

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2020 at the Divernon Village Hall. Village President Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance, Copelin called roll: Jim Copelin "Here", Craig Busch "Here", Wayne Jones "Here", Gail Hedges "Here", Larry Baer "Here". Also, in attendance were Police Chief Jason Martin and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes. Melissa Layton, Tyler Bramley and Rod Molnar were absent.

A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Busch to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020. The motion passed 4-0 with the Mayor voting. Hedges voting present.

Baer presented the Village bills with a motion they be approved after adding an invoice for Day Pitney LLC. for \$342.50. Hedges seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Visitors:

Gordon Wyman of the U.S. Census Bureau presented the census plan to the Board and asked for the Village's assistance in any way the process can be marketed in order to maximize participation in the census. Federal funding is dependent on an accurate census count. Residents will receive a letter between March 12th and 20th and will be asked to answer nine questions. The data collected will be encrypted for 72 years. A total of four mailings will be made for non-respondents. The collection of data will be completed by the end of July.

Village Attorney Greg Moredock was in attendance to discuss the Village's attempt to get something done at the closed gas stations on Brown Street. The Village has reached out to the owners on several occasions in an attempt to get some movement with now luck. Moredock has looked into some options. He said that eminent domain is not an option. The Village has been mowing the property for the last three years. Moredock recommended that the Village begin billing the owners as well as imposing a fine of \$750.00 per day until the property is cleaned up per the Village's nuisance ordinance. Moredock will reach out to the owners to explain the Village's plans before and action is taken.

Supervisor Reports:

Public Works:

Nothing to report.

Police:

Chief Martin reported Heart Technologies has submitted a bid for cameras at the Village Hall. The Village still needs to meet with Auburn to work out the final details of the adjudication court. The F150 truck is at the dealer. A new engine is being installed as it is still under warranty. The Board needs to vote on the fines for restricted activities on Village streets. Moredock will finalize the document and present it to the Board at the next meeting. Pawnee no longer has use for their H1 Hummer and approached Martin to see if the Village would like to take it. The Vehicle is under the LESO program and maintenance would be covered. Expenses to the Village would be gas, insurance and decals. Martin will determine costs and the Board will discuss the item further. Busch recommended that the Village increase the fines for dangerous buildings. Hedges will break out the dangerous buildings fine schedule between commercial and residential properties.

Committee Reports:

Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Nothing to report.

Public Utilities, Water, Sewer and Gas:

Nothing to report.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer and Hedges presented a draft of the 2021 Appropriations Ordinance for the Board to review. It will be voted on at the next meeting. A new general ledger account will be set up for the TIF agreement with the Corner Bar and Grill and for the grant expected from Senator Steve McClure. Bert Barlow asked for an invoice for the reimbursement owed to the Village from his TIF agreement. Treasurer Christine Nichols has prepared an invoice for \$98.00.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

The owners of the property at 312 Lincoln Street have not yet been contacted about cleaning up the property. Chief Martin will attempt to make contact with them. Jones has been designated as the new point person for the Village on the Sangamon County Hazard Mitigation Committee.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

The condition of the street on the east side of the interstate near the grain dryer is in need of repair. There is a question as to whose responsibility the street is. Rhodes will find out who's jurisdiction it is in.

Village Communication/Building Grounds and Lights, Parks:

Busch reported on the purchase of the new playground equipment. The Village would need to make a down payment of \$8112.00 and the rest after the equipment is installed. Four weeks after the down payment, the equipment will be installed and delivered. A motion was made by Busch to purchase the playground equipment and pay for it out of the TIF fund. Baer seconded and the motion carried. 4-0. The new equipment is for very young children and is ADA accessible. There has been vandalism again at the park pavilion to electric junction boxes and receptacles.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Copelin reported that some resumes have been received for the treasurer's position. Interviews will begin after the deadline for receiving resumes.

Motion by Baer to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Jim Copelin
Village President

Rodney Molnar
Village Clerk