

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: August 5, 2019

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 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 7:02 p.m.; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; Matthew Shanahan, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Deputy Michael Padisak from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the July 15 meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mackey 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 July Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status reports were given to Mayor Buehrer and the Finance Committee to review. A Staples Credit Card Reconciliation report was given to President of Council John Heckerman to review.

Mayor Buehrer invited members to speak to Deputy Padisak about any questions or concerns. Zoning Inspector Owens asked the deputy what his impression was of when 55 mph begins, heading north out of town on Tontogany Road. Is it when you hit the corporate limit? The way the signs are posted for entering and leaving town seems to indicate 40 mph in both directions for some distance beyond the corporate limit, making it difficult to tell when you can increase to 55 mph leaving town. Deputy Padisak answered that it is typically at the speed limit sign where it would change. But it also matters where zoning is, so that would have to be checked out to be certain. Mayor Buehrer stated that, since Tontogany Road is a county road, the county posted the 40-mph sign, and they should put a 55-mph sign at Opperman Road. The deputy also pointed out that suggested speed limits can be posted. Councilman Shanahan observed that there are no "Kids at Play" or "Park Entrance" signs posted by the park to help drivers be aware that they need to drive at safe speeds. Mayor Buehrer commented that "Kids at Play" signs are illegal now. With nothing more to discuss, Deputy Padisak left the meeting.

Mayor Buehrer did a second reading, by title only, of Ordinance #901-19, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST AND EXPENSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL AND SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SHADE TREES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING BLIGHT AND DISEASE OF SAME; AND FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS AND WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OF THE VILLAGE. This ordinance is for tax year 2020, an amount of \$5,000.00, to be paid for by Special Assessment upon the lots and lands.

Mayor Buehrer did a first reading, by title only, of Resolution #902-19, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WOOD COUNTY PARK DISTRICT PARKS GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This resolution authorizes participation in the 2020 Parks Grant Program. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency for Resolution #902-19. Councilman Shanahan seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilman Roe made a motion to adopt Resolution #902-19. Councilman Benedict seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Buehrer read a letter from Karen Graf, stating that she had two stray male cats neutered, and asking Council to consider reimbursing her for her costs of \$50.00 per cat—a total of \$100.00. After a brief discussion, members decided they did not want to set a precedent, to have people start having stray animals neutered and expecting the village to pay for it. Councilman Shanahan made a motion to deny Ms. Graf's request. Councilman Benedict seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

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ZONING: Councilman Roe asked about the permit status of a small fence at a property on Wall Street. Councilman Heckerman reported that someone complained to him about a pickup parked over the sidewalk on Crom Street. Members mentioned other places in town where people are also parking over the sidewalks. Mr. Heckerman asked who should speak to them about it. Members discussed making a list of those doing it, but they acknowledged that some people have little choice for parking elsewhere, whereas some people are doing it without necessity. Mayor Buehrer suggested that something as simple as sending a letter to the offenders might get them to stop doing it.

Councilman Heckerman reported that the apartments on Main Street, west corner, north side, are looking terrible with junk there and a garbage can sitting on the street. It didn't used to be that way. Members discussed the problem and possible solutions, such as a better place for them to keep trash until picked up. Councilman Shanahan suggested that we might want to send them a letter about the problem. Mr. Johnson commented that there is a junk ordinance on our website zoning page.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that he was in touch with Deb Hefflinger. She asked how much it was going to cost to fix the meter pit. He gave her Palmer's number to call to get an estimate. She said she was going to hold the money back from the contractor.

Mr. Johnson reported that, for the EPA-required contingency plan, it is required that we do an annual exercise and round table discussion. So, on July 26 he had Brett Palmer and Craig Spoores come in to do round table discussions about what to do in various scenarios. They also walked through town, locating every valve. They talked about the water lines, where they are and where they end. This should make us okay for their requirement this year. He was notified by the EPA that we will have our annual survey on October 1, but he doesn't see any problem with that, since he is doing the valve maintenance program. It has taken a lot of time to do what is needed to meet their requirements. Although, now, if we have a problem in January when it is freezing, at least Mr. Johnson and Palmer will know where the valves are located.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he is required to complete an annual water utilities Financial Information Form for the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), which he submitted on 7/23/19, covering fiscal year 2018. This is part of the cooperative agreement with OWDA, since we have a large debt service to them each year for a water main line loan. They want to know the status of our water fund, to be sure we have the capability of fulfilling our loan payment obligations. Mr. Harnishfeger said he felt it was his duty to report to Council that his report to OWDA for fiscal year 2018 showed a net negative \$19,296.91 in water revenues. This means it cost the village \$19,296.91 more to run the water system in 2018 than we received in water revenue. Members discussed what we could do to remedy this situation. Having a rate study done was suggested again, but it is questionable if the water fund could afford the cost. Utilities Superintendent Johnson suggested just raising the rates 20 percent, since we already know we are behind and don't need a study done to tell us that. Councilman Roe suggested raising the line maintenance fee to help with maintenance costs. Councilman Shanahan suggested having the Utilities Committee look into the matter and make recommendations to Council. Mayor Buehrer noted that one of our problems is we don't adequately keep up with the rate increases from Bowling Green, which tend to be large jumps.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilman Benedict asked if Bowling Green is going to sweep the streets. Mayor Buehrer answered that Administrator Johnson sent them a message today and Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger intends to call them again tomorrow.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Roe reported that he talked to Envirocare about our tree problems. He didn't know if they had been here to look at the trees yet, but, over the phone they informed him about a disease called "sudden oak death" that is going around in Ohio.

