

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday September 14, 2022. 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”, Tyler Bramley “Here”, Dianne Brenning “Here”, and Larry Baer “Here”. Also present were Superintendent Rhodes and Chief Martin.

A motion was made by Baer seconded by Apgar to approve the minutes of August 24, 2022. The motion passed 5-0 with Busch voting present.

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

#### *Visitors*

Paul Palazzolo, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, and Erin Tozer were present to discuss the digiticket program offered through Sangamon County. There is no cost to the Village for this program, but would reduce the work of police officers at the same time improving efficiency and effectiveness. Discussion followed. A vote will take place at the next Board meeting following review of the interagency agreement. Robert Harbison was present to complain about the property across the alley from him and another down the street from him stating the properties were unkept with tall weeds and decaying structures impacting the value of his property. He was requesting the Village take action. Rhett Bartletti was in attendance requesting the \$100.00 fine be waived for tall grass as he has cleaned up the property including cutting the grass. Chief Martin stated the property had been cleaned up. Bukantos made a motion to waive the fine, with Chief Martin continuing to monitor assuring upkeep of the property. The motion was seconded by Baer, and passed 6-0. Garrett Trueblood was in attendance requesting the Board waive the ordinance violation fine for the dirt that had been hauled into a flood plain without authorization from the Village. Trueblood was requesting more time to remove the dirt. Bukantos made a motion to waive the fine if all the dirt that was hauled in was removed by September 28, 2022. If all the dirt hauled in was not removed by September 28, 2022, the fine of \$150.00 a day would be imposed retroactive back to September 1, 2022 and until all the dirt was removed. Baer seconded the motion that passed 4-3 with Mayor Copelin voting to break the tie. Apgar, Bramley and Brenning voted no.

#### *Public Works:*

Superintendent Rhodes reported the dump truck was in need of repair and maintenance which will cost \$2889.82 Baer made a motion to approve the \$2889.82 cost seconded by Brenning. The motion passed 6-0. Work will begin on the oiling and chipping of the streets on Monday, September 19, 2022. The Village was informed the fire department will be flushing hydrants on October 22 – 23, 2022. The Village received the Illinois Commerce Commission audit report on the Village gas distribution system citing no findings. Another ICC audit is scheduled for next week on the Village drug and alcohol practices as it relates to public works.

#### *Police:*

Chief Martin reported that one of the new trash cans located in the park had been damaged by a juvenile. The damage will be assessed and the repair cost will be billed to the parents of the juvenile.

#### *Committee Reports: Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

Mayor Copelin participated in a meeting with the FHLB to discuss Village growth and infrastructure needs. Mayor Copelin continues to meet with attorneys involved in the old gas station properties.

*Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer*

Nothing to report.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Baer made a motion seconded by Brenning to approve the revision of the Village Personnel Code to include Juneteenth as a holiday, and clarification that the Village pays the cost of the hospital insurance plan beginning the first day of the month following 30 days of employment at the rate fixed by the Board at the time of contract approval. The motion passed 6-0. Baer reported that Good Energy will not be offering electric service in the coming round as part of the aggregation. Once new companies are provided, the Village can do a comparison and make a decision on the best plan for the Village. The IMRF audit was completed and there were no findings.

*Public Safety, Health and Safety:*

Apgar reported the Village continues to move forward on condemning the old IGA store. The matter is still in the courts. The Village is looking into dangerous buildings located throughout the Village. Apgar will seek further guidance from the Village attorney on steps to removing these buildings to make for a safer environment. Bukantos reported that while walking he had been sprayed by the mosquito service causing him discomfort. Bukantos indicated he had crossed his arms over his eyes hoping the spraying would stop. Others have told him that they too had been sprayed while they were walking.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks:*

Nothing to report.

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

Bramley made a motion seconded by Apgar to approve a contract with AT & T for FirstNet Services. The cost per month will be \$314.50 per month for 7 cell lines. The plan allows for that every year each phone can be upgraded to a newer model at no charge. The motion passed 6-0. The next newsletter will be coming out in November.

*Old Business:*

Nothing to report.

*New Business:*

Hedges presented the complicated applications for new liquor and gaming licenses for Toni's Gaming, Inc. and TNE Gaming, Inc. Apgar made a motion seconded by Bramley to approve the licenses for both. The motion passed 6-0. Apgar made a motion seconded by Bukantos to amend Ordinance 2022-003 to increase the Video Gaming Terminal Fees that were approved by the Board on January 26, 2022. The dead trees along Brown St. will be replace this week.

The meeting ended with a motion by Apgar at 8:15 p.m.

Jim Copelin  
Mayor

Gail Hedges  
Village Clerk