

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: April 3, 2023

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, absent; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, absent; Damon Lee, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: village resident Jennifer Fretter; Deputies M. Villegas and J. Zimmerman from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the March 20th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Fox seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the February Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status Reports were given to the mayor and the Finance Committee to review. A copy of the Staples Credit Card Reconciliation Report was given to President of Council Mark Smith to review.

Copies of the February incident report were given to everyone to review. Mayor Shanahan invited members to speak to the deputies about any concerns they may have. Councilman Fox reported that there is a speeding problem on North Street and Crom Street, especially between the hours of 7 to 7:30 a.m. and 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. He pointed out there is often a patrol car sitting in the parking lot at the Presbyterian Church on Tontogany Creek Road, but he suggested that it would probably be a good idea to have a patrol car at Centennial Park in the alley. He also mentioned that we have been considering putting in speed bumps. With nothing more to discuss, the mayor and members thanked the deputies and they left the meeting.

Mayor Shanahan invited Jennifer Fretter to speak to members. Ms. Fretter said she was here about getting a permit for redoing her porch. The mayor told her that she would need to speak to Zoning Inspector Owens, who was not in attendance at this meeting, so he gave her Mr. Owens' phone number. He told her that Mr. Owens would come to her home, look at what she is wanting to do, and tell her what permit is needed. With nothing more to discuss, Ms. Fretter left the meeting.

Councilwoman Mehring asked if council members could see the zoning applications that Mr. Owens processes for collecting zoning permit fees. Mr. Johnson commented that the township trustees are given copies of zoning forms so everyone can take a look at them. Mayor Shanahan responded that we can ask Zoning Inspector Owens to provide copies for our council members to look at.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported upcoming hall rentals for the months of April and May. There are currently two hall rentals scheduled in April—one on Saturday, April 8th and one on Saturday, April 15th. There are three hall rentals scheduled in May—one on Saturday, May 6th, one on Saturday, May 20th, and one on Sunday, May 21st.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he received the official quote for 2023 lawn maintenance from Josh Heckerman. Mr. Harnishfeger said he must have misunderstood Josh about not raising his prices from last year, because Josh did raise part of his prices, which is understandable in the current economy. Mr. Harnishfeger read the quoted prices: \$40 per mowing at the village hall (last year it was \$30); \$65 per mowing at Mehring Park (last year it was \$55); \$150 per mowing at Centennial Park (last year it was \$130); \$30 per mowing of the corner of Kellogg Road and Tontogany Creek Road (last year it was \$25); \$20 per half hour for excessive trash, stick, and limb pickup (same price as last year); \$150 per yard of mulching at village hall and Mehring Park (same price as last year); \$275 for hedge trimming at village hall, including cleanup (same price as last year); \$100 for hedge trimming at village hall, as needed, in the fall (new billing item); \$175 for pruning of small trees at Mehring Park, as needed (last year it was \$125); \$250 for fall leaf cleanup at Mehring Park, as needed (last year the same price included the village hall); \$125 for fall leaf cleanup at village hall, as needed (separate billing item). After

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a brief discussion, noting the costs of gas, oil, servicing equipment, and time, members decided to accept Mr. Heckerman's quote. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to accept Mr. Heckerman's quote as submitted, with no changes. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

ZONING: Nothing to report.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that they put some temporary patch in the spot on Tontogany Creek Road. A permanent patch will need to be done at some point there, as well as at the two spots on Tontogany Road where there were waterline breaks. He also reported that he read the meters a couple of days ago. Mayor Shanahan asked if Mr. Johnson had any luck with Bowling Green about the street lights needing repair. Mr. Johnson answered that he texted them, but they didn't respond. The mayor commented that he was asked when we were going to get the street light fixed on Main Street (the same one John Heckerman had reported). Councilman Smith commented that the situation is such that they will get to us when they can. Mr. Johnson also commented that they don't let him know when they have come and fixed something. Also, when he calls them, sometimes they think a job was taken care of when it still hasn't been done yet. Councilman Fox agreed and said he had a similar experience.

Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger reported that three disconnection notices were served on April 1st and all three customers had already made payments to avoid disconnection. He said he also had mailed letters offering payment plan agreements to those three customers, but they just chose to pay instead of entering into an agreement to pay installments over time.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilman Fox reported that he looked at quotes for speed bumps. He said we could get eight signs for \$21.69 each, eight six-foot speed bumps (2 for each installation spot to cover both sides of the road) sold at \$163.47 per two-pack, and enough caps for all of the speed bumps for \$179.60, coming to a grand total pretax cost of \$1,007.36 (and we shouldn't have to pay tax, since we are tax exempt). Councilman Smith commented that we would have to pay to install them. Mr. Fox replied that it looks like something he thinks he could do; it looks pretty easy to install. Councilwoman Mehring reminded members that we had speed bumps in the past, but the plows tore them up. The mayor replied that we had talked about using removable speed bumps so we could remove them in the winter. Mr. Fox added that the speed bumps he priced are removable. He also offered to call a couple asphalt companies for quotes on speed bumps for a price comparison to the ones he found. The mayor remarked that we have to do something to slow people down on North and Crom Streets. He asked Mr. Fox to find another quote for the next meeting and then members can decide what we want to do. He also commented that the \$1,007.36 price that Mr. Fox found was a lot lower than he had expected. Mr. Fox said the ones he was looking at are rubber and are rated at 20,000 pounds per axle, which should be sufficient for traffic on North and Crom Streets. He also said the signs did not include poles. The mayor and Councilman Smith responded that we have poles and the ability to install them. Mr. Fox asked members if they had any preference on permanent or removable speed bumps. Ms. Mehring answered that permanent ones get broken up by the plows. Mr. Fox noted that the plows don't seem to be having a problem with the speed bumps in the alleys, so maybe we should lean toward something similar to the ones in the alleys. Mayor Shanahan said he would get some feedback from Scott about what would work best for plowing. Mr. Fox asked if anyone had a preference for whether the six-foot bumps should be laid separately on the two sides of the road, with a gap between them, or if they should touch each other in the middle. Either way, they will not cover the whole road, which is about 18 or 19 feet wide. Mr. Smith answered that people on motorcycles would appreciate a gap.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Nothing to report.

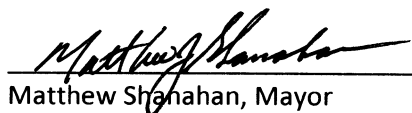
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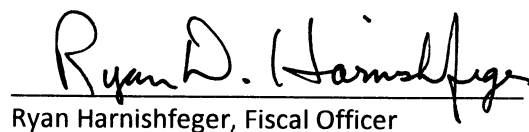
DRAINS and SEWERS: Mayor Shanahan reported that he attended the Northwest Ohio Mayors & Managers Association dinner on Thursday in Pemberville. He sat with Grand Rapids Mayor John Berry and their administrator. The keynote speaker was Lydia Mihalik, the former mayor of Findlay, who is now the Director of the Ohio Department of Development. In her speech she talked a lot about all of the money out there that is available for water lines and sewer repair—hundreds of millions of dollars. Mayor Shanahan and Mayor Berry discussed between themselves the problem of the big municipalities always getting the money, due to the difficulty of small towns coming up with matching funds for large grants. The mayor said that after the dinner he went up and introduced himself to Ms. Mihalik and discussed with her Tontogany's need for help to fund repairs of our old water lines. He invited her to come out and walk with council members, see the village and its downtown buildings, and listen to people talk about water lines. He texted her on Friday and received a response today with her email address. So, he said he will now email her and set up a time for her to come to the village. He said he would like for as many council members as possible to participate and share with her the challenges and issues that we face. We will see what she can direct us to in the way of tapping into some of the money available for our needs and how to go about making it happen. The mayor said that he would let members know when he finds out a date for Ms. Mihalik to come to the village, and likewise when the sheriff will be coming to the village. Utilities Superintendent Johnson commented that there are only five taps on the Broad Street water line. He said he thought it might be possible to hook them into the new water lines on Main Street and Washington Street, and just abandon the Broad Street water line. He said he would ask Engineer Dave Kuhn from Feller, Finch if that would be a good workable idea. Councilman Smith responded that that would make perfect sense to him, if it can be done. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to look into it, and, if Dave Kuhn says it is doable, to jump on it and start getting some quotes.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that the recycle bins were put too close together, making it impossible to use them all. Councilman Smith remarked that the driver probably just pulled up too far when emptying them. The mayor commented that he has done that a few times before as well. Members commented that it should be corrected when he comes on Wednesday to empty them again.

Councilman Smith reported that he is working on getting the message board at Centennial Park fixed so it will stand upright. He should get the board back up this week or next, and the \$50 or so for posts and concrete to fix it was a lot cheaper than buying a new message board.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer