

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: June 18, 2018

Council called to order in regular session at 7:04 p.m. with Mayor Todd Buehrer presiding. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, absent; John Heckerman, here; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, absent; Jason Benedict, here; Matthew Shanahan, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Utilities Superintendent/Zoning Inspector/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Logan Benedict, son of Councilman Benedict. Minutes from the June 4 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. Councilman Benedict seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. A copy of the May RITA report was given to the Finance Committee to review.

Mayor Buehrer reported that a letter was received from the Board of County Commissioners, stating that, "On May 17, 2018, after conducting two required public hearings, we approved a resolution to levy an additional five dollar (\$5.00) motor vehicle license tax in Wood County. The funds generated from this additional tax will be used for maintaining and repairing county public roads, highways and streets, along with maintaining and repairing county bridges. The additional five dollar motor vehicle tax shall take effect January 1, 2019."

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he was contacted by the Auditor of State's office that they wanted to begin the biennial audit for the Village of Tontogany, for 2016 and 2017. They came and began the audit on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger provided each member with a copy of an email from Laura Saunders-Kowalec from Huntington Bank, advising the Village that our CDARS investment of \$180,000.00 is about to mature on June 21, 2018. To roll it over and reinvest it in another CDARS plan at maturity, we would need to decide on a new plan and complete an investment form by June 19, 2018, due to the small window of availability of current investment rates, as usual. The current rate choices for plans, good only for a few days, were: 4-week at 1.82%; 13-week at 1.95%; 26-week at 2.06%; 52-week at 2.26%; 2-year at 2.55%; 3-year at 2.61%; 5-year at 2.73%. Mr. Harnishfeger asked members to choose an investment plan, if they wished to reinvest, so he could email the choice to Laura this evening and she could prepare the form for him to sign on the following day. Mr. Harnishfeger recommended the 52-week plan again this year, which served us well last year and which has risen to more than double the 1.1% rate we received last year for the same period. This also gives the Village a chance to reinvest at a higher rate again in a year, if rates continue to rise. Councilman Benedict asked where the \$180,000.00 came from and whether it is earmarked for anything. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that former Administrator Spoores had told him it came from the General Fund. Formerly there was a much larger amount, but some of it was used on the bridges project in town. What was left was kept as backup cash, and it was invested to earn interest from it while it sat there. After a little more discussion, Councilman Shanahan made a motion to have Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reinvest the \$180,000.00 in the 52-week CDARS plan at 2.26% interest. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

The question was brought up as to what would happen if we needed to use some or all of the \$180,000.00 before the investment matures in a year. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that there would be some penalty for doing so, but it should not be used except in an emergency. Mr. Harnishfeger informed members that he recently looked at the Comparison of Budget and Appropriation report, which shows what money is still available in each fund for supplemental appropriations. There was only about \$52,000.00 still available in the Water Fund, which would not cover all of the expenses that we could incur to meet the EPA demands for upgrades to our water system. If forced to make upgrades beyond the ability of our Water Fund, we may have to look into what legal methods could be used to move

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

some extra money from the General Fund to the Water Fund. Mayor Buehrer commented that he understood it took a court order. After more discussion, Councilman Shanahan suggested that it might be a good idea for the Finance Committee to check with the county to see if there is training or information on how a village can deal with these types of issues. Mayor Buehrer commented that the state offers programs like that in Columbus.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that Amy Finnegan at Hylant Administrative Services called him, asking if Mayor Buehrer had contacted Mark Yeary yet about alternative options and costs for fixing his damaged fence. Mayor Buehrer replied that he had not spoken with Mr. Yeary yet. Members commented that we should only offer to pay for the two sections of fence that were damaged, rather than the whole fence, since it already had some age on it.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Johnson reported that Mr. Farley, who is adding on to the small building behind his home at 18555 Wall Street, did not show up for his appointment to do a zoning permit. Also, it looks as if the building may be too close to the right of way; it is supposed to be five feet off of the right of way. Mayor Buehrer asked if he had to get a building permit for that building. Mr. Johnson responded that he could not have acquired a building permit without a zoning permit. Mayor Buehrer suggested that Mr. Johnson go and give him a zoning stop order, due to it being an illegal structure. Members asked Mr. Johnson to go and speak with Mr. Farley while the council meeting continued, which he did. When Mr. Johnson returned from speaking with Mr. Farley, he reported that they did some measuring, and, as best he can tell, without surveying it, it looks like it is fine. Councilman Shanahan asked why Mr. Farley had not shown up to do the zoning permit. Mr. Johnson was not sure, but he said they made another appointment for next Monday to do the permit.

Councilman Benedict reported that the Kinders want to put a porch on the front of their house at 18615 Crom St. Mr. Benedict asked if there is a setback required from the sidewalk for that. Mr. Benedict also said he thought there was a right of way between the Kinders' house and his, but the Kinders would like to put a driveway in there. Mayor Buehrer said he was not sure there is a right of way through there. Even if there is, it might be permissible to put a driveway right on the property line. Mayor Buehrer advised Mr. Benedict and the Kinders to get with Zoning Inspector Johnson for clear guidance on these questions.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported receiving a couple of tap requests, one in Harley Woods and one out just beyond Opperman Road. Palmer came to install the new fire hydrant at the fire hall today. Mayor Buehrer commented on the hydrant, that the bolt had come off at the bottom and allowed the ball to fall off where it seals up. They said we could actually save the hydrant, so we will fix it and use it somewhere else.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that former Utilities Superintendent Craig Spoore informed him that he saw that there is proposed legislation in House Bill 602, which, if passed, would disallow municipalities from adding rate surcharges when they sell water to users outside their corporate boundaries. If passed, this would affect Tontogany's billing, since we do have a surcharge for out-of-town customers. The surcharge was added because out-of-town customers get the benefits of the town's system without paying taxes like in-town customers. Mayor Buehrer agreed and said he thinks there will be many cities fighting that legislation. Councilman Heckerman commented that our tap fees seem high. Mayor Buehrer replied that it costs a lot of money to bore under a road and do everything needed to get a customer tapped in.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Nothing to report.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Mayor Buehrer reported for Councilman Roe that he spoke with Dave Kuhn of Feller, Finch. They have done the topical. By the end of the week, they should have someone here to

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

mark the right of way along the school, in case we need to speak to the school about laying sidewalk behind the right of way. Mayor Buehrer said he had spoken with Adam Koch and the head of maintenance at the school about the right of way issue, and they had agreed that it made sense to put the sidewalk back from the road, even if it was not in the right of way. They also thought it might work better if the swale was filled in a little more.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Mayor Buehrer reported that he spoke with Rick Haskins at the school today. Rick said that the tile that crosses over where the right of way turns and goes underneath the ditch has quite a bit of debris in it. He wanted to know if we could see about getting it jetted. Mayor Buehrer told him it is a county drain and he would contact the county and see if they would get someone out to jet it.

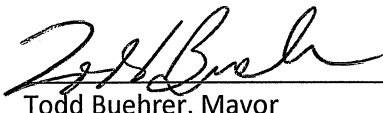
CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Shanahan reported that we are still working on grants from the Wood County Park District. He got a copy of what Councilman Head turned in last year. It just needed a little extra required paperwork. They said we could resubmit those grant applications again, which include garbage cans and blacktop. Mr. Shanahan reported that he also got three quotes for disc golf baskets—for either five baskets or for nine baskets. If we decide to go with that idea and submit it, Mr. Shanahan said he has a friend who has built a couple of other courses and will donate his time to help us map out and build a course. Mr. Shanahan said he thought we could probably put nine baskets in, but we don't want to overcrowd other activities at the park. If we can get the grant for nine baskets, even if we don't install them all, we can have some backups in case of damage.

Visitor Logan Benedict reported a bench swing at the park that has a broken chain. Mayor Buehrer and members thanked him for letting us know, and they informed him that we had it fixed.

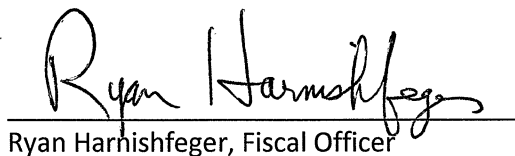
Mayor Buehrer reported for Councilman Roe that he has not heard anything back from Lake Erie yet about the posts at Centennial Park. He will give them a little more time, and then see someone else about getting posts in there, if necessary.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that Kellermeier Plumbing and Heating came and diagnosed the problem with the drinking fountain at the park. They billed us \$167.85 for the diagnostics. They quoted a price of \$476.20 to repair it by replacing the button on the front and the strainer inside. They asked Administrator Johnson for authorization to order the parts and repair it, which he gave them.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Todd Buehrer, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer