

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: August 2, 2021

Council called to order in regular session at 7:01 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, here; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, absent; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, absent; Damon Lee, absent at roll call, but arrived at 7:02 p.m. Also present was Zoning Inspector Brian Owens and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Deputy C. Sawinski, from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the July 19th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Smith noted that we finally received a \$600 invoice from Schwind Electric for work on the tree lights. After a little discussion, Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger clarified that this was for the original work they did late in 2020, taking off old lights, putting up new lights, and putting up the wreath. Mr. Smith asked about the invoice for \$3,180 from Morlock Asphalt for crack sealing on Tontogany Creek Road. Mayor Shanahan explained that they did the crack sealing last weekend and we will be invoicing the Washington Township Trustees for a little over \$1,000 of the cost for their responsibility of 32 percent of the cost. Mr. Harnishfeger added that he had already sent an invoice to the township for their part. Councilwoman Mackey asked about the bill for \$369.70 from Fresh Cut Lawn Service, if that was just for two mosquito sprayings. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that it was, since the cost is currently \$184.85 for each spraying of the entire village. Councilman Smith made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the July Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status Reports were given to the mayor and the Finance Committee to review.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #936-21, 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 THE 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 2022, an amount of \$10,000.00, to be paid for by special assessment upon the lots and lands. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion to adopt Ordinance #936-21. Councilman Lee seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he requested and received an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources from the Wood County Auditor, to add the \$20,007.45 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to our 2021 revenue budget, the amount we were awarded as the first half of our total allocation. The money has been received from the Ohio State Auditor and a special revenue fund and revenue budget has been set up. The next step is for Council to decide exactly what the money will be used for. From that information, new appropriation accounts will be set up and a supplemental appropriation ordinance will need to be passed to allow the money to be spent.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that she received a phone call today from a lady who is a niece of a former village resident. When going through her aunt's things, she found a lot of historical materials related to Tontogany. She wanted to know if Tontogany had a historical society or anyone who would want these materials. Ms. Mackey said she did not know how much material she was talking about. Zoning Inspector Owens suggested that we could possibly display some of the items on the walls of the hall. Ms. Mackey said some of the materials are Eastern Star things. Mayor Shanahan said we would be willing to take a look at the materials.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that the owner of the property on Wall Street with tall grass and weeds got it all mowed down.

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mayor Shanahan reported that he and Zoning Inspector Owens spent a little over an hour walking around town and making notes of some things that Mr. Owens will be following up on. Councilwoman Mackey asked if they had a chance to contact the homeowner who has weeds in the right of way on Washington Street across from the funeral home, which someone complained to her about. The mayor and Mr. Owens answered that they talked about it, but were not certain what we need to do. The mayor said they saw some mulch there, so they are waiting to see what will be done with the mulch before deciding if the Village needs to take any action.

UTILITIES: Mayor Shanahan reported that he and Utilities Superintendent Johnson met downtown where Glen Hefflinger is putting a new roof on his apartment. They spoke with the man doing the roofing work for Mr. Hefflinger and told him about the woman next door who also has a roof in need of repair. The man said he would be willing to work with her financially, so they asked him to talk with the woman and try to come up with a solution where he could just go ahead and do the whole roofing of both apartments while he is up there. They did advise him that Togany Fest is coming up and they asked him to not do roofing work on that weekend.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilwoman Mackey asked if we will be able to get the problem van moved from downtown for the Togany Fest parade. Mayor Shanahan answered that it has been a couple of weeks since he talked with the lady and she hasn't done anything, so he is going to go back and talk to her again. She has been told that it is considered storage. The mayor asked Zoning Inspector Owens to go with him when he goes to talk to her.

Councilman Smith asked about the status on the four-way stop downtown. Mayor Shanahan said he and Administrator Johnson had met downtown to discuss the four-way stop. Mr. Johnson determined that we should be safe for OUPS on the locations where we will install the signs. The mayor said he spoke with Brandt Corral, who works for the sign division of the City of Bowling Green, and told him we had a quote of \$750 to put in the two new stop signs. Mr. Corral responded that it would be ridiculous for the Village to pay that much. The mayor said he then asked Mr. Corral if he would be willing to submit a quote to Council for this work, which he seemed to be interested in doing. The mayor said he will follow up with Mr. Corral on this. The mayor also commented that, since the stop sign in front of Current's store needs to go into cement, they thought we might ask the contractor who will be doing our sidewalk work if they would drill the hole for us. Mr. Owens asked if there will be something put in to warn of a four-way stop ahead. The mayor said that Mr. Corral had brought up that topic and had said he thought it would benefit us to also put a stop sign on the back side of the railroad sign in front of the carryout, so we would have stop signs on both sides of the street, which is a common practice at four-way stops. The mayor said he asked Mr. Corral if there were any ORC or ODDT rules that would require us to remove some of the angle parking in front of Current's for visibility of the stop sign there, which Mr. Johnson had thought we might need to do. The mayor said he will follow up to get a final answer on that topic. He said he doesn't expect the four-way stop signs to be in by Togany Fest, but they should be in before fall is over.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Brandt Corral asked if the Village would be willing to install a street light in the alley that goes behind the houses in his area. There is no light in the alley there. The mayor said he would follow up with Utilities Superintendent Johnson to see if there is an existing pole that we could have Bowling Green install a light onto. Zoning Inspector Owens advised that we might need to get that authorized and we might want to ask the neighbors there before putting in a light. The mayor said that Mr. Corral had let him know that it was only a request, and he was okay if it couldn't be done.

Councilwoman Mackey asked about the status of the hometown hero banners. Mayor Shanahan answered that he and Councilman Bergfeld met yesterday about it and they plan to have them up before Togany Fest. The mayor said he put an order in today for the hardware that we need, and he asked them to let him know the date when he can pick it up this week. Councilman Lee asked if we

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

intend to do new hometown hero banners every year. The mayor responded that he would like to. Mr. Lee asked if we are compiling a list of who is next. The mayor answered that we are not currently doing so, but we do already have a list to go through and he has received some suggestions of candidates. He also proposed that we might want to ask some of the persons we have already honored to be part of a committee to help us choose the next set of hometown heroes to honor with banners. Mr. Lee commented that his next-door neighbor is a veteran. The mayor commented that his vision would be to flood the entire town with hometown hero banners, not just put them downtown. He added that he had also ordered poles and brackets for next year when he ordered the hardware needed for this year.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Mayor Shanahan asked where we are on the sidewalk program. Councilman Smith answered that we need to get together with the residents on our list, to make sure they are okay with the final price, now that we have chosen the bid of \$38 per linear foot from Powell Creek Tree Service. The last two weeks have been busy with people being out of town. We are supposed to go around with Chad Johnson to get the exact measurement of the lots involved, so we can get exact calculations of costs for each resident. We will put together a final list this week or next week and let the contractor know. Mayor Shanahan asked how the payment to the contractor is to be done, whether the Village is to front the whole cost or whether we will ask the residents to pay their part up front. Mr. Smith answered that he thought we should ask the residents to put their part in up front along with the Village's part. Mr. Smith said he could ask the contractor for a starting date, so we could say to residents that we need payment by a certain date. The mayor said he supposed there would probably be an up-front payment required and then a final payment when the project is completed. Mr. Smith said he would get the details from the contractor about how they will do billing. Mayor Shanahan asked where we are on tree removal for trees damaging sidewalks, noting also that the company who will be doing our sidewalk work happens to be a tree service as well. Mr. Smith answered that he had asked the contractor about tree problems and he had said, when taking measurements, he hadn't noticed anything that would be a problem. The mayor commented that we know there is a tree problem on Washington Street. Mr. Smith said he would like to get together with Councilman Roe and the contractor and spend an hour or so looking at all of the places where sidewalk work will be done. If there are tree issues, we will ask the contractor to give us an estimate for taking down trees and we will get it done. Councilwoman Mackey added that the Village will be solely responsible for the tree removal expenses; the residents will not be charged for that.

July incident reports were provided for the mayor and members to review. Sheriff's Deputy Sawinski arrived at about 7:26 p.m. and Mayor Shanahan asked members if they had any questions or concerns for him. Members voiced no questions or concerns. Mayor Shanahan reported that the white van that continues to sit downtown on Broad Street never gets ticketed for being there between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., even though we have an ordinance and have put up signs disallowing parking there between those hours. The mayor told the deputy that he spoke to the owner about two weeks ago and told them that it is considered storage because it never moves, and they need to move it because we don't allow that kind of storage. He added that we will have to talk to them again because we need it moved for our festival which is about two weeks away. The mayor told the deputy that the plates are due to expire in August. The problem we keep having is: the plates expire and we have it towed; then it comes back with current plates after about three days and sits there for another year until we have to have it towed again for expired plates, and so on. We added a no parking 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. sign, but the van doesn't get ticketed. Deputy Sawinski responded that he will take care of it and see that patrols know to check it in the night and ticket it for violation of the no parking ordinance. With nothing else to discuss with the deputy, Mayor Shanahan thanked him and he left the meeting.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

CITY HALL and PARKS: Mayor Shanahan reported that we should have the slides replaced at Centennial Park by the end of August; they were not able to get them to us before Togany Fest. There has been a change in the delivery process. Typically, they send the equipment to the installer, who brings them and installs them. However, the installers they were using from Southern Ohio are too booked, so they are bringing in an installation crew from Eastern Ohio, but they will ship the slides directly to us. The mayor said he gave them Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger's contact information and when they deliver the slides we will store them in the hall shed until the installers come for them. When everything is done and paid for, we are to give a copy of the receipt to our insurance and they will reimburse us the cost, minus our deductible.

