

The regular meeting of the Village of Divernon Board of Trustees was held at Village Hall on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Village President Craig Busch called the meeting to order at "6:30" p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Village Clerk Rod Molnar called roll: Craig Busch, "Here," Chuck Apgar "Here," Randy Olson "Here," Dianne Brenning "Here," Julie Rhodes "Here," and Colton McDannald "Here", Gail Hedges "Here". Also, present were Police Chief Christian Porter, Superintendent Jeremy Rhodes, Deputy Clerk Tara Kerouac, and Attorney Mr. Schuering.

Trustee Hedges made a motion, seconded by Trustee Apgar, to approve the minutes of August 27, 2025. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Brenning made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Visitors: Debbie Thompson, Scott Brown, Shane Boulenger, Samsheer Singh.

Scott Brown addressed the Board regarding IT services through LRS. He states his team are highly skilled professionals in systems engineering, network management, and cybersecurity. They provide End-user and infrastructure support, data protection and back-up, Microsoft 365 management, and virtual CIO services. The monthly cost for LRS services would be \$482.00 plus \$165.00 annual fee per user for cybersecurity and user awareness training.

Samsheer Singh updated the Board on his new build for the Village's gas station. The building elevation was found to be four inches off from the approved plan. The elevation height was submitted to Evan Loyd Architects for review, and the Village is waiting to hear back from them to see if a civil engineer's report is needed. No action has been taken, and the Board will review again at the next meeting.

Debbie Thompson was present to discuss with the Board the revised personnel code in executive session.

Shane Boulenger was present to observe.

Public Works:

Superintendent Rhodes informed the Board that he attended a week-long annual IPWSOA conference held at the Crowne Plaza. The Public Works team also attended the Risk Regional or Management Safety Meeting that was held in Pawnee. Topics included OSHA regulations as well as injury causes within public works. Superintendent Rhodes informed the Board that the annual Leaks Survey will be completed on September 22, 2025, and it will take one day to complete in its entirety.

Police Department:

Chief Porter updated the Board that Police Trainee Brandon Hipsher is doing well in the academy and is continuing his training. He also reported to the Board that 312 S. Lincoln Street has been fined for Ordinance code 4-7-3 and will continue to be fined if the building isn't completed in a timely manner.

He also removed an unmarked trailer that was sitting on the square. Chief Porter will be attending the Central Illinois Chiefs' meetings in the next couple of months. Trustee Hedges recognized Chief Porter's work since taking his position and congratulated him on the good job he is doing.

Economic Development, Zoning, TIF, Building Permits:

The Board voted on the Ordinance, 2025-13 to accept and authorize the execution of the Amended Redevelopment Agreement with Chatham IL, LLC. Trustee Apgar made a motion to accept the agreement and Trustee McDannald seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The Board voted on the resolution authorizing expenditure of certain Business District Funds to be used in conjunction with property acquisition. Trustee Olson made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15. Trustee Apgar seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Finance, Personnel, GIS:

Nothing to report.

Village Communication:

Trustee Rhodes updated the Board regarding the Village newsletter, which will be ready to mail by the end of the week.

Village Grounds:

The Board discussed the purchase of one LED stop sign to place at Kenny Street to create a four-way stop. Trustee Hedges made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Trustees McDannald. Motion passed 6-0.

Village Ordinances:

Attorney Schuering reported that he had reviewed Ordinance 4-8 Residential and Commercial Yard Waste Collection and Disposal and found that all the proposed changes discussed didn't require an amendment to the ordinance. Trustee Hedges said a new ordinance addressing sex offenders will be on the next meeting agenda.

Old Business:

The Board voted on a resolution 2025-019 to accept a proposal to provide IT services to the Village. After discussion on LRS IT services and CCS, Inc. IT services, Trustee Hedges made a motion to accept the proposal for CCS, Inc. Trustee McDannald seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1, with Trustee Rhodes voting no.

The Board reviewed the cell phone policy for Village employees to address potential cybersecurity and employer liability. Discussion was had with Superintendent Rhodes regarding Public Works current cell phones and security risks. Superintendent Rhodes provided the Board with several options for new phones that significantly lower the risk of a cyber-attack. The phone will cost \$229.00 each with 3 needed all together. The phones would function as a walk-talkie system as well. Trustee Rhodes made motion to approve up to three new cell phones. Trustee Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

New Business:

The Board discussed the ordinance authorizing the hire of a Village Hall Cleaning services. The Board acted and voted to authorize Connie Newenham. She will provide services for the Village Hall and public works building at a rate of \$65.00 for each location bi-weekly. Trustee Olson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-14. Trustee Apgar seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Hedges to enter executive session at 8:25 p.m. Trustee Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board returned to open session at 9:48 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee Apgar and seconded by Trustee Hedges to approve Resolution 2025-16. The resolution accepts and authorizes the execution of a real estate purchase agreement with Dowson Family Farms, LP. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Trustee McDannald and seconded by Trustee Olson to approve Resolution 2025-17. The resolution accepts and authorizes the execution of a real estate purchase agreement for 10-14 Dodds Street. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Rhodes and seconded by Trustee Apgar to approve Resolution 2025-18. The resolution authorizes payment of certain real estate taxes levied against Village owned. The motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Hedges to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. Trustee Apgar seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Craig Busch
Mayor

Tara Kerouac
Deputy clerk