

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 electronically. 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, Clerk Rod Molnar called roll: Jim Copelin "Here", Craig Busch "Here", Melissa Layton "Here", Wayne Jones "Here", Gail Hedges "Here", Tyler Bramley "Here", Larry Baer "Here". Also, in attendance were Police Chief Jason Martin and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes.

A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Hedges to approve the minutes of March 25, 2020. The motion passed 6-0.

Baer presented the Village bills for both April 8, 2020 and April 22, 2020 with a motion they be approved. Hedges seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor Reports:

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes presented the engineering proposal from Benton and Associates for the water main replacement on Second and South streets. The total is for \$3500.00. Busch made the motion to accept the proposal. Bramley seconded and the motion carried 6-0. Public Works has been working on ditches and drainage. The water fountain in the park has been repaired. Rhodes and Baer will meet to discuss the area where the new playground equipment will be installed. Layton said Chuck Apgar would like Rhodes to know that the park is looking great.

Police:

Chief Martin reported that the F150 had the engine replaced under warranty, but there are still some outstanding issues. He has been without the vehicle for 2 1/2 months. The Board advised Martin to let the dealer know that the Village would like the truck to be replaced. If the dealer refuses, the matter will be turned over to the attorney. The Village of Pawnee offered the Village federal surplus Hummer they no longer use. The Board was not interested as the item failed to get a motion. Martin was asked if there had been problems with children congregating in large groups during the pandemic. He said thus far there have not been any issues.

Committee Reports:

Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Molnar reported he had spoken with Reggie Benton of Benton and Associates, and the update to the Zoning Map is nearly complete.

Public Utilities, Water, Sewer and Gas:

Jones presented three requests for utility adjustments for late fees. A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Layton to approve the requests. The motion passed 6-0. Molnar presented a hedging agreement from United Gas Management to amend the natural gas purchase agreement. UMG said the natural gas prices are at a three-year low and would like to get the Village locked into the price. They expect it will be going up after the pandemic is over. The Board gave Copelin the authority to sign the agreement.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer presented a request from Treasurer Christine Nichols to make the following transfers. \$40,000.00 from the Water Fund to the Gas Fund, \$15,000.00 from the Sewer Fund to the Gas Fund and \$15,000.00 from the General Fund to the Police Fund. Baer made the motion to approve the request. Hedges seconded and the motion carried 6-0. Nichols said that the sweep account currently has a balance of \$402,204.00. Normally she would recommend putting a portion in a CD, but not knowing what revenues to expect during the pandemic, she would not at this time. The MFT fund is at \$230,048.28 and TIF at \$145,407.22. Baer distributed the Certified Estimate of Revenues from Nichols. A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Hedges to accept the Fraud Manual. The motion was approved 6-0. Homefield Energy would like the Village to extend their contract for electric service which ends in December. Copelin will contact Homefield for more information.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

Layton reported that she has been notified by Flowers Sanitation that there will not be a spring cleanup program this year due to the pandemic. Fall is a possibility. This information will be added to the Newsletter. The Village received an estimate for mosquito control this summer. Rhodes said he puts out larvicide each year and doesn't believe an outside vendor would be of any help. There was a lengthy discussion over the Village's burning ordinance. Some municipalities have been suspending all burning of yard waste during the pandemic. A number of ideas were discussed. Copelin recommended that everyone read the current ordinance and explore ways other communities are dealing with yard waste and bring them to the next meeting. Layton reported the Township Clerk had received nine requests for aid during the Covid-19 crisis. Some monies have been distributed. Office Manager Heather Rideout has been referring people to her. The Methodist Church Food Pantry has not been very busy and would like to get the word out that they have items available for those that are in need.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

Nothing to report.

Village Communication/Building Grounds and Lights, Parks:

Bramley reported the park pavilion has been power washed and painted. The only thing that wasn't painted was the grey electrical box which wasn't in the initial bid. Bramley will get an estimate to have it done. Employees received two hours of training on the Civic Plus emergency phone system. The new playground equipment is expected to arrive the first week of May. The swing set and merry go round need painted. Rhodes said the swing set needs some new parts and will work on it when he can.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Rhodes received a request from Deb Nichols to install a fence on her property. He explained that the property is in the flood plain of Brush Creek and he is not allowed to give building permits in

the flood plain. The property owner was not happy with his explanation. Hedges reported the Village is eligible for Small Business Grants of up to \$25,000.00 each from the Federal Governments stimulus package. Letters were sent to all businesses in the Village. Three requests were received. Of the three only Toni's I55 Restaurant fit the criteria. There is a process which the restaurant owner will need to do to start the process, after which the Village will hold a public hearing. If the request is approved at the public hearing there are several steps the Village would undertake. June 1, 2020 is the deadline. A draft of the Village Newsletter has been distributed. A few items will be added before it is mailed around May 1. Molnar said he normally mails liquor and gaming license renewals around the first of June. All licenses renew on July 1 annually. He asked the Board if they would consider giving business a break on their license next year for the time that they were closed this year during the pandemic. The Board agreed it would be fair. He will have a couple drafts of letter for the Board to approve at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Hedges to go into executive session at 8:05 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:39 p.m.

A motion was made by Baer to approve the following raises.

Jeremy Rhodes 5% increase.

Heather Rideout 5% increase.

Jason Martin 3% increase with an additional 2% increase after completing a managerial class.

Craig Cox 3% increase

Darrin Copelin 3% increase.

Austin Cronister will have his pay increased from 18.00 to 19.00 per hour, which is the starting pay for full time officers.

Motion by Hedges to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Jim Copelin
Village President

Rodney Molnar
Village Clerk