

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Bramley's Celebration Hall on Wednesday February 12, 2025. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Gail Hedges called roll: Craig Busch "Here," Joe Bukantos "Here," Chuck Apgar "Here," Randy Olson "Here," Dianne Brenning "Here," and Larry Baer "Here." Also present were Chief Mike Lavin, Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes, and Attorney Tony Schuering.

Olson made a motion, seconded by Bukantos, to approve the amended January 22, 2025, minutes. The motion passed 5-1 with Baer voting present.

Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the bills for payment. The motion passed 6-0.

Visitors:

Julie Rhodes was present to observe.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported that the high psi gas main under the railroad tracks needs to be replaced. Rhodes requests approval of a \$4000.00 permit fee for Genesee and Wyoming. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to approve the request. The motion passed 6-0. Attorney Schuering went through the revisions to the fiber optic boring ordinance. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the changes. The motion passed 6-0. The street sweeper needs new bristles. Rhodes requested approval to purchase replacement bristles at a cost of \$789.60. Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed 6-0.

Police Department:

Chief Mike Lavin reported that the 2022 Durango needs new brakes pads and rotors. Several bids were received, and O'Dell's had the lowest bid at \$483.00. Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed 5-1 with Busch voting no.

Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Apgar shared the Sangamon County Historical Society is offering a grant opportunity to preserve and promote the history of Sangamon County. The maximum award is \$1000.00. The Board discussed several ideas and was particularly interested in repairs to the Depot. No decision was made.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer:

Mayor Copelin shared with the Board that a \$155.00 cash payment put in the drop box was reported missing. The customer was notified and paid an additional \$155.00 to cover the bill. Since the cash was missing, Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Baer, to reimburse the customer \$155.00. The motion passed 6-0. The Board is looking into a new drop box that provides more security with an exterior drop and interior access for the Village Office Manager. Other security measures, policies and procedures are being reviewed. Heather White has resumed the duties of the Village Office Manager and Julie Rhodes is backup.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer presented the amended 2025 appropriations. No additional funds were added, but funds were shifted between line items. Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the amendment. The motion passed 6-0. Baer also reported that a UCB CD had matured and was rolled over for a 13-month term at a 4.35% rate. \$23,950.00 earned on the 3% CD was deposited in the general account. Blue Cross Blue Shield was chosen as the employee health provider for calendar year 2025. Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the selection. The motion passed 6-0. Homefield Energy has been selected as the electric provider for 12 months, beginning in May 2025 with a locked in rate of .0989 for the entire 12 months.

Public Safety, Health & Safety:

Nothing to report.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks:

Nothing to report.

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

Busch shared that he had begun planning the Village Block Party having identified the bands. Busch requested a \$3000.00 budget from the Village and would seek sponsorships to help cover some of the costs. Baer recommended providing a \$5000.00 budget which will allow payment for all expenses through the Village. The Board discussed having a committee take over the block party keeping it totally separate from the Village.

Old Business:

Apgar reported the newsletter is finished and should go out soon. Mayor Copelin said the first collective bargaining meeting for the police officers went well. Mayor Copelin requested a special meeting be scheduled to go into an executive session to discuss matters discussed on previous agendas.

New Business:

Brenning shared that the cost of water fighting fires has escalated. Discussion followed on ways to cover the costs. Olson mentioned that the Village should begin looking at abandoned houses and unkept properties again. Brenning shared that the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary is purchasing a pedestal monument to represent the new Space Force military service branch. With approval of the Board, the monument will be situated in the Village Park with the other branches. The Board will act at the next board meeting.

Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to go into executive session at 8:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to return to regular session at 8:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the Executive Session minutes of 11-27-2024, 12-18-2024, and released Executive Session minutes 1-10-2024, 9-3-2024, 9-25-2024, and 10-23-2024. The motion passed 6-0. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve a 1.25% merit pay increase, based on the salary policy approved by the Board in June 2024, and a 2% pay increase based on equitable discretionary factors for Brandon Packard. The motion passed 6-0.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor
Jim Copelin

Clerk
Gail Hedges