

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday November 22, 2023. 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”, Randy Olson “Here”, Dianne Brenning “Here”, and Larry Baer “Here”. Also, present was Chief Paul Carpenter. Jeremy Rhodes was absent.

A motion was made by Baer, seconded by Apgar, to approve the amended minutes of November 8, 2023. The motion passed 6-0.

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

Visitors

No visitors were present.

Public Works:

No report was given, although Superintendent Rhodes sent an email updating the Board on public works activities. Busch stated that Mike Bolash put up the Christmas lights along the streets.

Police:

Chief Carpenter reported the cost of the tasers is \$18,939.70 and the cost of the body worn cameras is \$27,810.30 both of which were approved by the Board at the October 25, 2023 meeting. The discussions of No Parking signs, cameras at busy intersections particularly where children may be walking, and a flashing crosswalk sign on Brown Steet were tabled to the next meeting. Carpenter requested approval for police officers to use the Springfield Police range for shooting practice at an annual cost of \$150.00. Apgar made the motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the \$150.00 for use of the Springfield Police range. The motion passed 6-0. Chief Carpenter reported that he had completed the Federal Use of Force course certifying the Divernon Police Department. This certification makes the Village eligible to apply for federal grants. Discussion of winter uniform shirts was tabled until the next meeting.

Officer Christian Porter was recognized with a meritorious award for his work and efforts investigating the circumstances around the recent house fire. Officer Porter was presented with a plaque commemorating the award.

Committee Reports:

Economic Dev., Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

Mayor Copelin reported that he and Tim Smith, President of Evan Lloyd Architects, discussed the building permit ordinance and fee schedule. Smith will review the ordinance and fee schedule and make recommendations for changes. The draft will be reviewed by Mayor Copelin, Busch and Apgar before sending to the Village attorney. Since the inspections must be performed by Evan Lloyd Architects, it was suggested that Evan Lloyd be the Zoning Administrator for both residential and commercial buildings. Public works will continue to perform inspections for all other permits.

Public Utilities Water, Gas and Sewer

Bukantos made a motion, seconded by Busch, to adjust the bill for Ginger Molohon to cost due to the water main break on the property per policy. Molohon provided the necessary paperwork proving the work was done to repair the leak. The motion passed 6-0.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Baer made a motion, seconded by Brenning, to approve the Village liability insurance payment to the Illinois Municipal League Rist Management Association in the amount of \$44,207.98. The motion passed 6-0. Baer reported the Village received the \$384,777.80 refund from the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line due to a settlement.

Public Safety, Health and Safety:

Discussion on revising the burning ordinance was tabled until the next meeting. Brenning mentioned there is an old refrigerator at the old mason building that is a safety issue if not properly secured. Also, an old air conditioning unit is on the property. Apgar reported he is still working on the yard waste collection and disposal ordinance.

Public Works, Streets, Alleys, and Sidewalks:

Nothing to report.

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

Busch reported that he had contacted Com Microfilm regarding an estimate for the digitizing of public works and police department documents and maps.

Old Business:

Apgar reported that he had attended the hazard mitigation meeting which is held quarterly. The current plan can be amended for major changes, and it was suggested that work on the next plan begin now.

New Business:

Hedges reported that Heather Armistead had submitted all liquor license documentation and her background check was clean. Baer made a motion, seconded by Bukantos, to approve the liquor license for El Cerro Campana LLC dba El Quetzalito. The motion passed 6-0.

Baer made a motion to go into executive session at 7:56. Apgar made a motion to return to regular session at 8:42 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Baer at 8:43 p.m.

Jim Copelin
Mayor

Gail Hedges
Clerk