

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: October 21, 2019

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 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, absent; Jason Benedict, here; Matthew Shanahan, here. Also present were Zoning Inspector Brian Owens and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Washington Township Trustee Steve Powell and Logan Benedict, son of Councilman Benedict. Minutes from the October 7 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 Chad Johnson had three extra hours added to his monthly payroll for participation in an EPA inspection. Mayor Heckerman asked about a \$342.92 bill from Municipal Utilities for a scheduled outage at Otsego High School. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that it was a shutdown of electric power that Bowling Green needed to do, so the school could switch over to solar power. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Heckerman invited Washington Township Trustee Steve Powell to speak to members. Mr. Powell said he received a letter from Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger, requesting township contact information for various needs of the Village of Tontogany. They discussed it at a recent township meeting and he volunteered to come to a village council meeting to provide township contact information and answer any questions the mayor and council members may have. Mr. Powell provided each member with a list of Washington Township personnel, showing their names, positions, phone numbers, and email addresses where possible. Then he proceeded to go over the list, explaining who the people are and what things each should be contacted about. Mayor Heckerman asked if there is a head trustee. Mr. Powell explained that each year they have a chair, a vice chair, and a third trustee. They rotate every year. This year Mr. Powell is the chair. Next year the vice chair will become the chair and Mr. Powell will become the third. Mr. Powell said he is in charge of the sign in front of the fire hall, and he offered to put a village trick-or-treat notice on it, since he considers village events as important as township events. Councilwoman Mackey informed him that trick-or-treat will be on October 31st from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mr. Powell informed members that the firemen had a meeting a week ago and they decided they have lost interest in doing the Halloween costume contest that they have done each year in the past, due to a diminished turnout of kids. But they will still be handing out doughnuts and cider for trick-or-treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mr. Powell invited members to contact any of the trustees about township questions. Regular township meetings are now held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. (8 p.m. during daylight saving time). Mr. Powell informed members on a matter related to the fire department, that the field across Kellogg Road from his home is in a cover crop of radishes and oats. Radishes have been known to give off an odor that smells like a gas leak. Mr. Powell asked members to tell everyone they know that, when driving down Kellogg Road from December to March, they might smell a gas-like odor from the radishes. If the fire department gets any calls for possible gas leaks, they will still investigate, in case there really is a natural gas leak, but it will likely be just the radishes. Mr. Powell asked members if they wanted to do a fall brush pickup as well as leaf pickups. The mayor and members informed Mr. Powell that the village usually has a brush pickup in late October, before leaves are picked up in November, but we were told that the township did not have the chipper back yet from Northwestern. There was some discussion, with differing recollections, on who owns the chipper, who should be allowed to use it, and who is responsible for its maintenance and repair, with no clear conclusion. Mayor Heckerman said he drove around and saw hardly any brush out for pickup. Mr. Powell said they can still schedule a brush pickup this year and he suggested checking with Road Superintendent Scott Alexander about it. Mayor Heckerman asked who we should send email to, to keep the township informed about the village's plans for things like the Christmas tree lighting. Mr.

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Powell responded that an email message could be sent to everyone at the township, so everyone is informed. Councilman Shanahan suggested that members might want to think about each attending a township meeting a couple of months of the year, to share information and keep up with what is going on. Mr. Powell answered that council members are welcome to come to their open public trustee meetings any time. Mr. Powell asked if Councilman Shanahan had communicated with Trustee Abe Euler any more about the village's plans for Christmas. Mr. Shanahan responded that the 14th of December had been proposed as a middle point between the traditional time for Santa Claus and the tree lighting, to combine both together. He and Abe will be getting together again to discuss a final agenda, including church participation with hymns, to offer to the village council for final approval. Mayor Heckerman commented that the Methodist Church has been wanting to do something, like caroling, for Christmas. Louis Pauff will be the honored guest at the tree lighting. Councilwoman Mackey reminded Mr. Powell that the council members supply cookies for the tree lighting event and the fire department supplies goodie bags for the Santa visit. She asked if the trustees might be willing to supply the hot chocolate. He answered that they would do that. Mr. Powell said that Scott Alexander usually works forty hours a week, ten hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Leaf pickup will start later than usual this year because there aren't many leaves on the ground yet. Mr. Powell asked if the village was looking for a place to store the leaf vac. Mayor Heckerman answered that we are. We have rented storage for it in the past, but we are interested in finding a less expensive storage solution. With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Heckerman thanked Trustee Powell and he left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor Heckerman reported that Rick Crozier informed him that he accidentally made an error on his original quote for repairing the shelter house roof for \$2,250. He needed to add an extra \$1,840 in materials and labor, bringing the new total to \$4,090. Mayor Heckerman explained that Rick simply made a mistake in the amount of materials needed, based on a quote for another job he was doing. He quoted for 9 squares, when the shelter house roof is actually 15 squares. We are still getting a deal at \$4,090, since the original bid could have been \$4,700. Rick has part of the work done already and it will be completed this week. He will also get rid of the old posts at Centennial Park for the village. The mayor said he has been asking around for anyone who wants the extra new posts still at the park. Councilman Benedict made a motion to pay Rick Crozier the updated amount of \$4,090 when he finishes the shelter house roof. Councilman Shanahan seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Mayor Heckerman told members that the shelter house has 12 uprights, but no cross braces. We need to look into having someone add maybe 1-inch tie rods in each corner to get the building more stabilized.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he did a fence permit for the Hartmans at the new home at 18791 Tontogany Creek Road, just north of Scott Road. Councilwoman Mackey asked if Mr. Owens had been able to get the zoning code or meet with Paul Skaff. Mr. Owens answered that he had not yet. Mayor Heckerman said he would be willing to go through books in the office to help find zoning information. He also told members that there is a lot of outdated electronic equipment in the office that we need to get rid of. He said he found someone who will scrap it, but if any members want some of it, they could just go ahead and take it. Councilwoman Mackey said there was a church in Bowling Green that was taking outdated electronics. Councilman Shanahan warned that we should be sure there isn't any sensitive information left on hard drives. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that the Auditor of State erases the hard drives of old UAN computers when we get new ones. He also suggested that maybe Applied Imagination in Bowling Green, the computer company that set up our utilities computer system, sells used computer equipment and may be willing to take our used equipment for free. He also reported that the Auditor of State is providing another new printer for UAN, which will arrive this Thursday, October 24th. Mayor Heckerman asked Mr. Harnishfeger to call Applied Imagination to see if they would take the old equipment.

