

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: March 6, 2017

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 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 Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Lisa Euler with daughter Stefani Euler for Otsego government class; Wood County Sheriff's Deputy Tyler Petree. Minutes from the February 20, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE and CLAIMS:** A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the February Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Appropriation Status, and Revenue Status reports were given to Mayor Buehrer and the Finance Committee to review.

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

Mayor Buehrer reported receiving a letter from Wood County EMA Director Bradley Gilbert, warning Wood County elected officials about proposed legislation at the state level that would disrupt political neutrality in running countywide emergency management agencies. Under the proposed legislation, the countywide EMA would be allowed to be placed under the authority of a county fire chief or the county sheriff (not politically neutral), whereas under current Ohio law countywide emergency management agencies are either under the authority of the board of commissioners (as in Wood County) or a diversified emergency management board made up of various officials from across the county (politically neutral). Political neutrality allows the EMA to qualify for federally funded grants, and to impartially coordinate the application of grant monies and resources to provide the best services to all residents of a county. Mayor Buehrer urged members to consider letting state legislators know their thoughts about this topic, as EMA Director Bradley Gilbert also requested in his letter.

**ZONING:** Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that the mayor and he had both driven by the house at the corner of Crom Street and the alley by Centennial Park the day after the last meeting and found that the renters there had cleaned up the porch and yard of the trash bags that had been there, and there were no vehicles parked on the park lawn. Therefore, the mayor had instructed Mr. Harnishfeger to hold up on writing a letter to the owner. Mayor Buehrer commented that there were only some bags of trash or cans in the back of a pickup truck parked at the residence, which isn't a violation unless the truck is not moving or licensed properly. He also said he went to talk to them about not parking their vehicles on the park lawn, but nobody was home when he went there. He will visit them again and he also intends to talk to the people on Wall Street who have been parking in the grass at Mehring park.

**UTILITIES:** Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that we received 29 of the 36 water meters we were intending to purchase this year. He also said he intends to turn the water on at the park on April 1<sup>st</sup> if that sounds good to everyone. Members voiced no objections.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Mayor Buehrer reported that, in his capacity with Washington Township, he is applying for a grant to replace road signs and posts. 200 townships were selected by the state this year to participate in a grant for up to \$50,000 each, for replacing road signs and posts. In that grant, he is allowed to incorporate any villages that are in his area. Therefore, he intends to use the grant to put up all new signs in Tontogany and the other villages in the township, as long as he doesn't go over the

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

\$50,000 limit. This would include all stop signs, speed signs, and any sign considered a traffic-control device. It would not include street name signs.

Councilman Heckerman reported that a resident on the corner of North Street and Tontogany Creek Road has put a big block in his yard near the edge of the road, which could easily be hit by a school bus or other vehicle turning the corner too tightly. Mayor Buehrer said he would talk to the property owner because he would be liable if someone hit it with a vehicle. It might even possibly be in the right-of-way, which would make it the Village's problem. The mayor suggested installing a flexible delineator post there to give some protection from vehicles hitting it.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Nothing to report.

**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Councilman Roe reported that he called Chad Hartman just before tonight's meeting, who informed him that Geddis Paving & Excavating is waiting for a contract from the Village for the culvert project in Harley Woods. Mayor Buehrer and Councilman Roe asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to send copies of the documentation we have so far on the project to Village Solicitor Paul Skaff and ask him to draw up a legal contract between the Village and Geddis Paving & Excavating. Councilman Roe also reported that he spoke with Dave Kuhn of Feller, Finch about an inspector for the culvert project. We will just need to let Dave know when the work is to begin and when we want the inspector there. Feller, Finch will charge an hourly rate for his services, which can come out of the money already appropriated for the project. Feller, Finch will communicate with the contractor and use discretion as to how much time and when the inspector is needed at the site. Mayor Buehrer commented that it may only take about a week to do the project.

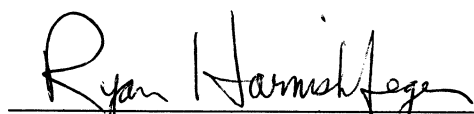
**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Councilman Roe reported that the Village received a 2017 maintenance renewal form from Envirocare. Last year we had them do an Early Summer Visit, at an hourly rate, to inspect for disease and insect problems. Each year we also have them do a Fall Deep Root Fertilizing, which is \$105 in 2017. Mr. Roe said he thinks it has been helpful and it would be a good idea to continue the same services. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion to renew our maintenance agreement with Envirocare in 2017 for the Early Summer Visit and the Fall Deep Root Fertilizing. Councilman Heckerman seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger was asked to contact Envirocare to renew the Village's agreement with them.

Councilman Heckerman reported that he called Craig Everett at the Extension Office about the maple trees in front of his house that have bleached-out spots with holes in them. Mr. Everett said that the trees have been trimmed and he is surprised they have lasted this long, so don't worry about them. Once they have been trimmed down, you can only expect to get about 20 years out of them after that.

Mayor Buehrer asked if Otsego student Stefani Euler had any questions. She had none.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Buehrer, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer