

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held electronically on Wednesday January 12, 2022. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Clerk Gail Hedges called roll: Craig Busch “Here”, Joe Bukantos “Here”, Chuck Apgar “Here”, Tyler Bramley “Here”, and Dianne Brenning “Here”. Larry Baer was absent. Also present were Chief Martin and Superintendent Rhodes.

A motion was made by Bramley seconded by Brenning to approve the minutes of December 22, 2021. The motion passed 4-0 with Brenning voting present.

Brenning made a motion to approve the bills seconded by Apgar. The motion passed 5-0.

Visitors

There were no visitors present.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported that he had received a bid of \$1100.00 from Arbortech Tree Co. to remove the tree stumps coming into town on Brown Street. Busch made a motion seconded by Brenning to approve the bid. The motion passed 5-0. Rhodes also indicated he needed to replace the water tester which will cost \$582.39. Bukantos made a motion seconded by Apgar to approve the purchase. The motion passed 5-0. Work will begin soon cutting back and cleaning the tree line along the soccer field. Every effort is being made to improve the water flow reducing the occurrence of flooding.

Police:

Chief Martin reported that 3 candidates had been interviewed for part-time police officer positions. Two of the candidates were selected to proceed through training. Apgar made a motion seconded by Bramley to approve the \$3000.00 cost for training the two candidates. The motion passed 5-0. The Village will look into Professional Health Street to conduct thorough back ground checks on all candidates going forward. Fitness equipment was recently acquired for use by Village police officers. Keeping our officers trained and in good physical condition is key to a successful department.

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

Apgar reported the final ARPA rules had been issued. The Village is reviewing how the final rules and additional guidance from the DCEO might allow for additional uses of the funds.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer

Hedges reported a lien was being placed on the property located at 115 South State due to lack of utility payment.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Brenning reported the Bank of Springfield CD matured on January 9, 2022. The CD rolled at that time, but the Village has 10-days to make changes. Brenning made a motion seconded by Bukantos to change the term to 1-year with a .31 APY. Signers would be Jim Copelin, Gail Hedges, Dianne Brenning and Larry Baer. The 2-year CD will be closed by Hedges and Brenning and the new 1-year CD in the amount of \$308,380.53 will be opened. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

The Village Garage Sale is scheduled for April 29 – 30, 2022. Village Wide Clean-up and Recycling Day is scheduled for May 7, 2022. Apgar reported the Village continues to move forward with the court process to demolish the old IGA building. The same process is being considered for the two vacant gas stations coming into Divernon off I55.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

Nothing to report.

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

The Village will soon be looking for a new cleaning service. The Annual Village Block Party is scheduled for July 9, 2022.

Old Business:

Discussion on increasing annual gaming fees was tabled.

New Business:

The Village will begin looking into replacing the flooring in the Village Hall. There was discussion on the need for additional street lighting. More information is needed to make a decision. The current Christmas decorations are old and falling apart. The Village is interested in possibly forming a committee to look into new decorations. A search for new decorations will take place.

The meeting ended with a motion by Apgar at 7:41. p.m.

Jim Copelin
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Village Clerk