

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 17, 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, absent; Connie Mehring, absent; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Damon Lee, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present was Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Municipal Sales Specialist Blake Austin and Operations Manager Rondreas Grimsley from Rumpke Waste & Recycling; Lottie Bergfeld, daughter of Councilman Bergfeld. Minutes from the July 5th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Mayor Shanahan asked why there were widely varying charges for electric to our two master meter pits. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that it is because we are billed by Toledo Edison for the one on Tontogany Road and Bowling Green Municipal Utilities for the one on Kellogg Road, and Toledo Edison charges nearly three times as much as Bowling Green. Councilman Bergfeld 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 invited Blake Austin and Rondreas (Ron) Grimsley to speak to members. Mr. Austin introduced Mr. Grimsley and himself to Council. He told members that Paul's Refuse Pick-up had approached Rumpke Waste & Recycling, who acquired their business in late June and have therefore begun serving a significant portion of Tontogany's residents. He gave a brief history of Rumpke, which was founded in Cincinnati in 1932. The team servicing Tontogany is based in Findlay and disposal is at the Wood County Landfill. They had a bit of a rocky start in the first couple of weeks of serving Tontogany, but things should smooth out now. Rumpke also began servicing Tontogany's recycling drop-off bins in July. Mr. Austin invited members to call him or Mr. Grimsley with any issues, and they passed out business cards to everyone. He recommended that residents looking for quick solutions to problems should call Rumpke's call center at the toll-free number listed on their website (800-828-8171), which is based in Circleville, Ohio. Mayor Shanahan asked if the pickup day for the recycling bins is now Friday. Mr. Austin answered that it is, and he suggested that village officials should reach out to him or Mr. Grimsley or Rachel at the Wood County Solid Waste Management District with any problems with the recycling bins. The mayor responded that Rachel and a couple of colleagues had been at a recent council meeting and we had shared with them that our biggest desire or need would be an extra bin or a second pickup day each week. People line up when they know the bins are about to be dumped, and then they fill them back up within about twenty-four hours. Mr. Grimsley commented that eventually we will reach the point where Rumpke can offer recycling service to people's homes, which could help reduce the volume at the bins. The mayor replied that we have discussed residential recycling and had questions about who would offer it and whether it has to be the whole village or an individual opt-in plan. Mr. Grimsley stated that they want X number of homes to come onboard, about 300 to 500 households, to make it viable for the business. Once a wide enough area, including Tontogany, is being served, they will be able to offer recycling service to homes in the whole area. Councilman Fox asked if Rumpke is servicing Weston, Grand Rapids, and some other surrounding communities. Blake and Ron answered that they are. Councilman Lee asked what the payment methods are for Rumpke's services. Mr. Austin answered that people receive an invoice in the mail with various payment instructions—pay by mail, pay online with auto-pay, or pay by credit card (probably with an added fee). Mr. Fox asked if a customer can just call in a payment. Mr. Austin replied that that is another option. Councilman Bergfeld asked if we can put zip ties on the lids of the recycle bins to hold them down; there seemed to be a problem with that before. Mr. Austin answered that he would talk to Rachel and see if she is okay with it. He added that he understood that a lot of things can go wrong when the lids are up. Mr. Fox asked if trying to get another bin would be something that would be orchestrated through the county and then

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the county would contact Rumpke. Mr. Austin answered that it would. Mr. Fox commented that containers for residents' trash is worth the \$3 extra fee per month; they keep animals like raccoons out of the trash. Mr. Grimsley agreed that they make it more convenient for both the residents and the trash haulers. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan thanked Mr. Austin and Mr. Grimsley and they left the meeting.

