

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: October 19, 2020

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Matthew Shanahan presiding. Opening ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Shanahan. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, absent; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, absent; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Damon Lee, here. Also present were Village Administrator/Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, Village Solicitor Paul Skaff (arrived about 7:15 p.m.), and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Minutes from the October 5 meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members, including \$340.00 added to the normal October payroll for Utilities Superintendent Johnson for 17 hours of extra work. Councilman Smith asked if the bill from C & L Sanitation through November 3 was the final bill for this year. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that it should be, and Councilwoman Mackey is very careful about calling the company to have the portable restrooms picked up at the first of November. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Bergfeld seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading of Ordinance #922-20, an ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FOUR-WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF BROAD STREET AND MAIN STREET.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he returned the remaining unspent and unencumbered \$3,674.08 of CARES Act money to the Wood County Auditor by certified mail, as directed by Village of Tontogany Resolution #915-20, which states, "on or before October 15, 2020, pay any unencumbered balance of money in the village's local coronavirus relief fund to the county treasurer." The village spent a total of \$699.85 of the \$4373.93 distribution that was received.

ZONING: Mayor Shanahan reported that he and Zoning Inspector Owens had reached out to Randy Cunningham, owner of the old carryout on Main Street for a first business-owner meeting. They were to meet Friday at 11 a.m., but Mr. Cunningham didn't show up. The mayor said he texted him and he responded that he was not going to meet with them. The mayor asked him about possibly rescheduling and Mr. Cunningham replied that he is going to sell the building and will be asking for \$35,000. The mayor said that he and Mr. Owens suggested to Mr. Cunningham that he put a "For Sale" sign in the store window and also advertise it. Councilwoman Mehring asked if the Health Department should look at where the bricks are coming down and the condition of the building. The mayor responded that he did put in a call to Bowling Green Civil Engineer Jason Sisco, as a starting point, and left him a message, asking what we need to do, looking at some of the downtown buildings. The carryout building, for instance, has an 1894 marker on it. So, we may need to consider the historical nature of the buildings, especially if someone were to buy a building and decide they want to tear it down to build a new building. The mayor said he was introduced to a gentleman on Saturday, who has a background in small village and township downtown restoration. The mayor will be meeting with him on Friday, October 30. They will walk around and take a look at everything. He also has a background in historical buildings, grants, and securing funding. He is currently the general manager of Innovative Controls Corporation in Toledo. The mayor said he would gather information and present it to Council for discussion. Councilman Lee asked how many downtown businesses we have in Tontogany and how many are for sale. The mayor responded that we have eight businesses downtown, or nine, if you include GLN. Mr. Owens added that three are currently in business. The mayor said that we only know of one of the closed businesses that is going up for sale. The roof of the building next to Doc's leaks and water is running into the kitchen of Doc's, doing damage. The mayor said that he and Zoning Inspector Owens will be setting up meetings with the building owners to find out the history of what each business was, what their future plans are, if they want to sell or not, and, if so, for how much. The gentleman across

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

from the post office has offered Glen Hefflinger \$30,000 cash for GLN, but Mr. Hefflinger turned down the offer. Zoning Inspector Owens added, on the topic of Hefflinger, that if we decide to legally deal with the Hefflinger problem, it will cost the village some serious money. The mayor responded that we need to sit down and have another talk with Mr. Hefflinger.

