

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: April 17, 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, here; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, absent; Damon Lee, absent; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, Village Solicitor Paul Skaff, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitor present: Rosanna Hoelzle, MPA, to give an update on the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). Minutes from the April 3rd meeting were approved as submitted.

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

Mayor Shanahan reported that we received an invitation from St. Paul Lutheran Church, whose annual ice-cream social will be a benefit, the proceeds of which will go to support the Bergfeld family of Tontogany. The event is scheduled for July 16, 2023. The mayor said he didn't see a time listed, but the invitation has a QR code on it that members can scan to get more information.

Mayor Shanahan introduced Rosanna Hoelsle from TMACOG and invited her to speak to Council. Ms. Hoelsle explained that she is a "newish" Membership and Outreach Coordinator at TMACOG. She gave a brief history of her experience of fourteen years in government and administration, of which the last six and one half years were as a village administrator, including water plant and wastewater oversight. She said she feels very passionate about local government and public service and she wants people to know what they do at TMACOG. She told members that TMACOG has been in existence since 1958, having been started mainly to work on transportation projects, and transportation is still a huge part of what they do. They manage many millions of dollars of transportation funding. They do long range planning. They want communities to know about funding opportunities that TMACOG manages. They are planners, not engineers. They have committees made up of people from various municipalities and private firms, who review applications and score them. Another big area for TMACOG is water and wastewater. They have an initiative at TMACOG where they are creating a curriculum at Owens Community College, leading to people acquiring wastewater and water operating licenses. They are updating their area water quality management plan. She said that TMACOG publishes a Directory of Public Officials as a benefit of membership in TMACOG. She brought several copies of the directory with her, which she gave to the village as a useful tool for reaching out to colleagues and for finding the right person to answer questions and for quickly finding resources during emergencies. She said that TMACOG is a great conduit to bring people together. They have meetings and events and training opportunities, helping members sort out questions about codes and other topics that can be confusing. She ended her presentation, thanked Tontogany for its membership in TMACOG, and asked if anyone had any questions for her. Mayor Shanahan commented that he and Councilman Smith had some conversations with consultants while attending the recent Wood County Economic Development Commission Annual Dinner. They discussed various funding opportunities and grant procedures. He also remarked that the village has been without an administrator for a couple of years and so all of the other public officials have been trying to take on those responsibilities. He told Ms. Hoelsle that we need to acquire knowledge of where to find funding, how to apply for funding, and how to make up the difference from our budget. As an example, he said our backflow prevention has a potential cost of about \$160,000, whereas our COVID funding through ARPA will only make a small dent in paying for that. So, we need to find out how to get money to help pay for it. Ms. Hoelsle responded that TMACOG wants to be the conduit to connect you with the opportunity for acquiring funding, by connecting you with the agency that handles your particular need. She also recommended finding an engineer and engineering firm that you can trust to work with, because their knowledge and expertise will also greatly

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

help you in these matters. She said that, from her perspective, the hardest part about funding is the capital planning, that is, figuring out what all your project will entail. For instance, if you are improving a road, will there also be related issues with water lines, hydrants or other things? It takes time to first figure out what all is really needed, and then after that you can seek the funding. You need to think comprehensively, so that you can seek funding for multiple related needs together in one funding request. TMACOG can help you know what criteria you need to follow and comply with. TMACOG also does mapping and helps you figure out where sidewalks can go. Mayor Shanahan commented that sidewalks have been a touchy issue with Tontogany residents over the years, but we managed to help make peace and gain some goodwill by offering a 50-50 payment plan to partner with residents, on a volunteer basis, to fix their bad sidewalks in the village. Ms. Hoelsle told the mayor and council members that she realizes they have busy lives and they may not be able to attend TMACOG committee meetings, which meet at various times of the day, but there are opportunities to virtually attend a meeting. The mayor responded that he thinks it would be good for us to tap into what TMACOG has to offer a little more than we have. Councilman Fox asked if small communities like Tontogany are talking about putting in charging stations for electric vehicles. He said he knew there were some small towns that have them, and he wondered if there might be funding, or matching funding, for us to get one, if we saw a need for it. Ms. Hoelsle responded that TMACOG is planning on focusing heavily on the topic of EV in September. They will be considering things like what setup is needed for EV chargers, code issues, logistics, and what kind of funding is out there for municipalities that want to bring EV charging into their community. Mr. Fox asked if they are talking about doing any kind of tram system that connects like Waterville and Maumee to downtown. Ms. Hoelsle answered that she didn't know of any talk about that. The biggest thing right now with rail matters is the application for funding for Cleveland to Toledo to Detroit. Mr. Fox asked if wireless charging capabilities for EVs on highways has been looked into, where the EV charges while you are driving and doesn't even have to be plugged in. Ms. Hoelsle answered that the topic was touched upon, but it is another whole area for engineering. Councilwoman Mackey asked for a business card from Ms. Hoelsle, who gave a couple business cards to Council and also offered to send a Powerpoint introduction to TMACOG to anyone who wants it. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan thanked Ms. Hoelsle for coming and she left the meeting.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he received a request for a hall rental on Saturday, April 29th.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he did a permit for Jennifer Fretter for a new deck. Mayor Shanahan asked Mr. Owens if he had a chance to talk to the Kinders about their shed. Mr. Owens responded that he did not.

UTILITIES: Mayor Shanahan reported that he noticed that the street light in the alley by his house goes off and on periodically throughout the day, so he will have Mr. Johnson add it to our street light list. Councilwoman Mackey noted that the street light behind the fire hall is on continuously. The mayor commented that the one by John Heckerman still needs fixed, as well as one by Karen Hain.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilman Fox reported that he did some more research on the speed bumps. At Home Depot, the same or similar items as he found on Amazon would be \$1,623. A pricing issue would add \$180 to the price from Amazon, bringing it to \$1,187. Mayor Shanahan remarked that he had talked to Scott, who definitely suggested removable speed bumps rather than permanent. Mr. Fox responded that the ones he got quotes on are removable and he didn't even seek quotes on permanent ones because of Scott's preference. The mayor commented that Scott had also recommended that a good location would be centered off of the alley, which is what we had thought would be a good place for bumps. Mr. Fox said that the price includes eight six-foot speed bumps, eight sets of caps for the ends, and eight signs. Councilman Smith voiced his concern about what will happen to the pavement after

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

drilling holes in the pavement for the speed-bump hardware, taking them in and out, and running the plow over the area, combined with the freeze-thaw cycles. Mr. Fox responded that that was his biggest concern too. Councilwoman Mackey asked Mayor Shanahan about an alternative to speed bumps that he had mentioned. The mayor responded that he had seen that the Wood County Sheriff's Office had recently purchased one of those mobile trailers with a radar speed sign on it. You put your speed limit on it and its radar tells drivers how fast they are going compared to the speed limit. The mayor said that he had posted a question about how a community can sign up to use the sign, but he hasn't received a response yet. Maybe a quick call to their traffic department would get an answer. The mayor said he would give them a call to find out how we can get on a list to borrow the sign. He said it should be a free service. Mr. Fox suggested trying to get it for a couple of weeks in May before the end of school and then again in September. Mr. Smith agreed that the school would be a strong argument for us to be able to get the sign for a couple of weeks at the end of the school year. The mayor said he would look into it and see what he can find out. Solicitor Skaff remarked that an ODOT program may have money for the village to buy a radar sign, rather than having to borrow one. The mayor responded that he thinks that is ODOT's Systemic Safety Program.

Zoning Inspector Owens reported that the township put Cold Patch on a couple of parking spots in the parking lot downtown by the fire hall. He said we might want to tell them not to do that. Mayor Shanahan responded that he would reach out to Scott about it.