ZONING: Nothing to report.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that the power cord for the radio-read unit arrived after the meter reading was done. He asked Mayor Shanahan if Dave Kuhn of Feller, Finch had dropped off estimate information regarding the proposed backflow prevention project. The mayor responded that, just after a meeting had adjourned last winter, Mr. Kuhn had come with maps and he had talked about the two master meter pits and mentioned a cost of around \$160,000 for the backflow prevention project. He didn't leave any documents at that time. Mr. Johnson said he got ahold of Dave again today and his estimate for the construction part of the project is around \$118,000. Also, Dave is only working part-time now. The mayor commented that, after Dave gave us a rough estimate of \$160,000, we had decided that we would need to research what our financial options are for the extra money needed above the \$40,000 of Covid money we received. Mr. Johnson stated that the quote he received from Mr. Kuhn is the final quote. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to email the quote from Mr. Kuhn to Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger, so he can forward the email to the mayor and council members. Mr. Johnson stated that he had also asked Mr. Kuhn about the Broad Street water line matter, and he had responded that he hadn't had a chance to look at it, but would do so at the end of July. The mayor commented that, if we are going to commit to that project, we are going to commit to the whole street and repave it. Mr. Johnson said that he has not seen Northwestern Water & Sewer District digging up any of their meter pits around the county, so he was wondering why we got forced into upgrading our meter pits if they didn't. He said he was still checking into that. The mayor asked if they had done the work in front of Ernest Yeary's house yet. Mr. Johnson answered that they did.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Nothing to report.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith reported that Cody Donaldson will be here this week for sidewalks and related work. He and Cody had gone around a couple of weeks ago and looked at the tree on Washington Street for removal and two others on Washington Street for trimming. His estimate came in at \$1,900 for that work. Mayor Shanahan asked about some other trees and Mr. Smith acknowledged that they are being considered. Mr. Smith pointed out that, if Council wants to accept Cody's quote of \$1,900 for taking out the one tree and doing trimming, he will be in town tomorrow. Utilities Superintendent Johnson asked if the bad tree at Scott Coon's could be looked at, which we had talked about in the past. The mayor responded that we had determined that it wasn't in our right of way, and he thought we had the township look at it too. Mr. Johnson said that he was just worried that it could take out our electric. The mayor responded that it wouldn't hurt us to get a quote on it. Mr. Johnson commented that the tree is in the ditch and may be a county issue. Councilman Fox asked what our budget for trees was for this year. Councilman Smith answered that it was \$20,000 this year, because last year we were concerned that we would need to spend tons of money for Penn Line to come and do trimming. Councilman Fox made a motion to accept Cody Donaldson's bid of \$1,900 for removing a tree and trimming work. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilman Bergfeld asked if members wanted to talk about replacing trees. He said he didn't know how we would go about it; maybe we would ask if the resident wants another tree when we take a bad one out. He also asked what kind of choice we could give them for trees. Councilman Lee asked what the benefit would be of putting in new trees. Mr. Bergfeld answered that it would be nice to put in

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a replacement if we take out a tree. Mr. Fox also commented that tree-lined streets are attractive for people moving into the village. Mayor Shanahan noted that in some cases it may not be easy to dig and plant a new tree in a gravelly area. Mr. Bergfeld suggested that we could talk to a place like North Branch and put a notice up at the post office. The mayor said he would like to find out what a company's process is first before putting up a notice. Mr. Bergfeld offered to reach out to North Branch for information. The mayor agreed that that would be a good idea. Mr. Smith added that the fall is a good time to plant trees and North Branch has all of the equipment to do it. Mr. Lee asked if there are particular trees that would be better replacements. Members responded that there definitely are certain trees that are better and we would want to offer a choice from only those trees. Mr. Smith recalled a conversation he had with Cody, who had mentioned a product available now to spray on trees that slows the growth process. Speaking of Cody, Mayor Shanahan reported that Cody had met with Eric and his son about the Eagle Scout sign project. They set a plan to get the caps on and to do the decorative finish on the posts; everything was worked out between them.

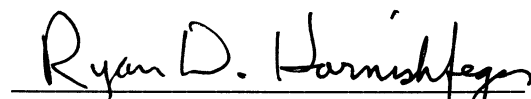
DRAINS and SEWERS: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that Jack Hain had asked for a replacement for the storm drain cover in his yard. He said he looked in our shed for one but didn't find one. He suggested that maybe we could have something made for Mr. Hain.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Mayor Shanahan reported that they had the first Christmas Tree meeting last week. It went pretty well. Some good ideas were discussed. Some phone calls are being made. A tree has not been picked out yet. The lights for the tree would be the same price as last year: \$3,750 for putting them up and taking them down. If Council approves that, the mayor said he will let them know; they will send us the agreement and, as soon as we sign it, we will be able to get a date scheduled on the calendar for putting the lights on the tree. The Christmas Tree event will be on Sunday, December 3rd. Councilman Fox asked if we have planned any fundraising for the event. The mayor answered that we have not, because, outside of the lights, there is no cost to the Village for the event; everything else has been donated. The mayor added that there may be discussion about fundraising for Tontogany's 150th anniversary event. Mr. Fox said he thought maybe we could have a booth at Togony Fest to raise funds for village events. He said chuck-a-luck is a popular fundraiser game at festivals, or maybe a card game would work. The mayor responded that he is not opposed to it, but he doesn't know how the Togony Fest Committee will feel about it. Mr. Johnson commented that one year they had a wheel that they got from The Legion Hall. The mayor said that the survey responses showed that a number of people would be interested in making donations. Mr. Fox said he could look into what kind of gambling license may be needed. He also said that the lottery has a mobile keno unit that they can use, but they would have to be sponsored by someone like Doc's or the gas station, and they would have to supply the employees to service the machines.

Mr. Johnson asked what is going on with the house at 18540 Main Street. The mayor answered that some people were seen there taking pictures and going inside wearing gloves, boots, and masks, and were overheard saying it was pretty bad in there. The mayor said he didn't know if they were a renovation or restoration crew from the mortgage company or what. Mr. Johnson said he was wondering about it partly because it was one of the houses in town that he gets lead and copper samples from annually.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer