potential Projects** – Buddy Bench installation at Park. Hugh will coordinate.

- C. **Items for Newsletter/Publicity** – Graduates, permit reminder, Arbor Day Celebration, United States' 250th year celebration.

Old Business

- A. **Hexagon Economic Development Agreement** – In the hands of Hexagon attorney, working on corrections and additions. Our attorney recommended annexing location of Steward Creek Solar. Annexing would achieve additional revenue for village, as well as jurisdiction, but requires landowner approval. Hugh will communicate updates and recommendations.
- B. **Grocery Tax Ordinance** – Ordinance 5-11-2026-1 re: Grocery Tax presented for trustee vote. Rylee motions to approve, Zach seconds. Roll call: Zach (y), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). All in favor.

New Business

- A. **Storm Siren on Village Hall** – Storm siren is not working. Hugh discussed with Chief David Sawlsville of Rochelle. Chief Sawlsville provided information on company that inspects/repairs/replaces sirens. Our siren is older and may need replacement. Hugh has contacted company to do whatever is needed. All in favor.

B. Verification of Residency of Trustee – Hugh said the residency of a trustee is in question. He has heard from numerous accounts that the trustee is not residing in Steward. The trustee in question stated that is not true, there is no evidence of anything otherwise. Trustee has mail/driver's license addressed in Steward. Specifics for proof of residency with regard to Illinois law needs to be researched. Jamie motions to table this issue until definition of residency is provided through state and/or municipality code. Rylee seconds. Roll Call: : Zach (abstain), Erik, (y), Jamie (y), DJ (y), Rylee (y). Majority in favor.

Adjournment – Rylee motions to adjourn, Zach seconds. All in favor.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 8, 2026 @ 7:00pm