

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: February 19, 2024

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, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Village Solicitor Paul Skaff and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Minutes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

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

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Resolution #967-24, a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF VILLAGE PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution #967-24. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #968-24, AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. The mayor commented that this ordinance is to make the \$40,174.64 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money available for spending this year. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to adopt Ordinance #968-24. Councilman Lee seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a second reading, by title only, of Ordinance #970-24, AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. The mayor commented that this ordinance is to make the \$986.00 of Community Development money from Suburban Natural Gas available for spending this year, which we use for mosquito spraying.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger gave an update of hall rentals coming up in March. He reported one rental on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, one rental on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one rental on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Harnishfeger also reminded members that he will be having cataract surgery on his right eye in Toledo on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, with a follow-up visit on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. He told the mayor and members that he posted a sign on the office front door, stating that the office would be closed while he was away. Mayor Shanahan asked if Haley was notified to post the office closure on the village website. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he did not notify Haley. The mayor said that he would email Haley to have her post it on the website, and he would post it on social media as well.

Mayor Shanahan asked if Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger had brought a copy of the backflow prevention proposal from Feller, Finch & Associates, which Mr. Harnishfeger had emailed to the mayor and members. Mr. Harnishfeger gave the mayor two copies of the proposal and remarked that it would be a good idea for the village to get the proposal signed and back to Feller, Finch as quickly as possible, if members are agreeable to approve it. The mayor and Councilman Smith both agreed with this sentiment. The mayor briefly went over the proposal, noting that the Preliminary Phase was quoted at \$1,000; the Detailed Design Phase was quoted at \$13,400; and the Bidding Phase was quoted at \$2,500. The total cost quoted was \$16,900 for all three phases. The mayor asked if members had had a chance to review the email and if they had any questions about it. Members had no questions. Councilman Fox commented that it is something we have been talking about for a while. Councilman Smith added that it is something that needs to be done this year, and he made a motion to approve the quote from Feller, Finch for three phases of engineering services for the Tontogany Water System Backflow Improvements Project, quoted at \$16,900. Councilman Fox seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. The mayor then signed the acceptance form of the quote and gave it to Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to mail to Feller, Finch & Associates.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Rumpke sent us a new Service Agreement for 2024, with a quoted price of \$26 per month for trash pick-up services. After a brief discussion, members voiced their

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agreement to accept the Service Agreement at \$26 per month. The mayor signed the agreement and gave it to Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to mail to Rumpke.

**ZONING:** Mayor Shanahan reported that the home on the alley on Crom Street added a front porch that Zoning Inspector Owens wasn't aware of, so he will be following up with the property owner to have them get a zoning permit for that. The question was then asked if Ms. Deluca had obtained a permit for the adding on that she did to her home on Lincoln Street. The mayor responded that we would have to look into it to see what was added on and if Ms. Deluca had obtained a permit when she started having work done, and if she would need another permit due to expiration of an original permit after one year. The mayor said he would pass the matter on to Mr. Owens to look into.

Councilwoman Mehring reported that the mattresses are still in the yard on Broad Street, which have been there for weeks. Councilman Fox concurred and remarked that a TV and some other stuff was added today.

The dilapidated Deluca house on Main Street was brought up and Solicitor Skaff was asked if anything could be done about it. Mr. Skaff answered that Council could declare it a nuisance for drawing rodents, or something like that. He also asked if the village had a building maintenance code. The mayor answered that he didn't think we did. Mr. Skaff said that, if Council declares it a nuisance, then he can file a suit against the owners in Bowling Green Municipal Court and get a court order, ordering them to abate the nuisance. Mr. Skaff asked why no one is living there. Councilwoman Mackey answered that it is uninhabitable. Mr. Skaff said that the village could get the Health Department to prepare a report of all of the problems and then Council can use that report as the basis for a declaration of nuisance. Ms. Mackey commented that neighbors have spotted a family of raccoons coming in and out of the house, and we encouraged neighbors to call the Health Department to complain. Mr. Skaff told members that he would need photos or videos to go to court, to use as evidence, rather than hearsay reports of animals. Mr. Skaff said that Mr. Owens could get photos and videos to present to Council, from which Council could declare the property a nuisance, and then that evidence could be used by Mr. Skaff to file a lawsuit. Mayor Shanahan said he would pass this information on to Zoning Inspector Owens.

**UTILITIES:** Mayor Shanahan asked Councilman Lee if the lights were working on his street—Wall Street. Mr. Lee answered that the problem was not on his street but one street over from him—Lincoln Street. The mayor asked if any street lights were working there. Mr. Lee said he didn't see any working when he last walked there, but he hasn't walked there for a couple of days. The mayor said he would drive around and take a look when he goes home after the meeting.