Councilwoman Mackey suggested that we should set a brush pickup date. She said we usually have it the week before Memorial Day. The mayor said he would ask Scott about a date for brush pickup. Councilman Smith noted that some communities have a place where their residents can take their brush anytime of the year for free. He said we might want to look into that. It is free for residents, but he said he would have to check into what it may cost the municipality.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Fox reported that he talked to Randy Becker about taking down the big tree on the side of Broad Street across from Mr. Fox's house. Randy is on board with it coming down as soon as the village is ready to remove it, so it doesn't fall on his house or any cars there. Mayor Shanahan asked Councilman Smith to ask for a quote from Abe Rowe to take it down and he suggested that we get it taken care of as quickly as possible while Randy is agreeable about removing it. He also pointed out that we have been having a lot of high winds, which makes it all the more urgent to get that tree taken down before it blows over.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Mayor Shanahan reported that he did communicate with Lydia Mihalik, the Director of the Ohio Department of Development, who he had invited to come to Tontogany for a walk-around. It looks like it will be May when the mayor can get on her schedule.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Smith asked what we are going to do about the water fountain at Centennial Park. Mayor Shanahan answered that his thought was to just cap it off and be done with it. Councilwoman Mackey suggested replacing it with a cheap fountain after this summer is over. The current one was supposed to be great with all kinds of features, but we have been spending hundreds of dollars a year to try to keep it working. The mayor commented that most of the time it has been an underground issue. Ms. Mackey added that there is now a hole there that needs to be filled. Councilman Fox asked if we might want recoup some money by selling it to a different community, since we have put so much money into it. Ms. Mackey said she thought we should leave it on for this year, since we put another \$600-plus into it. Mr. Fox asked why it is going bad every year. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger responded that the repair bill from Kellermeier had a note on it that said, "every winter when the water is shut off, all pipes need to be drained out so this doesn't happen every year." Mr. Harnishfeger also commented that he agrees with the mayor that we should get rid of this fountain which has cost us an amazing amount of money in repairs over the years.

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mayor Shanahan asked if there was any update on the basketball goal. Ms. Mackey reported that she called Palmer's three times in the last three weeks. She kept getting the runaround. So, she called the office and talked to a lady there and explained the whole situation, that it is a small job and we are waiting on it to be done so we can have our new basketball goal installed. The lady said she would talk with Matt, the scheduler, in person, and explain the whole situation to him and try to get some action. Ms. Mackey said she called the lady again this morning, but there was no response yet, so she will just continue to be a "squeaky wheel" until she gets results. Mr. Fox asked if there was another company that we could get an estimate from to do the work. Mr. Owens commented that everyone is too busy, so no one wants to take on a small job. The mayor asked Ms. Mackey to stay on top of it, keep us updated, and to let him know if she gets frustrated and wants him or someone else to call Palmer. Ms. Mackey stated again that we need some fill in the spot where it was dug out at the water pit. Ron Mackey put a wheelbarrow-full of dirt in there, but it wasn't enough. The mayor commented that whoever did the work there should have filled it back in. Ms. Mackey said that Mr. Johnson should follow up with them about that. The mayor said he would let Mr. Johnson know.

Mayor Shanahan reported that he reached out to someone about the hall lights, but that fell through due to the man being in recovery from an injury that wouldn't allow him to work on our lights, so he referred us to Lake Erie Electric. The mayor asked the fiscal officer if we heard from them. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that Lake Erie Electric called him today and got our information to set us up for billing, and they will be sending an electrician to work on our lights sometime this week. Councilman Fox stated that, if we don't have any luck with the electrician from Lake Erie Electric, he knows of an electrician by the name of Todd Jacobs who did some work for him this winter, who could be a backup electrician for the village's needs.

Mr. Harnishfeger reported that the gentleman from Knickerbocker Fire Guard, who did our annual fire extinguisher inspection, determined that we need all three of our hall fire extinguishers replaced. He recommended better quality extinguishers than the ones that can be purchased at a place like Home Depot. Mr. Harnishfeger said he told the gentleman to just go ahead and get those extinguishers for us.

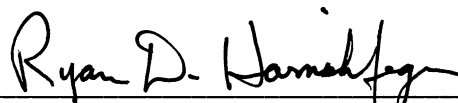
Mayor Shanahan reminded everyone that the Fox-Shank Meadow Project meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, at the Otsego High School Library.

Councilwoman Mackey asked what was going on with the chicken ordinance. Mr. Fox answered that we have kind of tabled it; we haven't really made a decision one way or the other. The mayor added that we haven't had a full group to take a full vote on it and we wanted to make sure we had everyone's opinion on it for the record.

Ms. Mackey asked if we want to pursue adding any Hometown Heroes banners for veterans. The mayor responded that we just need to narrow down the candidates we had talked about. The mayor and members discussed six proposed candidates and decided to seek pictures and service information for banners to be made for each of them.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer