

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 17, 2017

Council called to order in regular session at 7:15 p.m. with Mayor Todd Buehrer presiding. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; John Heckerman, absent; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; James Head, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Zoning Inspector/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Gerald (Jerry) Miller, agent of Wolverine Agricultural Investments LLC, to learn the status of their annexation petition; Deputy Andrew Taylor from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE and CLAIMS:** A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger pointed out that we finally received the bill from Geddis Paving & Excavating for the Harley Woods Culvert Improvements Project. The bill was for the exact amount they bid on the project, \$18,750.00, with nothing added. 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. A copy of the June RITA report was given to the Finance Committee to review.

Mayor Buehrer gave a first and second reading, by title, of Resolution #878-17, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING 5.718 ACRES OF LAND TO BE ANNEXED INTO THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY. This is the land at Tontogany Creek Road and Scott Road about which Wolverine Agricultural Investments LLC filed a petition with the Wood County Board of Commissioners for annexation into Tontogany, which petition was granted by the County Commissioners on May 2, 2017 with their Resolution #17-00469. Mayor Buehrer asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to contact Village Solicitor Paul Skaff, requesting a revised version of Resolution #878-17, to include emergency wording, so Council can adopt the resolution as an emergency measure at the next meeting, to go into effect immediately, since this process was held up in the early stages at the county level, due to miscommunications. Mayor Buehrer asked visitor Jerry Miller if he had anything to add. He said he did not. He asked if the Village intended to pass Resolution #878-17 at the next council meeting. Mayor Buehrer affirmed that we intend to do so. Mr. Miller said that would be perfect for him. With nothing more to add, Mr. Miller left the meeting.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger provided each member with a copy of the Estimate of Revenues for budget year 2018, which he had prepared, and which must be submitted to the Wood County Auditor on or before July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Harnishfeger described briefly how the coming year's revenue estimates were calculated, taking into consideration beginning balances of the current year, revenues received so far this year, monies encumbered by appropriations, and any other known factors. After a brief discussion, Councilman Roe made a motion to adopt the Estimate of Revenues as prepared by Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he received a summons for jury duty at the Wood County Court of Common Pleas, scheduled first for Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and then postponed for one day, to take place on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. So, he will be away for at least one day, but he will be able to do payroll and pay the bills on July 18<sup>th</sup> before reporting for jury duty on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Copies of the June incident report were made available to members to review. Mayor Buehrer asked members to speak to Deputy Taylor about any questions or concerns they may have. Councilman Roe reported that there has been vandalism at Centennial Park; specifically, the basketball backboard was broken. Councilwomen Mehring and Mackey reported that the picnic tables in the shelter house have been marred with drawings and gouging. Councilwoman Mackey reported that last night, at 11:00 p.m., a neighbor called her to report that there was a car on the basketball court. The car left before she could go and speak to whoever it was. Ms. Mackey urged Deputy Taylor to ask patrol officers to keep an eye on the park and, if they see a group of young people there, perhaps just stop and say 'hi' to them, to make them aware of police presence. With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Buehrer thanked Deputy Taylor and he left the meeting.

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**ZONING:** Zoning Inspector Chad Johnson reported that he and Mayor Buehrer are scheduled to meet with Village Solicitor Paul Skaff at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, to discuss the village's zoning code, regarding R-1/R-2 designations. Mayor Buehrer added that, after the meeting with Solicitor Skaff, the village planning commission members will be contacted to schedule and advertise a public hearing on Mr. Asmus' application for an amendment to the zoning code for rezoning his property on Wall Street from R-1 to R-2. Zoning Inspector Johnson stated that he would think there would be a fee that Mr. Asmus would have to pay for having the village zoning code amended, similar to a fee to acquire a variance. Mayor Buehrer responded that Solicitor Skaff's guidance on this matter indicated that anyone can challenge a zoning resolution, with no fee involved. There would, however, be a fee for building on the property, if Mr. Asmus' application for amended zoning is granted.

Zoning Inspector Johnson reported that the two problem vehicles spoken about at the last council meeting, the GMC Jimmy left behind at the duplex apartments on Crom Street, and the pickup truck full of trash and without current plates at the corner of Crom Street and the alley by Centennial Park, have both been removed.