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Councilwoman Mackey reported that she has not heard from Abe Rowe yet, but there are a couple more trees that need to be added for him to take down—a crabapple tree on Broad Street and an ash tree that she mentioned before. Members also mentioned again the bad tree (possibly mulberry) by the hall that still needs to come down. Councilman Roe added, in regard to sudden oak death, that, if a tree is diagnosed with it, it is like a quarantine situation and the wood and chips have to be disposed of in a special way in order to avoid spreading the disease. Mayor Buehrer commented he had heard of a new kind of beetle attacking hardwood trees.

Councilman Shanahan reported that he was stopped by Matt Lambert, who lives at 18655 Crom Street, about water causing a sidewalk problem because it doesn't have a place to drain. He had called town officials about it, but got no response. Mayor Buehrer responded that he never heard from this person. Administrator Johnson replied that he had brought this up before at a meeting that this person had called him about a catch basin and a drain out back, and he has been talked to many times. The mayor and members discussed possible drainage options. Councilman Shanahan asked if someone could talk to Mr. Lambert again, since he seems to feel he didn't get an adequate answer from anyone. He wants to know what his options are and whose responsibility it is.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that she spoke with Jim Head and got an estimate from him to rebuild the park benches at Centennial Park for \$392.94, which will be used to apply for a park grant for that purpose.

Councilman Shanahan reported that the basketball court is finished. The new court was poured on Friday. He also got the first four disc golf course posts installed and cemented. They worked about eight hours digging 30-inch holes for posts and broke the shovel, which had to be replaced.

Councilman Roe reported that the electric pole inspection people were in town checking our poles. Administrator Johnson responded that he told them to work north from Crom Street and Washington Street where they replaced a pole last year. Mr. Johnson said it looks like they already replaced one bad pole with a brand new one in the alley behind 18735 Crom Street.

Administrator Johnson reported that he emptied all five of the trash containers tonight for Togany Fest. He also put a trash bag over every trash can underneath the shelter house, so, if they fill up, they can put another bag in.

Councilman Roe reported that he was in contact with the Weavers. He also met with Kyle Sherman about a quote for drainage work on Centennial Park. Mr. Sherman took measurements and Mr. Roe was hoping to get an estimate from him to give to Council tonight, but he did not get it yet. By next meeting we should have an estimate. He is thinking about running everything to the east, to the basin along Tontogany Road. He is talking about putting yard basins in low spots, which are barely visible and can be mown over. Mr. Roe also talked with Mr. Sherman about the problems the Weavers are having with the holes for the posts. Mr. Sherman said he could help them out, so Mr. Roe gave his contact information to Matt Weaver, who contacted him, and Mr. Sherman will get a guy over here next week to help them. Mr. Sherman also offered to haul some sand for the volleyball court.


Councilman Shanahan reported that he was asked by some of the Togany Fest people if any of the council members were interested in marching in the parade. He also talked to Abe Euler about the tree lighting program. Mr. Euler said that the fire department is interested in teaming up with the village to do the Santa visit the same night we have the tree lighting, with Santa in the hall instead of having to pull out the fire trucks to have him at the fire station. The evening would combine the tree lighting, Santa, and the Presbyterian Church activities in one festive night. Members voiced no objections to this proposal. Councilwoman Mackey suggested that we move the date a little bit from the first Saturday in December, which was when we usually did the tree lighting in the past. Since Santa usually comes on the third Saturday in December, she asked if we could compromise and have the combined event on the

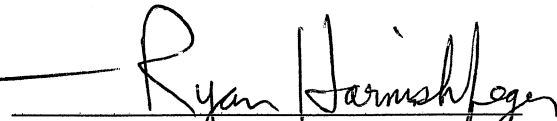
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second Saturday in December, which would be the 14th this year. Mr. Shanahan asked if the tree lighting was decided by a committee. Mayor Buehrer and members answered that it is not; a date and a person of honor to light the tree is chosen each year by the entire council. Louis Pauff was suggested last year as a good choice for the honored guest in 2019.

Councilman Roe reported that Zimmerman Paint Contractors gave us an estimate for doing the striping on our refinished basketball court. Mr. Roe said that Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger remarked that the estimated price of \$3,000.00 seemed a little high. Councilwoman Mackey asked what they were intending to do, because we really don't need perimeter markings and a full set of lines, but just basic markings. Mr. Roe explained that the price was high, partly because it is not a restriping, following previously laid out markings, but a first striping, needing to be measured. Whether or not to have the asphalt sealed was discussed. If we do, it would be next year and then the striping would have to be redone. Mayor Buehrer commented that the sealing would probably not completely cover the markings, so that we could repaint them ourselves, if we wanted to. Members decided that we should wait awhile before having the painting done, especially if we intend to have it sealed.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Buehrer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Todd Buehrer, Mayor

Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer

John Heckerman
President of Counsel