Village Solicitor Skaff reported that he had been away from his office today and just checked his email at the end of the day and found our request for him to draft an ordinance for the corrected easement in Harley Woods. He informed the mayor and members that the Planning Commission has to first approve the replat and the village engineer has to approve it as well. Then Council will begin its three readings of an ordinance, which Mr. Skaff will draft for the next council meeting. It will be okay to use Poggemeyer as the engineer, but the Planning Commission will have to meet formally to review the request. The timeline that Dan Sheperd proposed will not work; it will probably have to go into December or January. Mayor Shanahan answered that he will try to get the Planning Commission to meet this week. He will also follow up with Dan Sheperd to let him know the change in scheduling of this process. The mayor asked Solicitor Skaff if Mr. Sheperd is allowed to start breaking ground, even before the three readings and final approval by Council. Mr. Skaff answered that he can do so, but he runs the risk of Council not approving it. Mr. Skaff also asked if the village had given up on the sidewalk matter in Harley Woods. Mayor Shanahan answered that we have not given up. We intend to meet with each of the residents in Harley Woods, let them know where it is currently at, and that, when the new house is built, it will then be at the agreed upon percentage that binds them to putting in sidewalks.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that he got about twenty meter-pit meters replaced. The majority of in town underground ones are in pretty good shape right now. There are three or four inside or under houses that will take a little more time to do. He said he ran into a problem with the meter pit at the Corner Carryout. The pit is in the asphalt. The meter is covered with silt from the parking lot. He started pumping it out and found it pretty oily from gas and oil from the parking lot. Former Utilities Superintendent Brandon Johnson had just changed the meter three years ago and it is already shot and won't read. If Council approves it, Mr. Johnson said he will call Palmer to look at it and give us a quote on fixing the situation. He recommended having Palmer relocate the meter pit to an area with no asphalt so it doesn't remain a problem and doesn't ruin meters installed there. Zoning Inspector Owens suggested maybe relocating the meter inside the building. Mr. Johnson replied that that would work too. Basically, it is going to cost the village some money to do this, including the cost of re-tapping the line. Councilman Smith commented that we are going to have to do it at some point; maybe it could be a spring project. The mayor and members asked Mr. Johnson to get an estimate from Palmer and then we will discuss it at a future meeting. Mr. Johnson commented that Palmer could probably do it yet this year, if approved at the next meeting.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we heard back about the tree blocking the view that we previously discussed. It is not in the right of way, but on private property. We are asking the property owner to have the tree trimmed up, due to our concerns about traffic visibility.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Nothing to report.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Mayor Shanahan reported that he had Josh Heckerman trim the tree at the back of the hall up about ten feet. There was also a large weed, about ten feet tall, that he had him get rid of too.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that her granddaughter witnessed two boys pulling about 50 or 60 cans out of the recycling bins onto the ground. She took pictures of it and went to get Ms. Mehring. She went and talked with the parents and got the boys to go clean up the mess.

Councilwoman Mehring reported that Ernie Yeary, who was going to be the honored guest at the tree lighting this year, can't do it now, due to health issues. Mayor Shanahan responded that another concern that was brought up, due to the elevation in COVID-19 numbers, is whether the tree lighting event is something we should do or not. Should we do tree lighting and Santa? Should we do tree lighting and no Santa, keeping people outside and socially distanced? Should we just not do anything? Councilman Smith asked what goes into scheduling Santa. The mayor answered that he is scheduled and confirmed. There are a couple of ways to look at it. The first concern is safety. So, there is no way we can do kids on Santa's lap. We could do an 8-foot bench with Santa at one end and kids and their parents at the other end. We could set up chairs spaced apart. Another idea offered was scheduling people for 15 minutes, but that would bombard the office with phone calls trying to sign people up and coordinate it. The mayor said he told Bill to keep Santa scheduled and he would talk to Council to get their ideas. One thing they also considered was the concern that kids will be made to think that COVID cancelled Christmas. So, to avoid that, we want to see if we can get creative to show kids that Christmas and Santa are still there. Last year we saw about 150 people show up for the tree lighting. Councilman Smith said he thought the tree lighting should be okay to do, since it is outside and people already know how they are supposed to deal with the COVID situation. He also suggested that Santa could be carried around in a hay wagon or sleigh or something. The mayor commented that last year Santa was delivered in a fire truck. Councilman Bergfeld suggested setting up a box and telling kids to throw their Christmas list in the box. Councilman Lee said he thought the tree lighting should be okay, but their family is keeping their children very guarded due to the pandemic. Mr. Smith suggested driving Santa through town on a fire truck, passing out candy. Zoning Inspector Owens suggested putting cookies in bags to be handed out to people. He also suggested having Santa before the tree lighting, while it is still light out. The mayor concluded the matter, saying the opinion seems to be that we can still have the tree lighting and we want to ask the fire department to find a creative way to have Santa go through the village. He also said we should test the tree lights right after the first meeting in November.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Councilwoman Mackey received a text message today from Bernie Scott that all of the new benches at Centennial Park were flipped upside down. The mayor said he went to the park today to look at it. The benches were flipped and he took pictures of them. Then he put them back right side up. He also found all kinds of bike tire tracks where the new grass is growing. Councilman Lee reported that he found the benches all turned the opposite direction one time when he went to the park. The mayor asked if anyone has a trail cam that we could hide somewhere at the park to find out who is doing this. Councilman Bergfeld said he had one he could spare. Mr. Owens commented that, if the problem gets bad enough, the village might want to think about hiring a peace officer. Councilman Smith itemized some of the costs the village would incur in doing that. The mayor commented that, with the cold weather coming, he expects this behavior at the park to subside. Members also suggested that it would be possible to bolt or anchor the tables and benches in place. Mr. Lee commented that we could put up a sign that says the park is under 24-hour surveillance. Mr. Smith advised that the more residents or officials call the Sheriff's Department about problems at the park, the more they will start showing up. The mayor and members decided to see how things go and consider the situation again in the spring.

