

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday December 22, 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”, Tyler Bramley “Here”, and Larry Baer “Here”. Dianne Brenning was absent. Also present were Chief Martin and Superintendent Rhodes.

A motion was made by Busch seconded by Bukantos to approve the minutes of December 08, 2021. The motion passed 5-0.

Baer made a motion to approve the bills with the addition of Health Alliance in the amount of \$3950.40. Bramley seconded the motion which motion passed 5-0.

Visitors

Prizes were awarded in the annual Christmas Lights contest. Brent and Heidi Bearden won for Best Theme. Derek and Lori Hedges won for Best Light Show. James and Angie Newbold were not present but won for Best Traditional.

Ed Cleeton of Cleeton’s Sanitation Service was present to discuss the sanitation services they offer. They have been in business for 12 years serving most of Christian County and many other communities in the area. They are interested in adding Divernon as a client.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported the water tower is now operational. The aerator float assembly has been received and will be installed as weather permits. Public Works staff are working hard to remove the last of the trees coming into Divernon. Replacements trees will be planted in the spring.

Police:

Chief Martin indicated we have several interested in becoming a part-time officer. There was some discussion on the need to change our hiring protocol. Discussion then followed on whether an officer could be given benefits if they hadn’t been certified through LETAC as a full-time officer.

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

Apgar reported he and Busch had meet with our DCEO representative to discuss how ARPA funds can be used. The representative indicated that the purposes discussed by the Village were acceptable. Apgar also indicated that police officer salaries are eligible CURES expenditures. The DCEO representative suggested the Community Development Block Grant as another source for infrastructure improvements. Busch reported that TIF funds could be used to cover some of the purchase and renovation costs of the old IGA building once the renovations are complete. A discussion of an extension of the TIF was discussed. Busch indicated that the north and south business development districts cannot be combined at this time.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer

Bukantos reported that Mike Bolash, Joe Felder, and Stephanie Weitekamp were all asking that late payment fees be waived due to no fault of theirs. Baer made a motion seconded by Bukantos to approve. The motion passed 5-0. Baer made a motion seconded by Bukantos to increase the water rate by 3% due to Otter Lake increasing the Village rate by 3% replacing the current increase of 3%. The motion passed 5-0. Copelin stated he had been in contact with Ron Ragan from Utility Gas Management regarding a set rate for February gas. This should protect the Village from a huge rate hike.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer made a motion to waive the \$.10 gas rate increase at this time. The gas fund will be monitored to determine if the increase needs to be reinstated at a later date. Baer made a motion seconded by Bukantos to approve a Christmas bonus to full-time employees and those part-time employees meeting the hourly requirement. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

A discussion was held on Village trash service. Some residents have voiced concerns regarding current services.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

Hedges reported the \$200,000.00 grant opportunity from DCEO could be extended due to the shortage of pipe needed for the water main replacement. The Board decided to move forward with completing the application for the water main replacement.

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

The Newsletter will be issued quarterly with the first 2022 newsletter to be issued in February.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Bukantos made a motion seconded by Baer to approve the liquor and gaming licenses for Lucky Lana's which will be a gaming parlor located in the back part of the Snack Shack building. The motion passed 4-0 as Bramley had left. Conflict of Interest statements were presented to each Board member for signing and return to the Clerk.

The meeting ended with a motion by Busch at 8:12. p.m.

Jim Copelin
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Village Clerk