

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 18, 2022

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, here; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Damon Lee, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent Chad Johnson, Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger.

Mayor Shanahan read a letter that he received from the Suburban Natural Gas Company, giving notice that Suburban intends to file an application for an adjustment to its Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider (Rider IRP) with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The application will propose to increase Suburban's Rider IRP from \$0.00 per month to \$0.24 per month. Under its IRP, Suburban will replace bare steel main lines in Suburban's service territory. In 2008, PUCO approved a rider for the recovery of costs associated with the IRP. The proposed Rider IRP is subject to change by PUCO.

Minutes from the June 20th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Lee made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a second reading, by title only, of Ordinance #950-22, 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 2023, to be paid for by Special Assessment upon the lots and lands within the village, excluding parcels in an exempt classification. The total assessment for 2023 is \$10,000.00.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #951-22, an ORDINANCE TO ALLOW SALE OF ALCOHOL IN THE VILLAGE. The mayor reminded members that this topic was brought up previously when the Corner Carryout was trying to apply to sell all types of alcohol on Sundays. They had been told that, due to a prohibition law, they could not do so without the Village putting it on the ballot for a vote. Solicitor Skaff drafted this ordinance in such a way that it revokes any prior ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol within Village limits, and, upon adoption, it will permit the sale of alcohol within the Village on all days of the year. The mayor said that we will give a copy of the ordinance, after it is passed, to the owner of the Corner Carryout, to submit with his application for a new license. Hopefully, that will be sufficient and we won't have to put it on the ballot.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that the Village received our second tranche final distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus recovery funding from The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM). \$20,087.32 was received into our bank account on July 12, 2022, bringing our grand total of ARPA funding to \$40,174.64. Mayor Shanahan commented that there had been an article in the Sentinel-Tribune about additional monies being added, including an extra \$20,000.00 for Tontogany, which would have brought our total to over \$60,000.00. The mayor said that he reached out to State Representative Haraz Ghanbari and found out that the report of extra money was an error, due to a communication mix-up. The communication department of the statehouse sent a correction to the Sentinel. The mayor said he had been the only one to call about the article in the paper, after receiving notice from OBM that our final payment did not include the additional amount stated in the newspaper. The mayor said he had suggested that the state may want to get word out to municipalities and townships that the newspaper article was incorrect, since some of them may have revised their plans to more expensive projects, based on the false report of extra money added to their allotment. Councilwoman Mackey asked how soon we need to start the project that will use the ARPA funding. The

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mayor answered that the projects have to be completed by December 31, 2024. Mr. Harnishfeger commented that the ARPA money must be legally obligated to a specific project or projects by December 31, 2024. He also informed members that he will now need to request an Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources from the Wood County Auditor, to include all of the ARPA money we have received, which was \$159.74 more than our original estimation, due to the reallocation of some ARPA money to small units of government like Tontogany, due to some entities not accepting their ARPA allocation. He also commented that we will need to pass a supplemental appropriations ordinance to make all of the ARPA money available for possibly spending this year. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson who will do the backflow prevention project for us. Mr. Johnson answered that it would be Feller, Finch, and that the last time he talked with Dave Kuhn he had said that the design was about finished. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to double-check on it. Councilman Fox asked if the Village has to commit additional or matching money. The mayor answered that we would add money, if necessary, but we want to use all of the ARPA money first, because any part of it not spent would have to be given back to the U.S. Treasury. There is no obligation for the Village to match the ARPA money.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he had issued two zoning permits, one for a new house at Scott Road and Tontogany Creek Road, and the other for a fence at the property next door to the new house.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that there is a customer on Kellogg Road who had told him five months ago that he wanted to put up a fence, because he has five or six dogs. The meter reading location is on the back of the house, inside the fence, so Mr. Johnson said he was intending to have a meter pit put into the front yard, out by the right of way. Then the meter is to be eliminated from inside the house and to be relocated to the meter pit outside. The mayor asked if the customer would be paying for the meter pit. Mr. Johnson answered that the Village would pay for it. Otherwise, whoever reads the meter would have to possibly go there several times to get a meter reading, to avoid the dogs when they are out. Besides, the meter that is there now is a touch read and there is a problem with it. The mayor and members discussed the matter, seeking an alternative to moving the meter, such as knocking on the door and asking the customer to call the dogs inside while the meter is read. They also commented that the customer should pay for the meter to be moved, if it was his request that it be done. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to consult Solicitor Skaff about the matter before we start digging up the yard and spending money. Councilman Smith commented that access to the meter to get readings should be a condition of receiving utilities from the Village.

Mr. Johnson reported that we had received calls about the recent power outage. The mayor commented that it was caused by a squirrel and it temporarily knocked out our power and three quarters of Bowling Green as well.

Mr. Johnson reported that he tried to contact Bowling Green Electric Superintendent John Stewart on whether they would be doing electric pole replacements in August as usual, but he has not received an answer back yet.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Arla Mae Crawford asked him to look at water in her back yard. He looked at it and told her she needed to call the company who installed her sprinkler, since it was not a Village line. The sprinkler head seemed to be cracked. Mr. Johnson said that he didn't think her sprinkler was connected to our water. Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger reported that Arla Mae had stopped him last week and asked him to turn her sprinkler account back on. It had been turned off a few years ago because she wasn't using it at all, but she had decided to start using it again now, due to dry weather.

Councilwoman Mehring asked if the owner was intending to use the downstairs for another apartment in the building on the northwest corner of Main and Broad. She said she saw them installing wiring there. Mayor Shanahan answered that he should not be making it into an apartment, since it is

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not zoned for residential. He asked if utilities are turned on for that bottom unit. Mr. Johnson answered that they are and both meters have been installed.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that there was corn on Wall Street, apparently spilled by the elevator. She brought it to their attention and they took care of it.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that she saw that the county was preparing to stripe Kellogg Road, and she hoped maybe we could get them to stripe Tontogany Creek Road up to Scott Road at the same time. Members informed her that they already did Kellogg Road today. Ms. Mackey then suggested that maybe the Township could do it and bill the Village for our part of it.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Scott Alexander installed the other two stop signs for the four-way stop downtown. The mayor reported that he bought new batteries for all of the flashing lights for the stop signs. He still needs two more brackets to attach the lights on the top of the new stop signs; he will ask Scott if he has any extras. He said he knows it will be an adjustment for people to get used to the four-way stop, but people are doing pretty well so far, and the flashing lights should help.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith reported that they went out and handed out contracts to residents interested in participating in the 2022 sidewalk program. So far, two contracts with down payments have been received back. Mr. Smith said he intends to go out one more time and knock on doors in the next couple of days and remind people that they need to get those contracts and payments submitted, if they still want to participate. The mayor asked what the deadline was. Mr. Smith answered that he had really hoped to have them by today; he had told people two weeks. He said he had one other person on Wall Street call him today about being added to the list for sidewalk replacement. He said he thinks we can squeeze them in. If in the end we only have two or three that sign up for participation, then we will do two or three. He said he understands that sidewalks might not be the highest priority for people in the current economic situation. He said he will get some answers and then this week seek a date from Cody on when he wants to start the sidewalk construction. We were shooting for the end of July or early August. Mr. Johnson asked if we were intending to do Broad Street. Mr. Smith answered that we have nothing planned for Broad Street sidewalks this year. Councilwoman Mehring asked if we will do the sidewalk on the Tontogany Creek Road side of the church this year or wait. Mr. Smith answered that we need to figure out what it needs to look like there before we do anything. We don't have an answer on that yet; we need a firm answer on exactly what needs to be done, in order to figure what it will cost. There may need to be drainage, curbs, and much more development there.

Councilman Bergfeld asked if they are going to put in a sidewalk at the new house on Washington Street. Councilwoman Mackey stated that our ordinance requires sidewalks to be installed with a new home construction. Mr. Bergfeld commented that Sheeks did not install new sidewalks when they built their new home at the corner of Wall and Broad. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reminded members that Jennifer Sheeks had come to a meeting and asked about the sidewalk issue. It had been decided that the village administrator would make a decision about her sidewalks at a later date.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilwoman Mackey reported that they talked to Jim Head about doing some work around town for the Village. He had worked for us a few years back and then had surgery, which prohibited him from working. He wanted to get back to work now, so he has been working on Mehring Park. He will also be doing low-branch tree trimming for us where needed. In the past we paid him \$15.00 per hour. He agreed that that was still okay with him. Ms. Mackey asked if we should stick with that amount. Some members voiced that they were good with continuing to pay \$15.00 per hour, and that they were just glad to have someone willing to do some jobs, which would take some of the load off

