Minutes January 10, 2024 Page 3998

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday January 10, 2024. Mayor Jim Copelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustee Chuck Apgar called roll: Craig Busch “Here”, Joe Bukantos “Here”, Chuck Apgar “Here”, Randy Olson “Here”, and Dianne Brenning “Here”. Larry Baer and Gail Hedges were absent. Also present was Chief Paul Carpenter and Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Busch, to approve the amended minutes of December 27, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

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

*Visitors:*

Ben Spreen was present from Benton and Associates to present the bids for the watermain project. Bids were opened on 1/9/24. The Board was presented a recommendation letter from Benton along with a breakdown of the bids received. The apparent low bid was from Precision Excavating and Tiling LLC however improper bid calculation led to their final bid being higher. The low bid was received from Kamadulski Excavation & Grading Co for $318,257.77, and received the recommendation from Benton. Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Busch, to accept the Kamadulski bid. The motion passed 5-0. The Village will have Benton retain the bid bonds.

*Public Works:*

Superintendent Rhodes had nothing to report. Olson reported that he and Bukantos had met with Rhodes regarding the concerns tied to future broadband installation.

*Police:*

Chief Carpenter presented formal recognition of the promotion of Sergeant to Officer Lavin. Lavin’s family was present for the recognition as well as Officers Porter and Leake. Mayor Copelin thanked the officers for their efforts and service to the Village. Officer Leake also brought Karma, the department K-9, before the Board. Once training is complete Karma will be a badged member of the department.

*Committee Reports:*

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

Copelin reported that an appraisal for $260,000 has been received for the North property. He will begin the process to execute the sale of the north property. It was also reported that the environmental team is ready to begin the north side remediation. An appraisal is still needed for the south property. Busch inquired about the timeframe an appraisal remains valid. Copelin believes 1 year, but is uncertain.

*Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer*

Bukantos initiated further conversation on the fiber install concerns. Discussion followed and it is unclear if there is anything outside the normal permitting that the Village has authority to enforce.

Minutes January 10, 2024 Page 3999

Apgar reported that following the discussions on online bill pay for utilities and the reoccurrence of late fee waivers for bank issued payments, he has attempted to pay the current utility bill using his banks online bill pay to get firsthand experience with the process. The bill was received today January 10th, and is due January 20th. Apgar initiated the payment online before the meeting and was given an estimated paid by date of January 18th. Additional discussion was held on billing cycles.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Brenning reported that following the last meetings approval to open 2 CDs with BOS, it was discovered that the Eagle Savings accounts were not available for commercial customers. Due to the impending cold weather event, Brenning recommends delaying the investment until the Village can determine if there will be any unexpected expenses that may require additional funds. Brenning also reported that with the State legislative changes to personal days the Village may need to update the personnel code. Copelin reported that we need to clarify a few things before taking action.

*Public Safety, Health and Safety:*

No Report

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

Discussion was held on the bids received for trash service and the terms included in the proposed Republic contract. Olson made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to accept the bid from Republic for residential trash collection service. The motion passed 4-1 with Busch voting present. The Village will work to disseminate information to the residents on the updated costs of service and restrictions.

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

Apgar reported that BLH Computers has May 4th scheduled for electronics recycling. This will also be the Village Clean-up Day. April 27th will be the yard sale. Apgar confirmed that there are a few more updates for the newsletter. The next issue will include more details for the Block Party.

Old Business:

The vote on the updated yard waste ordinance was tabled until January 24th.

Copelin shared with the Board the procedure for properly adjudicating an ordinance violation. The Board does not have the legal authority to waive a fine for an ordinance violation. The waiver of fine on 12/27 was handled improperly, and moving forward any requests to rescind an issued fine will need to be dealt with properly.

New Business:

Copelin reported that the lien on the Grogan property has been paid and will be released. No Board action is needed.

Busch made a motion at 8:03 to enter Executive Session. Brenning made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:30. Brenning made a motion, seconded by Bukantos, to contract Heather Rideout to assist with Village Administration at a rate of $32 per hour. The motion passed 5-0.

Minutes January 10, 2024 Page 4000

Brenning made a motion, seconded by Olson, to raise the pay of Heather White to $18 per hour effective the next pay period.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 with a motion from Brenning.

Jim Copelin Chuck Apgar

Mayor Trustee