

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday May 14, 2025. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Gail Hedges called roll: Craig Busch "Here," Chuck Apgar "Here," Randy Olson "Here," Dianne Brenning "Here," and Larry Baer "Here." Also present were Officer Christian Porter, Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes, Attorney Tony Schuering, and Julie Rhodes. Joe Bukantos was absent.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the amended April 23, 2025, minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the bills for payment. The motion passed 5-0.

Visitors:

Most of the visitors were present for the swearing in of new Board members.

Rhett Donley recently purchased the apartments at 19 W. Dodds and is requesting the Village rezone from commercial to residential. Busch asked the condition of the building. Donley stated that the building was in pretty good condition, but he plans to do a great deal of work on the building taking up to two years. The Board will further discuss before any action is taken.

Rhett Bartletti asked when the Board was going to approve the UTV ordinance. Bartletti said the Village was missing out on a lot of revenue because it hasn't been approved. Busch said the proposed ordinance will be on the agenda soon as he was hoping to get it passed.

Declaration of Results of April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election

Mayor Copelin stated the following are the election results for the April 1, 2025 consolidated election, as canvassed by the Sangamon County Election Office.

Office of Village President: Craig Busch ran unopposed and received 226 votes. Busch was declared the winner.

Office of Village Clerk: No candidate filed to run; no votes were tallied; and no winner was declared.

Office of Trustee (three positions open): Julie Rhodes received 177 votes. Gail Hedges received 151 votes. Chuck Apgar received 147 votes. Joe Bukantos received 130 votes. Julie Rhodes, Gail Hedges, and Chuck Apgar were declared the winners.

Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to Adjourn Sine Die. The motion passed 5-0.

Swearing in of Elected Officers:

Mayor Copelin swore in Craig Busch as Village President, then new Mayor Busch swore in Julie Rhodes, Gail Hedges, and Chuck Apgar as Village Trustees.

Jim Copelin and Larry Baer were given certificates of recognition in honor the work they have done for the Village. The certificate for Joe Bukantos will be delivered to him.

Mayor Busch called the meeting to order. Hedges called roll: Apgar "Here," Olson "Here," Brenning "Here," Rhodes "Here," and Hedges "Here."

Declaration of Vacancy:

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Hedges to approve Resolution 2025-003 declaring a vacancy in the Office of the Village Clerk. The motion passed 5-0.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve Resolution 2025-004 declaring a vacancy in the Office of the Village Trustee. The motion passed 5-0.

Appointments:

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to appoint Rod Molnar as Village Clerk, Jessica Hayes as Acting Treasurer, Jeremy Rhodes as Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Lavin as Village of Divernon Chief of Police, and Anthony Schuering as Village Attorney. The motion passed 5-0.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to appoint Colton McDannald as Village Trustee to complete the term of Craig Busch. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Busch swore Colton McDannald in as Village Trustee for a term of two years.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes reported he is in need of Adobe Pro in order to complete required reports. It was stated Adobe Pro is also needed by the mayor, clerk, police chief and office manager. Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Hedges, to purchase Adobe Pro team package for \$1331.45 annually for the offices of mayor, clerk, police chief, public works, and office manager. The motion passed 6-0. Rhodes request to pay the remaining balance of \$134,749.00 on the Motter Grader. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the final payment of \$134,749.00 on the Motter Grader. The motion passed 6-0. Rhodes also reported the water main project had been started. There was discussion on the request by Rhett Donley to rezone the property at 19 W. Dodds to residential. Attorney Schuering stated the best action was to amend the Ordinance 10-3-4 to allow for apartments to be approved under conditional permitted use. Further discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

Police Department:

Officer Christian Porter stated that Officer Kristi Millburg had resigned for personal reasons.

Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Apgar reported the property at 100 Reichert Road appraised for \$175,000.00. The Bramley's are interested in purchasing a ½ acre for a parking lot. The ½ acre at the pack of the property appraised. The Bramley's will be contacted and the appraisal information shared. The property at 10 & 14 W.

Dodds appraised at \$70,000.00. Apgar reported that he was contacted by the Historic Preservation Agency to say the grant application was received.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer:

Two utility adjustments were approved removing late fees because the Village Office was closed on the due date and payments weren't able to be made.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Brenning made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to approve HHR Solution, owner Debbie Thompson, to update the Village Personnel Code. The motion passed 6-0. Brenning made a motion, seconded by Hedges, to approve Homefield Energy to provide electricity for the Village streetlights at a cost of \$.07 per kWh for 48 months. The motion passed 6-0. Ameren had offered \$.126 per kWh. Brenning stated that Mike Bolash was interested in using TIF money to remodel his building. The building doesn't appear to be in the TIF district therefore would not be eligible for TIF.

Public Safety, Health & Safety:

Olson reported he had discussed with Derek Porter, a contractor, the need for the Village to replace the drop box to allow for better safety and security. No action was taken. Olson said he had discussed with Chief Lavin the need to keep better track of properties that have been neglected and received a warning or ticket. There was also discussion on the delivery of legal notices for properties with ordinance violations. Several methods of delivery were discussed. No decision was made.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks:

A discussion was held on concerns Village residents have for traffic violations occurring on a regular basis. The Village doesn't have enough officers to cover all the problem areas so suggestions were made such as officers targeting the areas of concerns, traffics studies, and dropping the speed limit. No decisions were made.

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

Apgar reported the newsletter is finished except for adding pictures of the swearing in ceremonies.

Old Business:

Apgar reported on Village Clean-up Day indicating 20 loads of junk was taken in for \$796.25. It was suggested that a hazardous waste disposal day should be held.

New Business:

Brenning reported she spoke with Designer Landscaping regarding the replacement of trees along Brown St. Because prices hadn't been received, no action was taken. Brenning reported that Heather

White is getting flowers for the planters in the front entrance. Brenning made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to approve Resolution 2025-006 appointing Mayor Craig Busch, Clerk Rod Molnar, and Trustees Dianne Brenning and Julie Rhodes as signatories for the Village accounts. The motion passed 6-0.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to go into executive session at 8:24 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote. Olson made a motion, seconded by Rhodes, to return to regular session at 9:12 p.m.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to create and post the position description for Village of Divernon Office Administrator. The pending position shall be advertised with a salary of \$25.00 - \$30.00 per hour. The final position description shall be approved by Mayor Busch prior to posting. The motion passed 5-0. Ordinance Chapter 7 must be amended creating the Office Administrator as an employee. Apgar made a motion, seconded by Hedges, to approve the amended April 23, 2025, executive session minutes. The motion passed 4-2 with McDannald and Rhodes voting present.

Apgar made a motion, seconded by Olson, to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Craig Busch
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Trustee