Mayor Shanahan reported that last Friday he got a call from a very disgruntled lady, who does not live in the village but in the township. She was upset about the black substance being spread in a field next to the school. She thought they were putting raw waste there from the treatment plant and the fumes were going to affect the school. She called the treatment plant and didn't get a satisfactory answer. She called the school and was told the substance wasn't toxic. She even called the EPA in Columbus. The mayor said he talked with the township trustees and let them know who it was, so they

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

could follow up with her. He also talked to the treatment plant. What happened is that there is a silt or sludge that is sifted out during the treatment process. Farmers have this byproduct sprayed onto their fields and then they cultivate it into the soil as fertilizer. It is not toxic. It is not human waste. There may be some odor for about a week, but it is completely healthy. The treatment plant works with about half a dozen farms that get it. Zoning Inspector Owens suggested having the plant send out something to inform people or put up a sign that lets people know the substance is nontoxic. The mayor said he followed up with the lady on all he had found out and also let her know it was not a village matter but a township matter. She seemed comfortable with the explanation.

Mayor Shanahan reported that leaf pickup will be every Monday in November. Scott confirmed that they are ready to go. Brush pickup is on October 29th. Mr. Owens asked if we had figured out where we will be storing the leaf vac. He said he knows someone who is willing to store it for a fee, if the village doesn't have a place. Members thought we should ask Karen Traister Rader, who stored it for us in the past, or ask Craig Spoores if he would like to store it. The mayor asked Administrator Johnson to call Karen first. If she doesn't want to store it, then call Craig. If he doesn't want to store it, we can ask Brian's friend. We want to know what we intend to do for storage by the time we are done with leaf collection this year.

Administrator Johnson reported that there is a tree in the right of way at Brandt Corral's home on Main Street, with limbs hanging down that need to be trimmed. He called Mr. Johnson and asked if he is supposed to trim it or if the town is supposed to trim it. Councilman Smith commented that it is our tree, so we would be responsible for trimming it. He asked Mr. Johnson to give him the address and he will look at it and call Abe Rowe about trimming it.

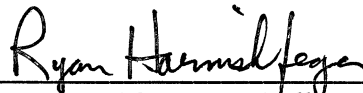
Mayor Shanahan asked if we need the drinking fountain any longer at the corner of Main Street and Broad Street. He said he didn't think anyone was really using it, especially with the pandemic concerns. He asked if we could just get rid of it and have the line capped off, to remove the possibility of someone using it and picking up the virus. Members did not voice any opposition to having the fountain removed. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to get an estimate from Palmer and bring it to the next meeting.

Solicitor Skaff asked about our four-way stop plans. Mayor Shanahan answered that we just did a first reading of the ordinance tonight. He also reported that Scott Alexander does have extra stop signs for us. We will have to purchase a clear marker of a four-way stop, which is in the ordinance, but Scott does not have that. Scott is looking at batteries for the flashers that are on the current stop signs, and we will put flashers on the two new stop signs as well. As we get closer to putting them up, the mayor said he will do a video message about the new four-way stop. He will send it to the school so the school can get it out to people also. The mayor said he intends to also do a video message on leaf pickup, trick-or-treat, and brush pickup coming up. The mayor also asked members to give some thought to getting a marquee board for the village, to display notices of upcoming events and other information for the public. It could maybe be put on the building or in the hall yard. Then we wouldn't have to wait for the fire department to have some free space on their board for a message from the village. Solicitor Skaff suggested calling Haskins to get an idea of the cost, since they put one up a couple of years ago.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer