

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: May 15, 2023

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, absent; Damon Lee, absent at roll call, but arrived at 7:01 p.m.; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitor present: Rebecca Ferguson, a member of the Wood County Park District Board of Park Commissioners, here to present Tontogany's 2023 Park Grant check and plaque. Minutes from the May 1st meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mehring stated that she didn't think the village should have to pay Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger's mileage reimbursement for things like driving to the post office, since Council gave him a good raise at the first of this year and she thought that should cover everything. She said she thought the mileage reimbursement was for Chad Johnson when he has to drive out of town and things like that. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that he did not ask for mileage reimbursement, but it was decided by Council and passed as an ordinance, to give mileage reimbursement to the fiscal officer, the meter reader, the utilities superintendent, the village administrator, and the village laborer, to cover driving expenses for doing village business with a personal vehicle; it is separate from wages. Mr. Harnishfeger said he would give up the mileage reimbursement if Council wanted him to. He also commented that he doesn't charge for all of the driving he does for the village. Mayor Shanahan commented that we should continue to follow the ordinance as it is written this year and then maybe reevaluate it in November, if we want to. Councilman Fox stated that he disagrees with taking away the mileage reimbursement from the fiscal officer, because he is doing something for the village and the village doesn't provide him a car to do his work; he is using his personal vehicle and his own money, for which he should be reimbursed. It would be different if the village had a vehicle for employees to use to do village business. Councilman Lee added that mileage reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle is standard policy in many businesses. Ms. Mehring asked about what would happen when Mr. Harnishfeger moves to Bowling Green. The mayor answered that mileage reimbursement does not include commuting to and from work, but only driving to do village business. After the discussion, Councilwoman Mehring stated that she understood now and was fine with it. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a second reading, by title only, of Resolution #960-23, a RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DRAFT AMENDED WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN. Councilman Fox reported that he sent an email to Wood County Solid Waste Management, requesting someone to come to a meeting and explain how this amended plan would affect Tontogany specifically, but he has not heard back from them yet. The mayor thanked him for doing that.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #961-23, an ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger explained that this ordinance is to make the \$40,174.64 of ARPA federal recovery funding available for spending this year.

Mayor Shanahan invited Rebecca Ferguson to speak to Council on behalf of the Wood County Park District. Ms. Ferguson said that it was her great pleasure to present the village with a 2023 Parks Grant check for \$4,454.00 for our basketball goal park improvement, and a plaque to display at the park. The mayor and members thanked her, and Councilman Lee took a photo of the presentation. Mayor Shanahan gave credit to the park committee members for their diligent work in coming up with grant ideas and submitting the required application paperwork. Councilwoman Mackey expressed her

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gratefulness for the Park District also providing the plaque (which identifies the basketball goal as a Wood County Park District Grant benefit). With nothing more to discuss, Ms. Ferguson left the meeting.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that we have one hall rental scheduled in June so far, which will be on Saturday, June 24th.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he did a permit for a new shed for the Kinders on Crom Street. He said he also checked the auditor's site and determined that the shed is okay where it is located and does not need to be moved.

UTILITIES: Everyone was given a copy of a letter from Mark Yeary, regarding a problem of water seeping into Ernest Yeary's basement at 18552 Tontogany Creek Road, due to drainage being stopped when the ditch on Tontogany Creek Road was covered. Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported, regarding the letter from Mark Yeary, that he started getting calls about a week or two ago about this situation. He said he had thought Palmer filled in the ditch, so he called them. Palmer told him that they didn't do that job. Mr. Johnson said he called former Village Administrator Craig Spoores, who informed Mr. Johnson that he was in charge of that project as inspector. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger confirmed that this was a Village of Tontogany project, named The Tontogany Creek Road Ditch Enclosure Project, which was begun in 2013 and finished in 2014. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the ditch is on the west side of the road, but the problem seems to be in the right of way on the east side of the road at Mr. Yeary's property, where the drain line stops. Mr. Johnson said he had seen the holes and the line was cut off on the resident's side of the road. Exactly what happened to cut the line off from the ditch is in question, but Mr. Johnson said that the village will probably have to fix it, in his opinion. The mayor pointed out that it has been ten years since the ditch was enclosed and this is the first time we have heard anything about a problem related to it. After more discussion, the mayor and members decided that some of them would go with Mr. Johnson after the meeting and look at the situation in person, to help determine how the village wants to deal with it. Mr. Johnson commented that it may be necessary to rebore under the road, if they tore it out on both sides of the road when they did the ditch job.

Mayor Shanahan asked Mr. Johnson if he had had a chance to have a conversation about the water line on Broad Street. Mr. Johnson replied that he called Dave Kuhn about it, but he did not get back to him about it yet with a definite answer; he thought it was a good idea and he is looking into it.

The mayor asked Mr. Johnson if he had any luck with Bowling Green coming to repair street lights. Mr. Johnson answered that he sends them a text every time we have a light that needs fixed, so they have been told. He added that they typically do them when they have time and can fit them in.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilwoman Mackey reported that brush pickup was done today and there didn't seem to be a lot.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith asked the fiscal officer if he had received anything in the mail from Abe Rowe. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that he had not. Councilwoman Mackey commented that she thought she saw his vehicle in town recently. Mr. Smith said that he hasn't heard anything from him, so he will text him again and ask him again to give us an estimate for taking down the tree. Councilman Fox asked for a notice when he is going to remove the tree, so he can move his vehicle.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Fox asked what we would spend the park grant money on. Mayor Shanahan answered that the grant check we just received was for the new basketball goal at Centennial Park. Councilwoman Mackey reported that Playground World is planning to come this week to finish up the installation of the new basketball goal. She said they sent her an email last week, saying that they

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wanted the large amount of concrete that was poured to cure more than several days. They used thirty bags of concrete. The reason they had to use so much concrete was that Palmer had to dig a very large hole to get the old anchor out. The backfill became soggy and the first new anchor wasn't sturdy enough to hold the goal solidly. So, they had to do the anchor over with more concrete. There will be an additional charge for extra concrete and labor, but Playground World, realizing the problem wasn't the village's fault, decided to split the extra cost with the village; they just wanted the job to be done right. Councilman Smith remarked that, even if they hadn't given us a discount on the price for the extra concrete, they did the right thing by making sure the goal was going to stand firmly in place.


Councilman Fox asked Councilwoman Mackey what she found out about the lid for the trash can at the basketball court. Ms. Mackey answered that she looked on Amazon, but Ron Mackey told her that just north of Meijer there is a company that has things like cleaning and trash supplies. Mayor Shanahan commented that his employer gets products from that place, so he can ask at work about them. Ms. Mackey added that we don't just need a new lid for the trash can; we need a whole new trash can; the current one is broken and has several slits underneath. She asked the mayor to let her know what he finds out. Zoning Inspector Owens remarked that he has researched the prices of garbage cans at various places and they are very expensive. Ms. Mackey agreed and said the lids alone were about \$150 on Amazon.

Councilman Fox reported that he is still waiting for a good time for his father-in-law to come and fix the slide or give us an estimate on what it would take to fix it. The mayor responded that he would like to get something done preferably before school is out. Mr. Fox said he would ask him again.

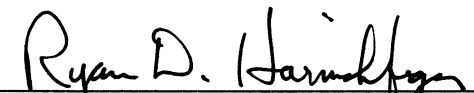
Mayor Shanahan asked if we were still interested in trying a pickleball court on the basketball court. He said the quote was around something over \$400 and we would have to buy the net as well, and maybe some extra rope to go from pole to pole. Mr. Fox asked if the price would cover installing the poles and painting the court. The mayor answered that it would be for painting the court onto the existing basketball court and he got the quote from Stripe It Up. There are existing old poles from our tennis net. He said he would ask Stripe It Up if there has been any change in the price of the quote since he first asked for it. Mr. Fox asked if we have ever replaced the net on the soccer goals. Ms. Mackey responded that we bought new nets about a year or two ago and she and Ron usually put them up; they just haven't gotten to it yet this year. Ms. Mackey commented that we put the volleyball net up last year and it didn't appear to have been used at all. The mayor responded that he wouldn't put it up anymore; that is the spot we are thinking of using for an Eagle Scout project for gaga ball. He added that he thinks volleyball is done.

Mayor Shanahan asked what would be a good day to put up banners. Councilman Smith answered that he would not be able to do it this week. Councilman Lee commented that he will be able to do more now, having undergone his procedure.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer