

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday April 9, 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 Busch, to approve the amended March 12, 2025, minutes. The motion passed 6-0.

Brenning made a motion, seconded by Baer, to approve the bills for payment including amending the March 12, 2025, minutes to correct the Frontier payment amount of \$219.26 to the correct amount of \$924.04. The motion passed 6-0.

*Visitors:*

Jake Rettberg presented the Board with a letter from the Otter Lake Water Commission to raise the water rate by \$.43 beginning with July 1, 2025, usage and billed in August 2025. Rettberg also presented a Business Development application to add an ADA accessible bathroom, per the engineer, in the old Illini Bank Building. Busch made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to approve the request subject to a written agreement for \$7072.00 effective April 9, 2025, which will be ratified at the April 23, 2024, Board meeting. The motion passed 6-0.

*Public Works:*

Rhodes requested approval to purchase a used road grader for \$159,749.00. Rhodes suggested the Village put \$25,000.00 down to hold the grader which is not needed until later. The purchase is eligible to be paid from MFT. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Olson, to issue a \$25,000.00 check to hold the grader. The motion passed 6-0.

A portable Gantry Crane is also needed by the public works department to be used on various projects. Rhodes requested approval to purchase a crane in the amount of \$8228.00. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the purchase. The motion passed 6-0.

The sewer plant roof was damaged in the recent storms. Rhodes is requesting approval of \$6375.59 for a new metal roof. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Baer, to approve the purchase. The motion passed 6-0.

*Police Department:*

Nothing to report.

*Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

Superintendent Rhodes presented an appraisal agreement from Taft Appraisal, Inc. to appraise the property at 10 – 14 W. Dodds St. and 100 Reichert Road. The 5.78-acre property to be developed must be efficiently divided in order to ensure maximum use. To do that, a plat map is necessary. Busch made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to hire Taft Appraisal, Inc. to appraise the properties and to hire

Evan Lloyd to develop the plat map at a cost not to exceed \$5000.00. The motion passed 6-0. The cost for both services will be paid from south Business District funds.

*Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer:*

Nothing to report.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Superintendent Rhodes presented the 2025 MFT Street Maintenance proposal prepared by Benton & Associates in the amount of \$142,600.00. Funds will be paid from the Motor Fuels Fund. Apgar pointed out that the proposed appropriation does not support the proposed general maintenance expenditure. After discussion, Baer indicated he and Brenning will collaborate with the treasurer to make the correction in the appropriation. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Baer to approve the \$142,600.00 estimated cost for general maintenance. The motion passed 6-0.

Baer reiterated what Jake Rettberg had presented to the Board regarding a letter from the Otter Lake Water Commission raising the water rate by \$.43 beginning with July 1, 2025, usage and billed in August 2025. The increase is necessary to allow the commission to improve the water lines along Rt. 104. Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the increase. The motion passed 6-0.

*Public Safety, Health & Safety:*

Superintendent Rhodes reported the public works staff had poured the concrete slab in the park for the port-a-potty.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks:*

Nothing to report.

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

Apgar reported that the next edition of the newsletter will be issued in early May 2025 and will include the swearing in of new Board members.

*Old Business:*

Apgar reported he had two quotes for a sound system for the park. One is for \$7499.00 which can broadcast throughout the park but is not weatherproof. The second is for \$2196.00 and is weatherproof but will not broadcast throughout the park. More discussion is needed before a decision can be made. The property swap for the 5.78 acres is moving along and should be completed soon.

*New Business:*

Since Adobe Acrobat was lost when the hard drive crashed, a replacement is needed for the office manager. Mayor Copelin will discuss with the Village IT contact the best option for the Village. A question was asked as to whether Heather White, office manager, is a notary and the response was no, but she plans to get it. Baer indicated a position description for the office manager position was ready to be posted so that interviews could begin on April 24, 2025. Mayor Copelin indicated the position description and salary have not been approved by the Board. The position description can be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to return to the regular session at 8:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Baer, to approve the March 12, 2025, executive session minutes. The motion passed 6-0.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Jim Copelin  
Mayor

Gail Hedges  
Clerk