

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday December 13, 2023. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Gail Hedges called roll: Joe Bukantos "Here", Chuck Apgar "Here", Randy Olson "Here", Dianne Brenning "Here", and Larry Baer "Here". Also present was Chief Paul Carpenter and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes. Craig Busch was absent.

A motion was made by Bukantos, seconded by Apgar, to approve the minutes of November 22, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the bills with the addition of a Gas Tax bill in the amount of \$1213.90. The motion passed 5-0.

#### *Visitors*

Susan Piazza, from Republic Services, was present to share information on trash and recycling fees beginning with the new contract in 2024. As part of a Village agreement, Republic is offering a monthly rate for weekly trash pickup of: year 1 at \$17.25, year 2 at \$18.03, year 3 at \$18.84, year 4 at \$19.69, and year 5 at \$20.58. Fee for monthly recycling pickup, offered every two weeks, is: in year 1 \$17.25, in year 2 \$18.03, in year 3 \$18.84, in year 4 \$19.69, and in year 5 \$20.58. A special rate for trash and recycling is offered to seniors age 60 and over. This will be an exclusive contract meaning no other service can be used within the Village limits. Special rates are also available to customers for commercial dumpsters.

Ben Spreen, from Benton and Associates, was present to provide information on the water main project from N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street to the sewer plant. The project has been advertised and will be awarded in January with work to begin later in the spring. Mayor Copelin stated that Demand Star is broadcasting the advertisement which should garner more bidders on the project. Spreen then discussed a revised agreement with the Village that allows for engineering work being performed for this project. Mayor Copelin requested more time to review the revision and stated that more detail needs to be provided as to the work performed.

#### *Public Works:*

Superintendent Rhodes stated that the ICC had conducted an audit of public works records and found no issues. The S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street water main project is complete with all residents hooked up. Bukantos reported that his water is cleaner since being hooked into the new main. Mayor Copelin stated the stop sign at Dodd and State needs to be moved up five feet to be in line with the other stop signs. Baer reported that Christmas light judging would take place on December 14, 2023.

#### *Police:*

Chief Carpenter has been in discussion with IDOT regarding posting of signs for the cross walk on Brown Street at State Street. More discussion is necessary before a decision as to how to proceed can be made. Chief Carpenter reported that there have been several tickets issued for running stop signs at State and Dodd. Bukantos stated that a resident complimented the police department for alerting them that a cat was locked in a vehicle. Once made aware, the cat was quickly released. Chief Minutes

Carpenter informed the Board that Officer Porter had submitted his resignation effective December 26, 2023.

*Committee Reports:*

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

Mayor Copelin stated that the annual TIF meeting will be held December 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall. Copelin asked the Board if a better time for the meetings would be 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. The consensus was to leave it at 6:30 p.m. Copelin stated the Board received a better outlining of the fee structure from Evan Lloyd on the building permit ordinance and it was given to Superintendent Rhodes to review.

*Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer*

Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Baer, to waive the late fee for Robert and Julie Meyer due to lateness of delivery of the mail. Records indicate the Meyer's have always paid in a timely manner. The motion passed 5-0. Baer made a motion, seconded by Apgar, to increase the water rate 3% which is done annually. The motion passed 5-0. . Brief discussion was held confirming that the rate covers the regular operating costs of supplying water.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Baer shared with the Board a comparison of health insurance policies for Village employees. Further discussion and a vote will take place at the next Board meeting.

*Public Safety, Health and Safety:*

Mayor Copelin stated that when any Board member or Village resident identifies an unsafe situation, the non-emergency police number should be called and the situation reported. A police report will then be prepared and the situation dealt with.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys, and Sidewalks:*

Brenning reported that in addition to Republic Services, Cleeton Sanitation Services and Lake Area Disposal had been contacted for trash and recycling pickup fees. Cleeton's offers a \$25.00 monthly fee for weekly trash pickup and \$15.00 monthly fee for recycling pickup every two weeks. Lake Area offers a \$20.00 monthly fee for weekly trash and recycling pickup. Lake Area provides a small bin for recycling which must be sorted. Brenning shared that Cleeton's Sanitation Services will make a presentation at the next Board meeting.

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

Apgar reported the Village is currently using a standard business domain which is free. Apgar continues to research the use of a .gov domain and the impact it might have on the Village. The next newsletter will go out in February 2024. Information on Village wide cleanup and the yard sale will be published at that time.

Craig Busch arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Old Business:

Apgar shared the latest version of the yard waste ordinance. Discussion followed. The draft will be sent to the Village attorney for review. Busch stated that Mike Sweet, of Com Microfilm, is meeting next week with Chief Carpenter and Superintendent Rhodes to determine which documents/maps need to be digitized so an estimated cost can be determined.

New Business:

Hedges shared that the annual Conflict of Interest Statements were included in the Board materials and should be completed and submitted by the end of December 2023. Mayor Copelin reiterated that more detail is needed in the Engineering Services Agreement Amendment for Bidding and Construction Services with Benton and Associates. Apgar shared the requirements, as reported by the IML, of posting information on the Village website. Discussion followed. More information is needed to move forward. Bukantos stated that it would be nice to purchase additional Christmas decorations annually to make the Village for festive. It was suggested that end of season decorations be looked into in an effort to save money. Bukantos even suggested that a music system be installed to play Christmas music. Discussion followed.

Baer made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:39 p.m. Baer made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. Baer made a motion, seconded by Olson, to approve Christmas bonuses for all active employees as of 12/25/2023 of \$100.00 for FT and \$50.00 for PT employees. The motion passed 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Baer at 9:39 p.m.

Jim Copelin  
Mayor

Gail Hedges  
Clerk