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UTILITIES: Mayor Heckerman reported that he took an inventory of bad street lights, which he will give to Utilities Superintendent Johnson to contact Bowling Green to come and fix them. He counted eight lights that need repaired. Zoning Inspector Owens asked if they have started switching the street lights over to LED lights. The mayor answered that we have not switched any lights to LED because it is very expensive. Mayor Heckerman reported that he also has backflow preventer information for Mid-Wood to give to Mr. Johnson for his records.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Mayor Heckerman asked if we have heard anything back from the railroad. Councilman Shanahan answered that he has not. Mayor Heckerman commented that they brought in a dumpster, but they didn't clean up very well. He said he was going to bring in his loader and clean up the corners so it looks nicer.

Mayor Heckerman reported that he found out who owned the mattresses sitting outside downtown. He wrote them a note and told them the village does not pick up large items like mattresses; it is up to the owner to get rid of them. He told them that Paul's Refuse Pick-up will pick them up for \$25, signed his name and gave them his number to call if they need any help. Two days later the mattresses were gone.

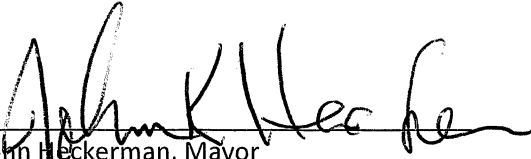
SIDEWALKS and TREES: Mayor Heckerman said he noticed Abe Rowe was in town. Councilman Shanahan asked if the wood that Abe cut down is free for anyone to take. Councilwoman Mackey responded that it is. Mayor Heckerman reported that Kevin has his things moved so Abe can get to the trees between the hall and his home. Ms. Mackey said that Abe has everything cut down now except the apple tree by the hall and one other tree. Mayor Heckerman reported that Abe did the crabapple on Broad Street across from Current's store. Next year the one behind Current's store will need to come down. Abe recommended taking it down now because it will continue to die. Next spring, we should look at replacing it with something like a Bradford pear tree. Abe recommended not to go with crabapples. Councilwoman Mackey asked if members would like to vote on having Abe go ahead and take down the other crabapple tree while he is in town. Members didn't see a need for a vote. Everyone was in favor of having Abe go ahead and cut down the extra crabapple tree, with no objections voiced. They asked Councilwoman Mackey to ask Abe to cut it down. Ms. Mackey ask Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger if Abe had dropped off a quote yet for the tree work. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he has not.

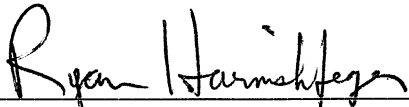
Councilwoman Mehring reported that the Presbyterian Church is wondering if we are going to replace the bad sidewalks by the church. The sidewalks are uneven and really bad when covered with snow. Mayor Heckerman answered that it is too late in the year to do them still this year. Members suggested putting it on the agenda to fix them in the spring. Mayor Heckerman commented that we still need to do sidewalks to the school, to give kids a safe pathway. Councilwoman Mackey reminded members that we also intended to repair portions of sidewalk that have heaved in various places in town, due to village trees.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Nothing to report.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Heckerman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.


John Heckerman, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer