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The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday July 30, 2025.  Mayor Craig Busch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.  Clerk Rod Molnar called Roll: Mayor Craig Busch “Here, “Julie Rhodes “Here,” Dianne Brenning “Here,” Gail Hedges “Here.” Trustee Colton McDannald absent. Trustee Randy Olson was absent. Also present were Chief Christian Porter, Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes, Attorney Scheuring, and Deputy Clerk Tara Kerouac. Trustee Colton McDannald arrived at 7:11pm.

Trustee Apgar made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2025. The motion was second by Brenning. Motion passed 3-0-1. Trustee Hedges voting present.

Deferred action was motioned by Trustee Apgar on Meeting Minutes from July 16th, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hedges. Motion passed 4-0.

Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve the bills after Ameren bill was added for $1424.13. Trustee Apgar seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

*Visitors*: Mary Woolen

Mary Woolen, representing Conxxus, provided an update on the ongoing fiber installation project. She explains that Conxxus is headquartered in Sullivan, Il and emphasized the company’s commitment to community development. Mary Woolen shared that the service would include internet, TV, and phone options, with installations set up directly at residents’ homes for those who sign up. A permit application has been submitted, and the Village is currently waiting on approval. Mary Woolen noted estimated time of arrival for the next steps will be confirmed following permit clearance.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks:*

Superintendent Rhodes reported that all the old services will be switched over to the new Badger meter reading system in the coming weeks.

*Police Department:*

Chief Porter shared that funding is needed for the Full-time new hire, Brandon Hipsher Jr. The funding will go towards training at the Police Academy, scheduled from August 8th through December 5th of 2025. The estimated cost of the Academy is estimated at $7,400.00. Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Rhodes. Motion passed 5-0.

Chief Porter advised the Board that the Flock Surveillance System is now quoted at $15,000 per year. For 6 units with the installation fee to be waived with a 2-year contract. Trustee Hedges made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee McDannald. Motion passed 4-1. Trustee Apgar voted no.

Chief Porter noted that the air purifier installation is scheduled for Friday August 1st by Rettbergs.

*Economic Development, Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:*

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Discussion was had regarding Chatham LLC and invoices have been submitted. Agreement is waiting to be signed and outlines structure of payment. A lien waiver will be required before final payment is made. TIF related terms were discussed, including a quarterly schedule and percentage of construction cost.

Discussion was had regarding 1014, 1012, and 1016 Dodds Street. The Village will purchase these properties. Mr. Shuering will write up the agreement.

*Finance:*

It was noted that Auditors will be in the meeting held on August 27, 2025.

*Village Communication:*

It was noted that the Village will start on a new Newsletter by August 10, 2025.

*Village Grounds:*

Derrick Porter will give the Board and estimate on starting on McMurray Baseball field which will include leveling of in-field, new bases, dug-outs, netting and over-lay, along with updating the Scoreboard. He will include updating the bathrooms and finishing the fence. OSLAD grants were discussed. No action was taken.

Trustee McDannald discussed LED stop signs for Village at the cost of $1,100.00 per sign. The Board mentioned 6 signs in total are needed to slow traffic entering and leaving the Village and by school the grounds. There was discussion on placement of LED signs, 1 at fire department & Hermans, 2-in front of Divernon Elementary School, and 1 South of Hermans. A motion was made by Trustee McDannald to approve, Seconded by Trustee Hedges. The motion passed 6-0.

Holiday banners were tabled until more information is provided on location of new banners with-in the Village.

*Public Utilities, Water, Gas and Sewer:*

Nothing to report.

*Village Ordinances:*

Nothing to report.

*Old Business:*

Office Administrator Kerouac discussed Utility billing and residents either not receiving their bill or receiving them late. Mayor Busch has suspended all late fees for that month’s cycle. The Board discussed

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Changing format of invoices and new billing software. Trustee Rhodes and Trustee Brenning will reach out to UCB Bank for further information on Direct billing.

The Board discussed IT services provided at the Village Hall. The Board will obtain estimates from Illini Tech and other computer solutions providers.

Trustee Hedges made motion to enter Executive Session at 8:49pm, Seconded by Trustee Apgar. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:50pm and returned to open session at 9:23pm. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Trustee Apgar made a motion to adjourn at 9:27pm, Seconded by Trustee Rhodes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

*New Business:*

Nothing to report.

Craig Busch Tara Kerouac

    Mayor                                                                                 Deputy Clerk