

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at the Village Hall. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance, Clerk Gail Hedges called roll: Craig Busch “Here”, Joe Bukantos “Here”, Chuck Apgar “Here”, Dianne Brenning “Here”, and Tyler Bramley “Here”. Larry Baer was absent. Also in attendance was Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes and Policy Chief Jason Martin.

A motion was made by Busch seconded by Apgar to approve the minutes of June 23, 2021. The motion passed 4-1 with Bramley voting present. Apgar made a motion to approve the July 6, 2021, Special Meeting minutes and Busch seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Busch made a motion seconded by Brenning to approve the June 23, 2021, Executive Committee minutes. The motion passed 4-1 with Bramley voting present.

Brenning made a motion to approve the Village bills requesting to add \$94.17 in reimbursement payment to Busch for Village Block Party expenses. Bramley seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Visitors

Todd Becker was present to ask questions and raise concerns about the vacant gas stations coming into Divernon from I55. Becker stated it was an eyesore and an embarrassment. He wondered if the properties would not be more attractive if they were demolished. He is concerned that someone might purchase a property and make minimal improvements leaving the property to remain an eyesore. Mayor Copelin stated that we are working with the principals and there continues to be movement albeit slow.

Sangamon County Auditor Andy Goleman was also present sharing the roles and responsibilities of his office. The County Auditor’s Office has the responsibility of monitoring all internal financial operations of the county and by statute is the general accountant of the county and keeper of general accounts. The office is responsible for the biannual audit and monitoring of over 7200 fixed assets totaling \$121.8 million assigned to 35 County departments. Programs offered during COVID include CARES, CURES, and the American Recovery Act. A total of \$37.8 million is available through these program

Supervisor Reports:

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported that due to all the rain the staff were unable to do any sidewalks. Weather permitting, sidewalk work will begin next week. Only one bid was received for the oil and rock of Village streets. Busch made a motion to approve the bid from the Illinois Road Contractors in the amount of \$35,260.00. Bukantos seconded the motion which passed 5-0. Discussion of a tree removal at 533 S. State was tabled until next meeting

Police:

Chief Martin reported that the digiTicket system is being reviewed for use by the Village. digiTICKET allows officers to quickly create and submit tickets electronically. The PIPS system we currently use will need to be replaced by LERNS in order to communicate with the system. There is no cost to the Village other than to buy paper and the cost of installation in the vehicles. The Explorer needs new plugs at a cost of \$310.71. There were only minor issues at the Village Block Party that were easily resolved.

Committee Reports: Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Superintendent Rhodes reported he was approached by the American Legion to pour a concrete slab at the back of the building. It would take 3 yards of concrete at a cost of \$330.00. Mayor Copelin reported that the Highway Authority is holding up movement on the two gas stations coming into town.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer

Nothing to report.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Brenning reported that Jessica Hayes is the accountant, who works for the accounting firm Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden hired by the Village, serving as the acting treasurer. Hayes' name must appear in the board approved minutes as the Acting Treasurer in order for the United Community Bank to give her access to Village accounts. In order to keep the gas funds being collected to pay off the Illinois Finance Authority loan separate, a special account, #04549, must be created. A motion was made by Brenning and seconded by Apgar to create the account. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

There were no updates on actions being taken on the old IGA building. The Village is still looking into possible actions that could be taken in the case of dangerous or condemned buildings.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

Public Works staff cleaned the drain at the old IGA site. A new grate was installed to allow for better drainage and access. The weeds growing in the railroad ditch will be sprayed once weather permits. The board discussed the idea of getting a walking/bike trail where the exempt train tracks are located.

Village Communication/Building, Grounds and Lights, Parks, Recreation:

Two proposals were received for replacement of the Village Hall roof. Bolash Roofing and Construction had the lower bid in the amount of \$14,540.00 for a 30-year shingle. The bid is for a complete tear off of the old roof. Busch made a motion to approve the Bolash bid. Bukantos

seconded the motion which passed 5-0. In spite of the weather the Village Block Party was a success. There were a few issues including the failure of some electrical outlets and a broken water spigot. Donations from the Koozies totaled \$480.00. The Village covered \$1200.00 in expenses not covered by donations.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The North Business Development District ordinance was corrected and submitted to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

A motion was made by Apgar to go into executive session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss a staff situation. Apgar made a motion to return to regular session at 8:38 p.m.

Apgar made a motion to promote Police Officer Kenny Reardon to sergeant with a pay increase to \$23.00 an hour during the one-year probationary period. At the end of the 12-month probationary period, Reardon will receive a \$1.00 an hour increase. Bramley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Bramley made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Jim Copelin
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Village Clerk