

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Village President Craig Busch called the meeting to order at "6:30 p.m." reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Village Clerk Rod Molnar called roll: Craig Busch, "Here," Chuck Apgar "Here," Randy Olson "Here," Dianne Brenning "Here," Julie Rhodes "Here," Colton McDannald "Here," Gail Hedges "Here." Also, present were Police Chief Christian Porter, Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes, Deputy Clerk Tara Kerouac, and Village attorney Mr. Schuering.

A motion was made by Trustee Apgar to approve September 10, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Olson. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

*Visitors:* Dave Goddard

Dave Goddard addressed the Board regarding a Business District /TIF request to assist with the cost of a new roof at Herman's Garage located at 130 South State Street. He reported that the project quote totaled \$23,641.00. The Board discussed the request and possible support with Goddard.

*Public Works:*

Superintendent Rhodes informed the Board that Metro Communications will begin installing fiber optic cables in Divernon this week. He has an upcoming meeting with their representatives to discuss compliance with Village regulations. He also reported that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) completed their annual audit, with no issues found. In addition, during the USDI leak survey, a leak was identified at the Take Point on West Glenarm Road; the affected pipes, originally installed in the early 1950s, have since been updated and repaired.

*Police Department:*

Chief Porter reported on several properties and nuisance matters within the Village. The property at 312 Lincoln had a second notice of failure to pay. The fine must be paid by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Chief Porter spoke with the property owner regarding a rental property that was abandoned, located at 200 North First Street. A letter was mailed out regarding compliance with Village's ordinance on abandoned properties. Chief Porter reported an eviction located at 43 West Lewis without incident. He informed the Board he tried to contact the resident located at 620 South Third Street regarding ordinance violations. No contact has been made.

*Economic Development, Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

The Board discussed a TIF business incentive request for Herman's Garage, located at 130 South State Street, to assist with necessary repairs. The total project cost was reported as \$23,641.00. The Board discussed a possible TIF reimbursement of up to 49% of eligible costs, not to exceed \$11,600.00. A draft agreement will be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

The Board discussed zoning for Nutrien Agriculture. The pre-annexation agreement was completed, and construction should begin soon.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Nothing to report.

*Village Communication:*

CCS inc. will be installing the new computer-security equipment next week in the Village Hall.

*Village Grounds:*

The Board received an update from Trustee Olson regarding the removal of the railroad tracks that are no longer in use. The Board discussed the possibility of converting the area into a hiking trail that would run through the Village and connect with other existing trails. Mayor Busch reviewed potential options and suggested names, including "Rail-to-Trail." Trustee Olson will follow up on the development of a new hiking trail.

The Board reviewed the inspection at 26 West Dodds Street completed by Ryan Scott and Superintendent Rhodes on September 22, 2025. Following review and discussion, the Board determined not to pursue the purchase. Attorney Schuering will send a letter to the property owner notifying them of the decision.

*Village Ordinances:*

Trustee Hedges discussed updating the sex offender ordinance. The update would include an 800-foot distance from any school or park. No action was taken.

Attorney Schuering brought to the Board's attention the option for a new ordinance to clarify how votes are calculated at the Board meetings in certain instances. The ordinance would define what constitutes a "no" vote, along with rules and procedures for recording and applying votes.

*Old Business:*

The Board voted on Ordinance 2025-15, and ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 8 of the Village Code to correct a scrivener's error and authorize other necessary actions. Trustee hedges made a

motion to approve amending Title 4, Chapter 8. Trustee Apgar seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The item for Resolution 2025-18, authorizing payment of certain real estate taxes levied against Village-owned property was discussed by the Board and information on the resolution was handed out.

The Ordinance 2025-016 regarding a variance request on 927 South First Street was voted on. Trustee Apgar made a motion to approve the request. Trustee Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The Ordinance 2025-017 accepting and authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local 916 was voted on. Trustee Apgar made a motion to approve the ordinance. Trustee Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The Ordinance 2025-018 authorizing placement of an LED stop sign at State Street and Kenny Street was voted on. Trustee Hedges made a motion to approve ordinance. Trustee McDannald seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Apgar and seconded by Trustee Hedges to approve the municipal aggregation bid for electrical rates. The vote passed 6-0. The bid sets the residential property rate at \$0.128 per kilowatt-hour.

*New Business:*

A motion was made by Trustee Apgar to go into executive session at 7:54pm for the purpose of discussing personnel. Trustee Hedges seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The board returned to open session at 8:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee Apgar and seconded by Trustee McDannald to post a position for a part-time office manager with an updated job description after having it reviewed by H.R. representative Debbie Thompson. The motion was approved 6-0

A motion was made by Trustee Hedges to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Trustee Apgar seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Craig Busch  
Mayor

Tara Kerouac  
Deputy clerk