Mayor Shanahan told Solicitor Skaff that we came very close to obtaining a new village administrator. Mr. Skaff asked what happened. The mayor responded that the applicant worked for the Lucas County Commissioners and they felt it would be a conflict of interest for him to take the village administrator position in Tontogany. The mayor went on to say that the applicant had shown interest in helping with projects in the village or meeting with Tontogany officials to give his input on zoning issues. Mr. Skaff asked if he could sit on the Planning Commission. The mayor answered that he could, since he lives in Washington Township, so that is something we could present to him for consideration.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Mayor Shanahan reported that he did not yet look at the hole near the railroad tracks that Councilwoman Mehring had mentioned at the previous meeting. He then asked Councilman Smith if we had had Morlock look at the alley behind Doc's when they were quoting for sealing the streets. Mr. Smith answered that he had not asked them to look at the alley. The mayor commented that we were okay with sealing cracks on that alley, since it is a service alley for their food trucks. Mr. Smith responded that we will have that done in the spring then.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Nothing to report.

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**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Nothing to report.

**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Mayor Shanahan stated that he wanted to get it on our agenda when the weather breaks to get the fence post fixed on the pavilion side of Centennial Park. He suggested that maybe Jim Head could fix it for us. Councilman Smith commented that he himself had fixed one previously at the park, so he was sure Jim could do it. Councilwoman Mackey volunteered to ask Jim to do the job for us.

Councilwoman Mehring reported that she talked to someone putting whole boxes in the recycling bins and informed them that they need to break the boxes down so they don't take up too much room. Mayor Shanahan asked Councilman Fox if he had received any word from Rumpke about the recycling pickups, since they seem to have been sporadic sometimes. Mr. Fox answered that he had not heard from them since last year. The last week in question was around Christmas, but he has noticed that pickups have seemed to be pretty regular since then. Problems seem to be cardboard-related mostly. Councilwoman Mackey added that she had noticed people are putting bags in the recycling, the contents of which are uncertain. She said that it sounds like all of the villages are struggling with the same types of issues. Councilman Smith commented that it is a problem everywhere, sometimes called "wishcycling," where people put things in the recycling bins, wishing that it is actually recyclable. Mr. Fox commented that he tries to talk with people when he gets a chance and convey to them that they need to be considerate toward their neighbors in how they recycle their cardboard and other items.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that she received an email from Playground World, asking if they could come and tear down the old slide at Mehring Park early, to prepare for putting in our new slide. Ms. Mackey said she texted with Councilman Smith and he agreed that taking the old slide down was something we could do ourselves, rather than pay Playground World the quoted \$1,500 to do it. Therefore, she emailed Mark back at Playground World and told him we would take out the slide ourselves and she would keep him apprised of when it is done. She reported that the new slide has been ordered, but there is a ten-to-twelve-week window on that. Mayor Shanahan asked if we need to ask Mid-Wood Elevator if they will store the new slide for us until installation, as we have done in the past. Ms. Mackey answered that we will not need to store it; Playground World will bring it and install it.

Mayor Shanahan reported that a girl at the Corner Carryout does some wood engraving, so he had her make a round wooden ornament for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which he showed to members. He said he would show it to the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee and see if they want to do this as a fundraiser, selling them as Christmas ornaments for \$10 apiece, which would pay her for making them and produce a profit of \$5 on each piece for the 150<sup>th</sup> fund. Members commented that they liked the ornament and it was a good fundraiser idea.

Mayor Shanahan said he would like to get ahead on our banners program. He reminded members that we have done six at a time in the past, but he would like to do a few more this year to get ahead, if our budget will allow it, and then we could change next year and do sesquicentennial banners for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He read from a list of proposed honorees for hometown heroes banners, which he had received from Orville Buehrer. He said he would also email the list to members. Members suggested and discussed some other names as good candidates for banners as well.

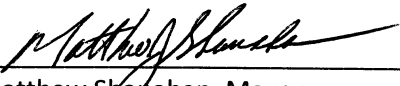
Mayor Shanahan asked Solicitor Skaff if he had anything he wanted to share with Council. He answered that he did not. Councilman Fox asked Solicitor Skaff if we had to have the backflow prevention project done by a certain date, because Utilities Superintendent Johnson has been on us to get it done. Mr. Skaff answered that he is not familiar with the project. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that he did not know of a specific deadline date to get the backflow project done, but one of our main concerns is that we want to get the ARPA money spent on the project this year, because we lose it if we don't have it committed by the end of 2024. Other than that, Bowling Green has been

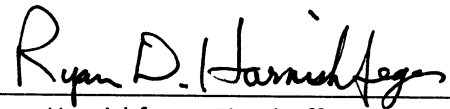
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pressuring us for several years to get backflow prevention installed on our master meter pits, and the EPA is requiring it to be done.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we received from the Safety Council of Northwest Ohio an invitation to nominate anyone for a 2024 hero award. He said that if any members were aware of someone in the village who did an act of heroism, we would need to submit their name by May 29<sup>th</sup>. He said he was not aware of any himself.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

  
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Matthew Shanahan, Mayor

  
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Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer