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The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday July 16, 2025. Mayor Craig Busch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Tara Kerouac called Roll: Mayor Caig Busch “Here” Chuck Apgar “Here,” Randy Olson “Here,” Dianne Brenning “Here,” Gail Hedges “Here,” Colton McDannald “Here”. Also present were Chief Christian Porter. Julie Rhodes, Jeremy Rhodes, Attorney Scheuring. Village Clerk Rod Molnar was absent.

Trustee Hedges made a motion, seconded by Trustee Apgar to approve the meeting minutes from 6.25.25. The motion passed. 5-0

Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Apgar seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

*Visitors*: Derrick Porter, Rhett McCrady, Denise McCrady, Jake Ferguson

Derrick Porter of Auburn addressed the Board regarding the condition of McMurray baseball field. He is requesting use of the field for his travel baseball teams which consist of 8- and 9-year-old players. The travel baseball team would utilize the baseball fields Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00pm-7:00pm. In exchange, Mr. Porter volunteered to renovate and maintain the baseball field at no cost to the Village. Proposed improvements include upgrades to the electrical system, concession stands, and the addition of sand, clay, and tiles as needed. Trustee Apgar stated there are funds available to assist. Mayor Busch requested a list of renovations that Mr. Porter deems necessary to improve McMurray baseball field along with the team’s schedule. Mr. Porter stated that the team’s schedule will be submitted one month prior to the start of the season. Superintendent Rhodes will assist in the project, including setting up parking accommodation for attendees. Post-game clean-up will be the responsibility of the teams and coaches. Mr. Porter will submit a project list to the Board. Mr. Schuering will write out a contract outlining the scope of renovations, expectations for maintenance and terms of the field used by the travel teams. Trustee Apgar made a motion to approve requests. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hedges. Motion passed 5-0.

Rhett McCrady and Denise McCrady were in attendance to discuss the status of the property located at 139 Henrietta. The property is under investigation by the Village for Ordinance Violations and has been posted with a Dangerous Building sign. Mr. McCrady has not retrieved the applicable ordinances violations and stated he is unable to pay the fine for demolition of the structure. His request is to delay any further action by the Village, as he intends to sell the property. Mr. Schuering stated that the notices were posted on 6.23.2025 and the next notice will be placed on 7.23.2025 with a 30-day notice period before further enforcement can proceed. The Village will take formal action in 45 days after the most recent posting, should no progress be made. Dirk Rettberg expressed interest in purchasing the property. Trustee Apgar emphasized that the Village must see clear progress. Mr. McCrady was given 45 days to sell the property. If no legitimate progress is made, the Village will move forward with the demolition procedures.

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Trustee Apgar further stated that even if the property is sold, the new owner must move forward with the necessary renovations. As of 7.16.2025, doors and windows need to be secured. Mr.

Schuering added that the Village needs to review the property for inspection. Trustee Apgar concluded that the Board would need to be updated as progress is made.

*Public Works, Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks*

Trustee Olson states he needs a written estimate for the installation of the lock box. Derrick Porter will be doing the installation.

Superintendent Rhodes reported the Village siren failed its most recent test. An updated system is needed. A quote of $2,940.00 was provided by Global. Trustee Apgar motion to approve the repair; motion seconded by Trustee Hedges, Motion passed 5-0

Mayor Busch thanked Superintendent Rhodes for his recent work on the block party and recommended adding a basketball hoop to the park equipment list for future consideration.

*Police Department:*

Chief Porter requested to raise the wage for the part-time Police Officers for the Village to $25.00/hour

Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve; seconded by Trustee Apgar. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Schuering made a motion to take agenda out of order for combined motion.

A motion was made to begin the process of posting for the part-time police officer for the Village. Trustee Brenning made motion; Trustee Apgar seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Busch reported recent break-ins and noted that if Flock surveillance cameras had been placed, the suspects might have been identified. Mayor Busch states he wants to discuss at the next Board meeting regarding purchasing and installing the camera system in the Village for extra security.

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

Trustee Olson discussed the presence of solicitors in the Village and suggested installing signs to alert individuals that a license is required in the Village of Divernon for such activities. Trustee Olson will obtain a quote for two signs. Trustee Apgar recommended publishing a notice in the newspaper. Trustee Apgar advises adding this issue to the next Agenda to discuss further.

Chief Porter raised safety concerns. All Permits are reviewed by Chief Porter along with a background check.

Otter Lake to increase water rates by .43cent next month.

*Public Utilities, Water, Gas and Sewer:*

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Superintendent Rhodes also presented a quote from Conxxus in the amount of $32,000.00 to upgrade the Village’s electrical service. Trustee Hedges made a motion to approve the electrical upgrade; motion seconded by Trustee Apgar. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Apgar noted that the crosswalks need to be painted before school is back in session. Superintendent Rhodes confirmed that the repainting will be completed prior to the start of the school year.

*Finance, Personnel, GIS:*

Nothing to report.

*Public Safety, Health and Safety:*

Nothing to report.

*Village Ordinances:*

Trustee Olson is to follow up with any property in the village that are not up to Village standards and turn a list into Mr. Schuering for further review.

The Board discussed 8.3 Zoning for muti-family and business zoning with-in the Village grounds. Trustee Apgar discussed amending Ordinance 2025-009. Trustee Apgar motioned for approval, Hedges second motion. Motion passed 5-0.

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

The playground was discussed due to deteriorating wood and structural concerns. The   
wooden equipment is considered a safety risk for children. Superintendent Rhodes will take appropriate action to address the safety hazard.

Trustee Brenning discussed having Alice O’Keefe to clean the Village Hall windows.

Trustee Apgar discussed Civic Plus responsibilities. Office Administrator Kerouac will oversee Civic Plus Content and updates.

Trustee Apgar discussed Office Administrator Kerouac take responsibilities and updates on Village Face Book page. Mr. Schuering recommends updating the communication policies.

The Board discussed Resolution 2025-13. A public hearing for this scheduled for August 13th at 6:30pm. Trustee Apgar set motion for approval, seconded by Hedges. Motion passed 5-0.

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Trustee McDannald had discussion for new LED Stop sign at 1st and Brown. Estimates were provided at $1,100.00 for each stop sign with a 2-year warranty. Second estimate was for $1,700.00 for each Stop sign with no warranty.

Mayor Busch discussed Trustee McDannald to review new holiday banners for Village. Discussion was made to raise the budget for Village grounds to $600.00 for lawn care. Trustee Apgar discussed the need for new Picnic tables at the Village square.

Trustee Hedges brought up the need for new playground equipment at McMurray Park. Mr. Schuering suggested applying for grants to help aid in the cost of the new equipment.

*New Business:*

The Board discussed the use of Credit Cards taken at the Village Hall. It was discussed that the Village Hall will not accept credit or debit cards for payment. If needed residents, can pay with their credit or debit card through the Village website.

Trustee Apgar discussed adding a New Community page to the Village website. Office Administrator Kerouac is to oversee the website. Apgar set motion for approval, Trustee McDannald seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Apgar brought up the need for a notary at the Village Hall stating Office Administrator Kerouac to get Notarized and Bonded. Subject tabled until Office Administrator Kerouac is off probation period.

Trustee Apgar made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:15pm. The motion was seconded by Hedges. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board entered the Executive session at 8:16pm and returned to the open session at 8:49pm. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Trustee Brenning made a motion, seconded by Trustee McDannald, to adjourn at 8:53pm. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Craig Busch Tara Kerouac

Mayor Deputy Clerk