

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held electronically and at the Village Hall on Wednesday January 26, 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”, Dianne Brenning “Here” and Larry Baer “Here”. Tyler Bramley was absent. Also present were Chief Martin and Superintendent Rhodes.

A motion was made by Apgar seconded by Bukantos to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022. The motion passed 5-0.

Baer made a motion seconded by Brenning to approve the bills with the addition of payments to Visa in the amount of \$187.74, P.F. Pettibone and Co. in the amount of \$309.75, and the Auburn After Prom in the amount of \$50.00. The motion passed 5-0.

Visitors

Monica Harmon was present to discuss the status of the utilities at her mother’s house. The Village will work with her to keep the utilities on.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported that he had found the pipe needed to begin the water main replacement project down First Street from Kenny to Madison. The total cost including pipe, fittings, valves and fire hydrants is \$51,000.00 for the first year. Bukantos made a motion to approve seconded by Brenning. The motion passed 5-0.

Police:

Kristi Millburg and Michael McDermid were both sworn in as part-time police officers. Both officers will begin training soon. Chief Martin reported that the fitness equipment had been set-up for the officers to keep physically and mentally fit for duty. Martin also reported the AEDs still need to be replaced and that he had found some that would cost \$8407.70

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

Busch reported he had spoken with Charles Branch from Nextsite who indicated he has been working with a couple of developers for Dollar General, McDonald's, Sonic, Hardee's, Dairy Queen and O'Reilly Auto Parts and positioning Divernon as one of their next opportunities.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer

Nothing to report.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer reported that Christmas bonuses totaled \$1092.81.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

Apgar reported the Sangamon County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was issued and will be posted to the Village website. Trash services still continues to be an issue. The Village will be looking into actions that could be taken. The process for demolishing the IGA has slowed down, but the Village continues to push for action as a dangerous building.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:

The Village is reviewing the need for additional street lights. Brenning has contacted Ameren for information on cost and guidance on spacing. Ameren will be contacted about street lights that are currently out. Designer Landscaping has been asked to make recommendations to the Village on the types of trees that should be planted along E. Brown Steet coming into town based on the site and location.

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

Busch has requested a budget of \$2000.00 be appropriated for the Annual Block Party scheduled for July 9, 2022. Busch is asking for suggestions on children's activities hoping to change things up from the prior two years. Busch requested the approval of 10 new 8-foot tables to be used for the block party. The cost of \$1000.00 will be split with the fire department who use the tables for their events and store them at the firehouse. Busch made a motion to approve the purchase seconded by Apgar. The motion passed 5-0. Alice O'Keefe was hired to do deep cleaning of the Village Hall twice a month at a cost of \$70.00 each cleaning. Brenning made a motion to approve seconded by Baer. The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Brenning seconded by Baer to increase gaming fees to \$100.00 for operators and \$50.00 for proprietors. The motion passed 5-0. The increase would take effect July 1, 2022.

New Business:

Mayor Copelin received notice from the IDOT that work will begin on improvements to I-55 from the Montgomery /Sangamon County Line north to Brush Creek and Divernon Road from State Steet east to Sullivan Road. Work will begin in the spring.

The meeting ended with a motion by Brenning at 7:36. p.m.

Jim Copelin
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Village Clerk