Mayor Shanahan reported that he has heard a lot of talk from people desiring to bring back the downtown Christmas tree in the intersection of Main and Broad Streets. He said he would be for doing so sometime in the future, as long as it would be acceptable with the Village's insurance provider. Councilwoman Mehring warned that we would really need to make sure the tree was secure, so it would not blow down in high winter winds and cause damage for which the Village would be liable. Members discussed various ideas of how to make it work successfully, and the general consensus was that it would be a good thing and would be another addition to make Tontogany more appealing for prospective residents. The mayor and members thought it might be something for which a community committee could be formed to bring in ideas and resources from the wider community, including the township.

Councilwoman Mackey observed that we did not meet with the representative of InTech IT Solutions about security cameras, as had been planned for discussion at this meeting. Councilwoman Mehring gave her opinion that she does not think security cameras would benefit the village enough to justify the amount we would have to pay for them. Mayor Shanahan responded that holding people accountable for damage they do to village property is worth the price of installing cameras, in his view; and we are in a day and age where technology isn't cheap. The estimate for the equipment was high because it includes equipment to surveil both parks, the recycle bins and downtown. He said we have to be able to hold someone accountable when they damage our property; we could consider another option, but what would it be? If we keep having \$8,000 insurance claims, our insurance is going to go berserk. There may be a camera option that would be less expensive, but Mr. Johnson did due diligence in seeking out this highly recommended company. Councilwoman Mackey commented that, since this is what the Park District uses for security, if we can get a park grant request put in for it, it should be considered a very feasible grant request. Mayor Shanahan asked Ms. Mackey to reach out to the Park District and ask them if this is something that they would consider for a grant. If they say it is not, then we would know to go another route for when and how to pay for it; if they say it is a viable grant request, then we know we have a little time to plan for it. Ms. Mackey agreed to ask them about it. Councilman Lee commented that he thought adding security cameras would modernize the town a little bit and give an added feature to attract new residents. Councilman Smith explained that these days camera evidence can make or break a case against a perpetrator.

Mayor Shanahan reminded members that this year will be the 25th anniversary of Togany Fest. He has been asked to read a resolution on Friday night, July 13th at 7 p.m., at the opening ceremony of the festival, which he has asked Solicitor Skaff to draft for him. He said he will be walking in the parade and he invited any council members who wished, to come and walk with him in the parade as well.

Mayor Shanahan reported that there is an Eagle Scout who is interested in repairing the Tontogany sign at Centennial Park for his Eagle Scout project. He is putting together plans to present to Council. The mayor said he told him that the idea would be to keep that sign and refurbish it and make it more solid. Once he has a plan put together, he has been invited to come and present it to Council.

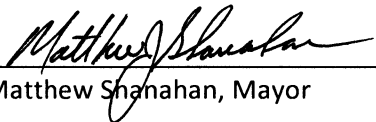
Councilwoman Mehring asked about the wrongly painted fire hydrant. Mayor Shanahan responded that he talked with Utilities Superintendent Johnson about it and asked if he followed up with Bernie. The mayor said he will give Mr. Johnson a few days before he follows up with him about this again.

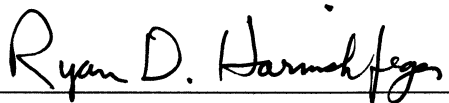
TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Councilman Smith reminded everyone that he and Councilman Lee had offered to help paint hydrants, which will be pretty easy to coordinate once the paint has been purchased. The mayor added that he has contacted Bill Gase about the different colored tops we have in the village; he is waiting to hear back if the colors are significant for line size or if they can all go back to yellow. Zoning Inspector Owens commented that the hydrants are ours, so we can paint them the color we choose, if Bill Gase gives us no specific color regulations to follow. The mayor said that he knows Mr. Gase's preference is to keep them yellow. Once we know what we want, we can call Sherwin-Williams and they will set aside what we need and bill us for it within 24 hours.

Councilman Smith asked if the mayor could reach out to Scott Alexander and ask him to mow along Tontogany Road before Togany Fest, to make it look nice. The mayor agreed and said he also reached out to CSX and asked them to have the weeds along the tracks mowed, so things look nice for the festival. However, he hasn't received an email back from CSX about that yet.

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


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer