

The Divernon Village Board entered Executive Session to conduct final interviews for the position of Police Chief.

Baer reported that the Village received numerous applications, which were narrowed down to 4. Three initial interviews were conducted and the field was narrowed to two, Paul Carpenter and Kenneth Reardon.

Mayor Copelin shared that each applicant was asked the same questions on topics like management style, prior supervisory roles, enforcement technique, policies, etc. It was noted that Carpenter had excellent references and came highly recommended.

Carpenter was given an opportunity to introduce himself to the Board. He had retired from Springfield Police in 2020 after serving in multiple departments including gangs, narcotics, and working with K-9 units. Carpenter has been working part time with Auburn and also as a PI. The Board was given a chance to ask Carpenter questions. Topics included, why Divernon, vision for the Department and Village, ordinance enforcement and more.

After thanking Carpenter for his time and responses he was excused and Reardon was asked to join the session.

Reardon was given the opportunity to introduce himself. As a current Officer with the Department, he outlined a brief background. The Board also asked Reardon questions such as future with the Department if another Chief was selected, vision for the Village, and ordinance enforcement. Reardon also expressed that Carpenter has an exceptional background and credentialing.

After thanking Reardon for his time and responses, he was excused so the Board could hold deliberations.

The consensus of the Board was that both candidates were exceptional options. An informal poll and discussion led to Busch, Apgar, Olson, Brenning, Baer and Copelin voicing preference for Carpenter. Bukantos expressed that he felt Reardon had done well as interim Chief, knew the Village and was his choice.

The Mayor called for a voice vote for recommendations for the appointment to Chief of Police:

Craig Busch: Carpenter  
Joe Bukantos: Reardon  
Chuck Apgar: Carpenter  
Randy Olson: Carpenter  
Dianne Brenning: Carpenter  
Larry Baer: Carpenter  
Jim Copelin: Carpenter

Discussion was held on the salary to be offered.

Olson made a motion to exit executive session at 8:41 p.m.

Jim Copelin  
Mayor

Chuck Apgar  
Trustee