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of them. Councilman Fox asked what would be done with the branches that would be cut off of trees. Nobody had an immediate answer. Mr. Fox asked how many hours a week Jim would work. The mayor answered that it would be as needed. Ms. Mackey said she guessed he had worked about twelve to fourteen hours at Mehring Park so far. The new swings that were installed there were way too high above the surface, so she had called the company and they said we needed to raise the surface under the swings. They had also needed to extend the playground area for a required fall zone around the swings, where surfacing must be installed to prevent injury. A load of sand was ordered from Palmer as the base under the surface, which Jim spread around for us. Mr. Smith suggested putting heavy-duty plastic over the sand, under a load of mulch that was ordered for the top surface. The quote for mulch to be sprayed in that area is \$1,080.00 plus a hauling charge of \$1.50 per yard or about \$30.00. Councilman Lee suggested that members might want to think about raising the laborer's wages. Members discussed this. A suggestion of possibly raising the laborer's wages to \$20.00 per hour was offered. Mr. Fox asked if there was enough money in the budget to increase the wages. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he thought there was probably enough budgeted, although it was budgeted at \$15.00 per hour; some for street work and some for park work. It is according to how many hours he accumulates. If we run short of money, we could do a supplemental appropriation. If we raise the laborer's wages, we have to pass an ordinance to do so. Mr. Johnson commented that he calculated that Mr. Harnishfeger's wages come to only \$17.18 per hour as fiscal officer and utilities clerk, which should be raised because he is "working for peanuts." Mayor Shanahan answered that we will need to talk about various salaries in our budget conversation in the fall of this year.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that TruGreen came and treated Centennial Park last week. There will be another treatment done in the fall. We had not had the parks treated for about three years, which allowed the spread of clover and other unwanted growth. This should make an improvement and then we should later talk about getting TruGreen on a schedule to treat the town hall and Mehring Park as well, a couple of times per year.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that the Festival Committee is planning a volleyball tournament for Togony Fest. Mayor Shanahan commented that it is set up for registering on the day of the event. Ms. Mackey said we have promised to have the volleyball nets up, but it will be up to the Festival Committee to have the court tilled for the tournament. She said she also personally asked TruGreen to treat the volleyball court while they were here working on Centennial Park.

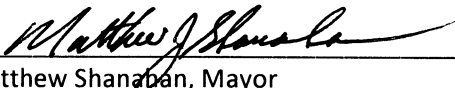
Mayor Shanahan reported that he received the sign for Ronald Current for the pavilion and it was on a table in the hall for members to look at it. He said they put adhesive strips on the back of the plaque, but he thinks it needs to have holes drilled through it for secure mounting. He said he saw Karen Graf, told her the sign is here, and asked her to look at her calendar to see what date would work for her to invite family and friends to a dedication ceremony at the park. He is waiting to hear back from her. Ms. Mackey said she thought the sign would go well in the center on the sidewalk side.

Councilman Smith asked if we had heard anything more about the Eagle Scout project. Mayor Shanahan responded that the Scout was meeting with the Eagle Advisor tonight to present the project, and hoping to get it approved tonight. Once it is approved, the mayor said he told him he would like to have him come to a council meeting to discuss the project with council members. Then we would give him permission to start refurbishing the sign. The mayor said he had suggested that they leave the posts in the ground until the sign is ready to be installed on its new supports, so there aren't open holes left in the ground for someone to trip in.

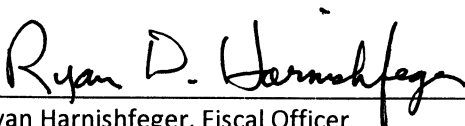
Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that Hannah did fine on her first round of meter reading. He said he used spray paint to paint the top of the meter pits for her. He will go with her one more time to read meters and he will take a shovel with him to trim back all of the buildup around the meter pits. Mayor Shanahan told Mr. Johnson that we will continue to pay him \$150.00 each time he needs to accompany her on meter readings, until he feels she is ready to go on her own. Then, if she has questions, she can just call the Utilities Superintendent to answer her questions.

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With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer