

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: October 7, 2019

Council called to order in regular session at 7:01 p.m. with Mayor John Heckerman presiding. Opening ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Heckerman. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; Matthew Shanahan, here. Also present were Zoning Inspector Brian Owens and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Deputy D. Bird from the Wood County Sheriff's Office.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: Mayor Heckerman did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #905-19, an ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW WATER RATES. Councilman Benedict made a motion to adopt Ordinance #905-19. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Heckerman read a quote from Rick Crozier to redo the shelter house roof, including tearing off and replacing the old shingles, ice guard on the eaves, new drip edge, and hauling away trash, for a quoted price of \$2,250 (extra for any rotten wood). Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to accept Rick Crozier's quote. Councilman Roe seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilman Shanahan suggested asking Mr. Crozier to haul away the old posts at the park when he hauls away the shelter house debris.

Councilwoman Mehring asked about when the village will do fall brush pickup. After a little discussion, it was decided to make a request to Washington Township Road Supervisor Scott Alexander to pick up village brush the week of October 28. In the past, when Mayor Todd Buehrer was Township Road Supervisor, we were able to choose and schedule specific days for brush and leaf pickup, but now we will need to let Scott Alexander know when we would like to have these jobs done, but we will need to be flexible to adjust to the township's work schedule. Mayor Heckerman said he would speak to Mr. Alexander about brush pickup and let Councilwoman Mackey know when they plan to do it, so she can create flyers to post in town. Ms. Mackey said she would let Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger know the date, so he can have a flyer posted on the village website as well. Councilman Shanahan suggested asking the township to put a brush pickup announcement on their sign. Mayor Heckerman said he will take the chute off of the leaf vac and see to getting repairs done to the leaf vac so it can be ready for leaf pickups in November. With no more voting needed, Councilwoman Mehring left the meeting to attend to urgent personal matters.

Mayor Heckerman reported that he received a quote from Palmer Excavating to do drainage at Centennial Park. He warned them about possibly running into rock when digging, which the quote stated would be extra. He also had a Google overhead map of the park, showing the major wet spots. He gave the map to Councilman Roe and asked him if he had received a quote from Kyle Sherman yet for the park drainage. Mr. Roe said he had not. Zoning Inspector Owens suggested also getting a quote from Garrett Vetter of Precision Plumbing and Drain. Members thought that would be a good idea. After a little more discussion on drainage needs and proposals made so far, the mayor and members asked Councilman Roe to contact Jim Palmer Excavating again and Precision Plumbing and Drain for quotes on comparable drainage work for the park. Mayor Heckerman said we would put the project on hold until we are clear on what is to be done, how, and why. We will look at it again when we get another quote.

Minutes from the September 16 meeting were approved as submitted. A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Roe 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 September Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status reports were given to Mayor Heckerman and the Finance Committee to review.

Copies of the September incident report were made available for members to review. Mayor Heckerman invited members to speak to Deputy Bird about any questions or concerns they may have. Members had no questions for the deputy. Deputy Bird reported that mostly only ordinary small incidents were on the report for September. Mayor Heckerman informed Deputy Bird that Tontogany

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

will celebrate Halloween on October 31, with trick-or-treat from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Heckerman thanked the deputy and she left the meeting.

Mayor Heckerman reported that we have a letter from Village Council to Mrs. Bomer, the district coordinator of Eagle Scout projects, stating that we are satisfied with the post replacement project done by Eagle Scout Luke Weaver, and we consider the project complete. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger suggested that members might want to sign the letter at the bottom to make it more clearly official. The mayor and members signed the letter. There was a question as to whether to give the letter to Luke Weaver to turn in or to get it to the district coordinator by another means.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that the village received a check from the Wood County Auditor for \$878.66, as a restitution payment through the Juvenile Court. No specifics were given, but the only restitution we have coming is from the burning of the porta potty at Mehring Park. Mr. Harnishfeger also reported that he received an email from Joe Pemberton, asking for fifteen minutes at our upcoming November 4 meeting for Andrew Sonderman, President of Suburban Natural Gas, to come and give an annual update. Mr. Harnishfeger said he responded that Mr. Sonderman is welcome to come.

Mayor Heckerman asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger if the hall has been rented for Thanksgiving Day this year. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that it has.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that she received signatures from everyone at this meeting on a sympathy card for Chad Johnson regarding the passing of his mother. She also offered to receive donations from council members in Janis Johnson's memory, as was suggested to her by Councilman Benedict, which will be donated to Otsego Athletic Boosters, as requested in her obituary. The mayor and members expressed their sympathy and concern for Chad in the loss of his mother, to whom he was very close.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he was trying to find zoning code for Tontogany that he could use in confronting offenders that we have been discussing at meetings. There doesn't seem to be clear code spelling out offences and repercussions. He checked the zoning code for other places like Haskins and Middleton Township and found them to be clearly spelled out. Mr. Owens said he would like to speak with Solicitor Paul Skaff and then get with council members to see what we could do about updating Tontogany's zoning code to be more specific as to what is required and what the consequences are for violations, so he has something to go by when he speaks to people about problems that need to be corrected. Mr. Owens suggested that we might be able to incorporate some of the zoning code already written for other towns into our own. It will take time to revise all of the code, but we should address some recurring issues first. Zoning Inspector Owens, the mayor, and members discussed that, whereas in the past we were told we could do nothing about junk on industrial zoned property, it turns out that we can ask for industrial property to be cleaned up. Members were in agreement to have Zoning Inspector Owens get with Solicitor Skaff about updating the zoning code, with no opposition voiced. Mayor Heckerman said he would talk with Scott about a dresser without drawers he had set out for free. That kind of thing could go into a dumpster, but mattresses cannot go into a dumpster. Mayor Heckerman offered to stop and talk with Susan Grosjean about the mattresses in front of her building downtown, which have been sitting there for a while.

UTILITIES: Councilman Roe asked if all of the new water rates, decided on at the previous meeting, were put into the new water ordinance. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that he entered the new rates into the ordinance and sent it to Solicitor Skaff for a final look at it. Mr. Skaff said it was ready for adoption after the third reading at tonight's meeting, which we did. Councilman Roe asked if we ever found out what size of meter is being used at the elementary school. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that Chad has not given him the answer on that question yet. Mr. Harnishfeger also informed members that he added a line maintenance fee of \$45.00 for a 1-inch meter, right between the price of a residential and a 1.5-inch meter, because Chad had said the fire hall may be using a 1-inch meter, but have only

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

been charged for a residential meter. Mr. Harnishfeger commented that the ordinance is worded to take effect thirty days from passage, which will be on November 6, 2019. Customers will first see the effect of the new rates on their December utility bill. The rates will need to be updated in the utilities software and on the village website, and a letter is being drafted by Utilities Superintendent Johnson to notify customers of the increase in rates. Mr. Harnishfeger said he would probably have the letters printed and folded by Staples, and then print customer mailing address labels from the utilities software.

Mayor Heckerman asked if we had heard anything yet about the bad electric poles being changed out. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that he has not heard anything yet. What they usually do is, Bowling Green Electric comes and changes all of the bad poles and then bills us for the entire job. We should have enough money to cover the bill, since we appropriated \$25,000.00 to cover the expenses of pole inspection and replacements. Councilman Benedict asked if we received a report about which poles were inspected and which were bad. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that Epic Utilities Services sent us a pole-inspection report, a copy of which Mr. Johnson sent to Bowling Green Electric, so they would know which poles to replace.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Mayor Heckerman reported that he called CSX and talked with someone in Jacksonville, Florida. He placed a complaint about how they left the town a mess. A couple of weeks ago when signage was run over and down in the street he called them and also told them they had an unsafe crossing. They told him it was someone else's job; they have a company that does that. That afternoon someone came out and looked at it. The following day a work crew came in to prepare to finish that crossing. A signage company also came out. The train had called in the problem because of debris on the track. Councilwoman Mackey commented that they left a terrible mess. Councilman Shanahan asked if the mayor received a response. The mayor answered that he did not; he had called them at their 800-number. Mr. Shanahan suggested that we continue to use the CSX representative that we have been corresponding with about the street repairs. Mr. Shanahan said he would take some pictures and forward them to him and tell him we need some help.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Shanahan reported that Abe Rowe had not contacted Kevin yet, who lives next to the hall, about taking out the trees between the hall and Kevin's home. Kevin texted Mr. Shanahan last night, asking if we had any timeline or costs yet. Councilwoman Mackey responded that Abe Rowe texted her a couple of weeks ago and said he was shooting for the week of October 21st to work in town. Councilwoman Mackey asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger if Abe Rowe dropped off an estimate to the village hall. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that he did not. Ms. Mackey said she would contact Abe again and let him know that we still need a printed estimate from him, and that Matt Shanahan and John Heckerman would like for him to call them at the numbers she previously gave to him.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

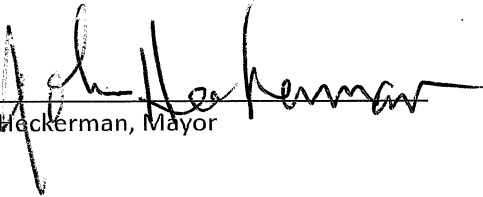
CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Shanahan reported that the Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune did a front-page article about Tontogany's new disc golf course at Centennial Park.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that Randy Becker got back with her after she asked him if he had an interest in filling the vacant council seat through the end of the year. He is not interested. He has applied for a different job and has other things going on; he doesn't feel it is good timing for him to become a council member. Ms. Mackey asked if anyone had anyone else in mind. She asked if anyone has spoken to Chad Hartman about it. Councilman Shanahan said he has mentioned it to him a couple of times, but he wasn't sure if he knew he was being serious or not, since they are friends. Perhaps it would help for someone else to also approach him.

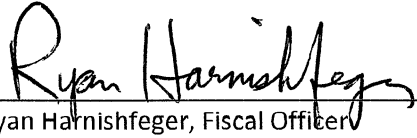
TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Zoning Inspector Owens had a question as to where the actual village limits are, especially on Tontogany Creek Road. Members let him know that the new annexed four lots just north of Scott Road are the limit on the west side of Tontogany Creek Road, while the limits on the east side of the road end at Scott Road, because the people on the east side of the road beyond Scott Road were not part of the annexation. Mayor Heckerman commented that to annex into the village, people have to come to us and request it and then go through the legal measures required.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Heckerman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



John Heckerman, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer