

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at the Masonic Lodge. Village President Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Rod Molnar called roll: Jim Copelin "Here", Craig Busch "Here", Melissa Layton "Here", Gail Hedges "Here", Tyler Bramley "Here", Larry Baer "Here". Also, in attendance were Police Chief Jason Martin and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes. Wayne Jones was absent.

A motion was made by Baer and seconded by Busch to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020. The motion passed 5-0.

Baer presented the Village bills with a motion they be approved. Hedges seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

*Visitors:*

David and Brittany Catlin were in attendance to discuss the upcoming block party. The Illinois Liquor Commission is currently not giving out special event licenses. Catlin did some checking on the Commissions website. During the pandemic, they are giving local liquor commissioners the authority to extend the jurisdiction of the liquor establishment to an area outside the business. Copelin will contact the attorney before making this decision. If allowed, Maddy's and the Corner Bar will both be selling alcohol at the event. Busch updated the Board on the plans for the block party. Wristbands for alcohol will be available in the park. Glass containers must remain inside the taverns. The Fire Department has tables and chairs available, but volunteers are needed to put them up. Flowers Sanitation is donating the use of a dumpster. The bag tournament will be fenced in. Rhodes will supply obstacles for laser tag. Martin said four police officers will be present.

*Supervisor Reports:*

*Public Works:*

Superintendent Rhodes reported the bid opening for the oil and rock of streets was held on July 6th by Benton and Associates. The low bid was from P.H. Broughton for \$44,053.20. A motion was made by Layton and seconded by Hedges to award the bid. The motion carried 5-0. A natural gas survey was recently mailed to all residents of the community. Rhodes said it was important that as many surveys possible be returned. A reminder will be put on the Village website. It was suggested that Martin post a Facebook video with a reminder. Rhodes said that the MacMurray Park sign has recently been repainted by Rod Bourne. The cameras for the sewage treatment plant have arrived and he will get them installed as soon as possible.

*Police:*

Chief Martin reported new officer Gerrad Straube has been working out well. Straube and Officer Reardon were in the 2015 Ford Explorer on the way to the truck stop when a deer ran into the side of the vehicle causing \$4600.00 of damage. Herman's Garage will be making the repairs. The claim was filed with Illinois Risk Management. The Village has a \$500.00 deductible. The attorney is working on getting payments for training from former officers Schoonover and Cronister. Jim Mayes is interested in becoming a part time police officer. He would need to go through training. Martin said he may be interested in putting him through the training at a later date. Copelin gave an update on the gas station properties. He has spoken with local commercial realtor Todd Smith. Both properties went on the market on July 1. Signs indicating the properties are for sale are up on both properties.

*Committee Reports:*

*Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

Nothing to report.

*Public Utilities, Water, Sewer and Gas:*

Nothing to report.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Baer reported he had spoken with Good Energy in regards to the civic fee which is part of the rate negotiated with Homefield Energy. For those choosing to opt out of the aggregation, they would not be subject to the fee, only to the higher rate. Patton and Associates will be at the next meeting to present the annual audit. There is a \$50.00 donation for the use of the Masonic Lodge for the Board meetings. A discussion was held concerning the future of the meetings. For now, they will remain at the Lodge.

*Public Safety, Health and Safety:*

A motion was made by Layton to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Sangamon County Health Department for animal control. The bill for last year was \$725.83. Baer seconded and the motion passed. A lengthy discussion was held in regards to the burning of yard waste. Copelin began by saying he wasn't expecting to get the issue resolved tonight, but hoped a platform for compromise could be reached. Baer believes the current ordinance which allows burning from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily is adequate but needs to be better enforced. Hedges has presented a proposal which would restrict the days and hours of burning. The other members of the Board felt there was room for compromise, but no action was taken. A discussion was held concerning establishing community programs for the youth in the Village. Layton, Hedges and Copelin presented a list of ideas. Layton will compile the list and email them to the Board. Layton, who has been an internal part of the church youth program being run from the Presbyterian Church explained some of the obstacles they have had in the past. She said a commitment from adults in the community is a must. Copelin would like the Police Department to be a positive interaction with the young people in the Village. Chuck Apgar, who was in attendance said he is involved with the Boy Scouts of America. He said he has resources available that can be used. A motion was made by Layton to pass ordinance 2020-002, an ordinance requiring all residences in the Village to display house numbers. Hedges seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:*

Nothing to report.

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

Busch reported the merry go round and swing set in the park have been painted.

*Old Business:*

Molnar recommended liquor license fees for businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic be adjusted to \$300.00 for the year and gaming licenses be adjusted to \$30.00 per machine. The Board was in agreement of the fees. Invoices will be mailed. Hedges reported she has spoken with the tax advisor from Toni's I55 Cafe concerning small business grants being made available from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. She said Toni's was not interested at this time. Hedges forwarded the information to his tax advisor.

*New Business:*

A discussion was held concerning the use of the park. There is no charge for using the park. Currently just contact the Village Hall to be put on the schedule unless alcohol is involved or there is some other special situation. In that case Board approval is required. Layton will put together a list of polices for using the park for private events.

Motion by Layton to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Jim Copelin  
Village President

Rodney Molnar  
Village Clerk