

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at the Masonic Lodge. Village President Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Rod Molnar called roll: Jim Copelin "Here", Craig Busch "Here", Gail Hedges "Here", Larry Baer "Here". Melissa Layton arrived at 6:35 p.m. Also, in attendance were Treasurer Amanda Kessler and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes. Wayne Jones and Tyler Bramley were absent.

A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Hedges to approve the minutes of July 8, 2020. The motion passed 4-0 with the Mayor voting.

A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Busch to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 special meeting. The motion passed 4-0 with the Mayor voting.

Baer presented the Village bills with a motion they be approved. Busch seconded and the motion carried 4-0 with the Mayor voting.

Visitors:

Lisa Powell was in attendance to inform the Board that she intends to open a wellness center on the square. It will be a place for children with needs who can come discuss their problems. A licensed professional counselor will be employed. Life coaching will be available for teens. A nontraditional church service will be held on Sundays. Yoga will be available two days a week. She is planning to open September 1st. She would like the Board to consider donating \$1000.00 to help with startup costs. The Board will consider her request.

Amy Patton of Patton and Associates presented the annual audit to the Board. She said the transition to a new treasurer had been seamless, and Amanda was doing a great job. She said the Village should expect income, sales, and gaming taxes to be down this year. Village revenues were up slightly while expenditures were about the same. The general fund ended the year with \$437,000.00. A motion was made by Hedges to accept the annual audit. Layton seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chuck Apgar introduced Jerry Daniels and James Grable of the Boy Scouts of America. They made a presentation on what BSA had to offer to the boys and girls of the community. Their programs begin with Cub Scouts and end with older teens in learning life skills and helping transition into the work place. They left the Board with handouts. There are currently no scout troops that are active in the Village.

Supervisor Reports:

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported the Gas Utilities Alliance would be increasing the charge per meter to \$3.90 this year. It is a 20-cent increase from last year. The GUA insures the Village's natural gas system. He and his crew have been cleaning up from the storm which recently went through town. The new camera system is in place at the sewer treatment plant. He will be requesting the purchase of new lab testing equipment which will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Police:

Busch said he had been asked by a few people about adding four wheelers and side by sides to the allowable list along with golf carts per the golf cart ordinance. Baer and Hedges each said they feel the ordinance should remain the same as these types of vehicles can go much faster than golf carts. No action was taken.

*Committee Reports:**Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

Nothing to report.

Public Utilities, Water, Sewer and Gas:

Nothing to report.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer reported the Village's life insurance plan for employees is being renewed with Sun Life Insurance at the same rates beginning on October 1st. Copelin presented a plan to have Chief Martin attend a two week leadership training session beginning October 5, 2020. The cost of the training is \$1000.00. A motion was made by Hedges and seconded by Baer to have Martin attend the training. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

The Board discussed the Wellness Center presented earlier in the meeting. The Board has been discussing ideas to work with the youth of the community lately and this may supply some of those needs. There were several questions that need to be answered. Copelin will ask Powell to present a business plan before the Board considers making a donation. A discussion was also held concerning the Boy Scouts. It was recommended instead of trying to create new troops in the Village it would be better to direct interested children to those in Auburn. Layton reported some homes bordering the school property need trees to be trimmed. The residents will be notified. Rhodes is looking into trees that need to be trimmed impeding traffic in alleys. A request was received from Sofia Budd asking permission to paint the bridge on Ping Road. The bridge is not in the Village and her request should be made to the Township. Baer said he had received an email from Kim Thomas thanking the Village for the new playground equipment.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

Nothing to report.

Village Communication/Building Grounds and Lights, Parks:

Busch gave an update on the recent block party held in the park. He said everyone had a great time. There were some electrical issues that need to be addressed. Jamie Stowers will put a plan together to update the system and work with Rhodes. Busch said he came in \$300.00 under budget for the event. More help will be required if it is going to become an annual event. Copelin reported the Mason's will only be asking for a \$50.00 per month donation for the use of the lodge for Board meetings instead of the usual \$50.00 per meeting. The promotional business

contract will Comcast is due to expire on September 1, 2020. A couple options are available for renewal which the Board will consider at a later meeting.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Copelin would like the Village Website updated to allow residents to make suggestions or concerns to the Board. Busch will work with Office Manager Heather Rideout on getting the website updated. Hedges reported that LIHEAP has funds available for heating assistance. The Village only seems to get the same requests each year and Hedges believes there are others that could benefit from the program. A few ideas were discussed to better advertise the program.

Motion by Hedges to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Jim Copelin
Village President

Rodney Molnar
Village Clerk