Zoning Inspector Johnson asked about the property at 18555 Crom Street, formerly belonging to Ben Fouts, if it had been purchased or rented by Aaron Asmus. The mayor and utilities clerk affirmed that Mr. Asmus had purchased the property. Zoning Inspector Johnson stated that the property is zoned as R-1, but Mr. Asmus has commercial equipment sitting there, which is not allowed in a residential zone, and he wanted to confirm whether it was purchased or rented before talking with Mr. Asmus about this.

**UTILITIES:** Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson reported a problem with people hitting and damaging the antenna unit on meter pit lids with mowers. He asked if there was a policy to charge customers who do it more than once, since it is costly to replace them. Mayor Buehrer responded that this matter was dealt with about five years ago when former Utilities Superintendent Craig Spoore brought it up, and a decision was made to charge customers if they do it more than once. After some discussion, it was decided to post a policy message on the village website, advising residents to be careful not to damage water meter tops with mowers or vehicles. If it happens once, they will receive a warning. If it happens more than once, they will be charged for replacement costs. Once posted on the website, a short message will be placed on utility bills, pointing people to the website to view the policy details.

Councilwoman Mackey reported a street light on Crom Street by the park that stays on all the time. Mayor Buehrer reported that the light at the end of North Street is still on too.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Mayor Buehrer reported that he is hoping CSX will have some paving done before the community festival. If the timing is too close, we will have them hold up on it until after the festival. Village Administrator Johnson asked if he should call Bowling Green to have the streets swept before the festival as usual. Mayor Buehrer answered that he should do so, and to ask them to come on a Tuesday or Wednesday (a day earlier than they have come in the past), rather than on the day when they are trying to set up tents.

Councilwoman Mackey requested that, when L B Electric comes to work on street lights, we have them take down the Christmas banners downtown. Mayor Buehrer agreed; members voiced no opposition. Mayor Buehrer reported that the Sons of the American Legion provided new flags for the boy scouts, who will take care of putting up flags downtown.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Mayor Buehrer advised that we need to go through the town and get our trees trimmed down. Many are hanging fairly low over the road; some are blocking the view of stop signs. Mayor Buehrer said he would contact Abe Rowe and see if Rowe's Tree Service can do the job for us.

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Councilwoman Mehring reported that she and Jim and Kim Head trimmed branches at their church. They also did some work beside Moser's store downtown, but the weeds along the sidewalk there still need to be sprayed.

Councilman Roe reported that there is a hole left from taking out a very large tree in front of 18415 Broad Street about five years ago. It needs to be filled in with dirt. Mr. Roe volunteered to seed it, once it is filled in.

**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Mayor Buehrer reported that, with all of the rain we had in the last week and a half, the only problem we had was at the corner of Washington and Broad Street by the church. The drain there got clogged, as it often does, causing the corner to be flooded. But someone raked the debris away from the drain and then the water drained away quickly.

**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Administrator Johnson reported that, while checking the trash at Centennial Park, there were a couple of bicyclers there who told him the lower spigot on the drinking fountain is broken. Mr. Johnson also reported that someone has removed the outer cover plate from the electrical outlet in the shelter house. Councilwoman Mackey commented that someone pulls the cover plate off every year.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that the Otsego cheerleaders are having their cornhole tournament at Centennial Park on Friday night, July 21<sup>st</sup>. They did it last year and everything went well. She asked them last year if they would please take their own trash, which they did, and they said they would do the same thing this year. The shelter house has been reserved for use on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, by a soccer tournament group that meets at the high school.

Councilman Head asked if it would be okay for him to purchase some marine plywood to make a replacement basketball backboard for the park. Members were okay with him doing so and voiced no objections.

Mayor Buehrer reported that the hot water in the hall was not working very well when he rented the hall at the first of July. He could only get about a gallon of hot water to run into the kitchen sink before it quit supplying hot water. It doesn't appear that our expensive main tankless water heater is working properly to supply additional hot water when the small water heater under the sink is emptied. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger commented that he has never had a complaint from a hall renter about the hot water. He said he would ask former Administrator Craig Spoores about it, since he was here when it was installed and knows how it is supposed to work. If we can't figure out what is wrong, we will have to call in a technician to check it out.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



Todd Buehrer, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer