

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: June 3, 2019

Council called to order in regular session at 7:04 p.m. with Mayor Todd Buehrer presiding. Opening ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Buehrer. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; John Heckerman, here; Connie Mehring, absent at roll call, but arrived at 7:08 p.m.; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; Matthew Shanahan, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Utilities Superintendent/Zoning Inspector/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Village Solicitor Paul Skaff, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Matt and Luke Weaver for a Scout project; Deputy D. Bird from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the May 20 meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Shanahan made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Roe seconded this motion. All were in favor, except Councilman Heckerman abstained from voting on Josh Heckerman's mowing invoice; motion carried. Copies of the May Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status reports were given to Mayor Buehrer and the Finance Committee to review.

Copies of the May incident report were made available for members to review. Mayor Buehrer explained to Deputy Bird that we have a sign at the park that says the park is closed after dark, but we have lights at the basketball court for playing at night. We will leave the sign up, but we do not have an issue with kids playing basketball after dark, as long as they are not being disruptive and causing problems. Mayor Buehrer asked Deputy Bird to make it known to the night patrol that they do not need to make kids leave the park after dark, as long as they are behaving well. Councilman Shanahan asked Deputy Bird about the two "suspicious persons" on the incident report, if it was anything we need to worry about. The deputy answered that it didn't turn out to be a problem. With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Buehrer thanked Deputy Bird and she left the meeting.

Councilman Shanahan asked if Council could start getting a monthly finance report. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger responded that the Mayor and Finance Committee receive finance reports every month, including Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status reports. These reports show where our finances stand, how much is in the bank, how much is currently in each fund, how much revenue has been received, what was appropriated for spending in each fund, and how much has been spent.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Johnson reported that he did a zoning permit for Shannon Baughman at 18710 Washington Street, for a fence, pool, and deck.

Mr. Johnson said he had been working zoning for about 20 years. He is tired of dealing with zoning and wants to get out of it altogether. He recently resigned from Washington Township and is almost done there. He has decided to resign as Zoning Inspector for the Village of Tontogany, effective as of the end of June, 2019. He had intended to resign from reading meters, but he will keep doing that and the other jobs he does for Tontogany for now. Councilwoman Mackey asked Mr. Johnson if he had any suggestions for someone to replace him. Mr. Johnson responded that he did not. The mayor and members decided we should put an ad in the paper. Solicitor Skaff asked if we would like for him to inquire in Haskins. Mayor Buehrer responded that we would like for him to do that.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that he needs to change out some more meters, which will require buying some new meters. However, he has been getting more meters read without the need for estimates.

Mayor Buehrer reported that Don Buehrer is getting ready to have his driveway paved and there is a valve somewhere there which we don't want them to pave over. Mr. Johnson stated, with displeasure, that they will probably pave right around the meter pit, which is at the inside edge of the driveway. That

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

makes it impossible to get down into the meter pit to do maintenance work on the meter. We have the same kind of problem with the meter pit at the Carryout. We can't even get to the radio-read unit to program it, so the meter can't be read and it has been estimated for a long time. The utilities clerk and members agreed that this needs to be repaired, to stop estimating and get real readings. The mayor and members suggested that Mr. Johnson might want to go to Don Buehrer's and tell them how they can and can't lay paving around the valve and meter pit.

Mr. Johnson reported that the new owner of Doc's asked him if they could put their name on the sign at the edge of town with the multiple other business names there. Mayor Buehrer commented that the owner also talked to him and Councilman Shanahan. Mr. Shanahan added that nobody could tell him who is in charge of that sign. It is on the American Legion's property. The new owner of Doc's is a member of the Sons of the American Legion. After a little more discussion, the mayor and members said they have no problem with the new owner of Doc's putting their sign up, but the sign does not belong to the village to be able to give authorization.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilman Heckerman asked if we are going to get our streets repaved by CSX like they promised. Mayor Buehrer responded that we apparently are not in the near future. He can't get ahold of the right person in charge of it and they don't return his calls. There have been management and position changes, and he gets the run-around every time he tries to contact them. The only other option may be to take Randy Gardner's offer to help us out by talking to the railroad people on our behalf.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Shanahan asked the mayor if he followed up with Palmer about the spot by the church needing seeding, which Arla Mae Crawford had brought to his attention. Mayor Buehrer answered that he had not done so yet; he forgot.

Councilman Heckerman reported a dead tree on Broad Street next to the old downtown Carryout. Councilman Shanahan reported that a resident asked him about an old tree rotting by their house and the town hall, wondering whose responsibility it is for removing it. They would be willing to split the cost, if we deem that it needs to be removed. Mayor Buehrer answered that we may just have Abe Rowe come and remove the tree. Councilman Heckerman reported that Josh Heckerman told him the first tree at Centennial Park on Crom Street is bad and he offered to cut it down. The mayor and members responded that Josh can cut it down if it is bad.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Councilman Shanahan reported that Steve Powell left him a message that Thelma Wires is concerned about the corner of Broad and Washington Street not draining properly. She would like for the village to check it out.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Mayor Buehrer asked if anyone saw any additional problems, now that we have added a third recycling dumpster. The mayor expressed a desire to build a pad across the alley from where the dumpsters are now sitting, to get them off of our parking space, but for now he hopes three dumpsters will be enough to handle people's recycling.

Mayor Buehrer reported that Mike, from Rusty Nail, will be here Friday to work on replacing the porta potty enclosure at Centennial Park.

Mayor Buehrer reported that Wood County is offering to give the village the little triangular piece of ground across from the Carryout. It is currently county property. In 2016 a young man leveled off the piece of ground, seeded it, and put up a village sign for us as part of an Eagle Scout project. The township and the village each paid for some things there. The county is mowing their own roadways now, so the township decided they don't want to mow that spot anymore. Therefore, Mayor Buehrer said he has personally been mowing the spot. Mayor Buehrer said he received a call from the county, telling him that, if the village is willing to mow that little piece of property, the county is offering to gift that piece of property to the village. Mayor Buehrer said he volunteered to keep it mowed, no matter

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

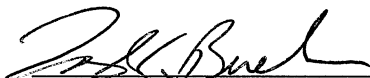
who owns the property, because a lot of work and money was invested in making the spot look nice for the town. However, if the village were to accept the piece of property as a gift, it would give us more control to say what can and can't be put on it. Members were in favor of accepting the property as a gift, with no objections voiced. Mayor Buehrer asked Solicitor Skaff if he had a problem with this. Mr. Skaff responded that he did not. Mayor Buehrer said he will contact the county and let them know we want to accept the property.

Councilman Shanahan asked the mayor if we had looked into getting another company other than Palmer to do the drainage work at the park. Mayor Buehrer answered that he has not done so, because he wanted to wait and see if Council wanted to seek a park grant to do the drainage project. The mayor pointed out that we might be able to get more money in a grant than we could afford on our own to do the drainage work that is needed there in many areas. Right now nothing can be done anyway because it is too wet.


Councilman Roe reported that he spoke with Luke Weaver. He also got in touch with EnviroCare and he called a couple of companies in Norwalk that sell posts—Lake Erie Construction and Firelands Supply. Firelands is the company we could buy used guardrail posts from. They always have them on hand and they sell them for \$7 apiece. For 60 posts, that would be around \$420. When Lake Erie brings back posts they set the extras outside of the gate and people can take them for 25-cents apiece on the honor system, which would amount to \$15 for 60 posts. If you show up and they happen to be out there, you can just take them. So, one way or another the most we would have to pay is \$420. Another problem is that 60 posts won't fit in a pickup truck, so we have to have something bigger to haul them in. Mr. Roe said he spoke with Kevin from EnviroCare. He offered to donate his time on a weekend and only charge us fuel costs. He can come and use his equipment to pull all of the old posts out in a day, instead of us trying to do it all by hand. Mr. Roe said Kevin showed an interest in getting some posts for his own use, so maybe we could ask him for a price to pick up our posts while picking up some posts for himself. Mayor Buehrer agreed that Mr. Roe should ask Kevin. Mr. Roe commented that another issue is disposal of the old posts we pull out, because they are treated wood. Kevin said he could take them out to a waste management place by Oregon. There was some discussion about distance between posts and it was determined they should be no closer together than 60 inches, to allow a mower through. Mr. Roe said we will have to get prices and we probably won't have all of the information until the next meeting. Matt and Luke Weaver said they were ready to start whenever we are ready for them.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that Jim Head agreed to do some handywork around town for the village. She mentioned to him about spreading mulch. At North Street and Tontogany Road the underbrush is a visual hazard, so he will be trimming that back. He will see about taking down the wreath from the hall. There are several trees in alleys and on corners that we may have him trim. We will ask him to paint the enclosures on both porta potties when the new one is put up at Centennial Park. Mayor Buehrer asked if we might not want to paint or stain the shelter house afresh. If we do, we should use the same color on the potty enclosures so they all match. Ms. Mackey advised other members to contact Jim Head if they see other jobs that need done, or bring it up at a council meeting. Councilman Heckerman reported that Josh wants to mulch around the trees at Centennial Park like he did last year at Mehring Park. After a little discussion, the mayor and members asked Mr. Heckerman to have Josh submit an estimate for the extra mulching.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Todd Buehrer, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer