

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: February 6, 2017

Council called to order in regular session at 7:03 p.m. with Mayor Todd Buehrer presiding. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; John Heckerman, here; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; James Head, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Zoning Inspector/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Wood County Sheriff's Deputy Matt Dickson. Minutes from the January 16, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE and CLAIMS:** A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger explained that one of the bills was a reimbursement to Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson, who needed to buy two new sump pumps, some parts, and tools, costing him \$445.99, due to ongoing problems with the master meter pits filling with water. Councilwoman Mackey enquired about a \$4.00 P.O. Box price increase on the list of bills. Mr. Harnishfeger explained that, after having paid the \$66.00 annual bill for the Village's P.O. Box 238, the postal clerk gave him an updated bill with the price increased to \$70.00 for the year. Mr. Harnishfeger paid the extra amount in cash out of pocket. (Our other P.O. Box 151 for utilities-related mail is free.) Councilman Roe made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the January Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Appropriation Status, and Revenue Status reports were given to Mayor Buehrer and the Finance Committee to review. A copy of the December monthly RITA report was given to the Finance Committee to review.

Mayor Buehrer reported that we received a letter from Fresh Cut Lawn Service with an agreement for mosquito spraying in the village in 2017 at a cost of \$172.50 per application, with a minimum of six applications. The per-application cost is \$5.02 more than in 2016. After a brief discussion, members decided to authorize six applications in 2017: the first application on May 22, a week before Memorial Day, one application in June, two applications in July, and two applications in August. If extra applications are deemed necessary, Council will authorize them as needed. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion to accept Fresh Cut Lawn Service's quoted price of \$172.50 per application and to authorize six applications as specified above. Councilman Benedict seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilwoman Mackey reminded members that the grant money received from Suburban Natural Gas can be applied to pay for part of the mosquito spraying. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger asked how members would like for him to apply the money from Suburban, since it can be used for both mosquito spraying and tree maintenance. Mayor Buehrer responded that it would be best to apply it to mosquito spraying first, since we have special assessments to pay for tree expenses. Members voiced no disagreement with the mayor's advice.

Copies of the January incident report were made available to members to review. Mayor Buehrer invited members to speak to Deputy Dickson about any issues or concerns they may have. Members had no questions for the deputy, so Mayor Buehrer thanked him and he left the meeting.

Mayor Buehrer gave a first reading of Ordinance #877-17, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL/INDUSTRIAL USERS OF THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY'S WATER SYSTEM, REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCE(S), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilman Roe made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency for Ordinance #877-17. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilman Heckerman made a motion to adopt Ordinance #877-17. Councilman Head seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Buehrer asked Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger if there is a special commercial water rate for businesses. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that there are special rates for agricultural/industrial, but not for businesses such as Doc's or the Corner Carryout. They simply pay the normal in-town or out-of-town rate for their location, like residential water customers. Line maintenance fees vary according to the size

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of the water pipe, but not the water usage rates. Whereas commercial electric costs differ from residential electric costs due to factors such as demand created.

Mayor Buehrer reported receiving the fourth quarter Building Inspection report on building permits issued by the county. There were two at Otsego, installing temporary door locking devices at the high school & junior high, and at the elementary school. One was for an electric pump station for Northwestern Water & Sewer District at the corner of Tontogany Road and North Street. Another was to replace a furnace at the residence of 18725 Wall Street.

**ZONING:** Zoning Inspector Johnson reported receiving a call from Rick Crozier, who is getting ready to build a barn. Zoning says you have to have a 40-foot setback from the right of way, but there is a clause for existing houses in town that basically says you can add on as far out as the house on the same street that is closest to the right of way. Mr. Johnson said he thinks the barn will probably be built catty-corner following the ditch, with the south corner right up to the front of the house. Mr. Johnson also reported that he noticed a car in town with a flat tire and possibly expired license plates; he will talk with the owner about it.

Mayor Buehrer reported receiving a letter from the Ohio EPA about a proposed modification to discharge to state waters in our watershed area, for work being done in Weston, applied for by Northwestern Water and Sewer District. The receiving water is listed as Tontogany Creek. Mayor Buehrer reported that we also received a public notice from the Ohio EPA of the Final Issuance of Certification for the Kinder Morgan UTOPIA Pipeline Project. The notice was sent to all of the counties with watersheds affected, including Wood County.

**UTILITIES:** Administrator Johnson reported that he received a call from the Water Distribution and Collection Superintendent at the beginning of the month, who told him that the master meter pit on Tontogany Road is full of water and it needs to be brought up to code. Mr. Johnson said he thinks he was referring to the backflow device, so we might want to consider whether we want to bring in an engineering firm to look at. Mayor Buehrer responded that Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson bought sump pumps to clear the water out of the pits. The mayor also asked if the EPA had contacted us with an order to do backflow alterations like Bowling Green was requesting. Administrator Johnson said he thought it was just coming from Bowling Green right now, not directly from the EPA. Mayor Buehrer responded that our alterations would have to be approved by the EPA, not Bowling Green, and therefore we do not want to start anything on it until the EPA requires it. At that point we would have to call in an engineer to work up plans to send to the EPA directly for their approval before doing anything. But the high probability of the EPA eventually requiring this is another good reason why we needed to raise our water rates, since a project like that would probably cost \$70,000 or more to do.

Councilwoman Mackey reported two street lights that need fixed. One at Tontogany Road and Hannah Road is always on. One on Tontogany Road at the railroad tracks is on a lot, but not always on. Mayor Buehrer reported another light on North Street in front of Jerry Asmus' house not working; a complaint was received that it has been out for four months.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Councilwoman Mackey reported that the flashers on the stop sign at Broad Street and Main Street are not working. Mayor Buehrer said they noticed that the other day and got batteries for it.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Councilwoman Mackey asked if we can put the leaf vac into storage, if we are done using it for now. Mayor Buehrer answered that he just sent a message today to the lady who stores it for us, asking if we can drop it off. He and Jim Head were wanting to clean it up before putting it into storage but were prevented by cold weather. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger asked if we had it out of

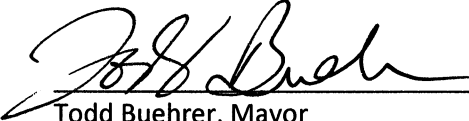
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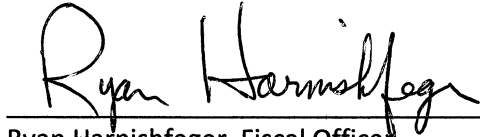
storage during November, December, and January, so we do not owe storage fees for those months. Mayor Buehrer answered that this was correct.

**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Mayor Buehrer asked if everyone received a copy of the bid letter drawn up by Chad Hartman for bidders on the Harley Woods drainage project. Members acknowledged that they received a copy. Councilman Roe reported that he spoke with Engineer Dave Kuhn, of Feller, Finch, and let him know that Council decided go another direction besides Feller, Finch for the bidding process for the Harley Woods drainage project. He also asked Mr. Kuhn about the possibility, however, of hiring an inspector through Feller, Finch for the project. Mr. Kuhn told him they could provide an inspector, and to just let him know how often we want an inspector there throughout the project and for a final inspection.

**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Councilwoman Mackey reported that she received a request from two ladies at the Methodist Church, wanting to know when the village would be having trick-or-treat and the Halloween parade this year, so it could be entered in their church calendar and so they could plan church involvement for the event. Mayor Buehrer looked at his calendar and said we will plan on doing Halloween on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, Thanksgiving will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Santa will be coming on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We do not know exactly when the Tontogany Community Festival will take place; they will need to contact Chuck Motley and the Festival Committee for that information.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

  
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Todd Buehrer, Mayor

  
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Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer