

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: March 4, 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, not here at roll call, but arrived at 7:03 p.m.; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present was Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Brian Hall for Globe Life Family Heritage presentation; Deputy Stonefield, from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE and CLAIMS:** A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Fox made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mehring 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.

Copies of the February incident report were given to everyone to review. Mayor Shanahan asked if members had any issues or questions for Deputy Stonefield. Members did not have anything to discuss. The mayor reported that Otsego is the host for the girls basketball tournament. He said he did not know how many more games they will be hosting, but, as he was driving down Tontogany Creek Road he noticed that people were not even making an attempt to stop at the stop sign at Crom Street. With nothing else to discuss, the mayor thanked Deputy Stonefield and he left the meeting.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #970-24, AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. He commented that this ordinance is to appropriate the \$986.00 Suburban Natural Gas Company Community Development grant that we use for mosquito spraying. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to adopt Ordinance #970-24. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Resolution #972-24, A RESOLUTION APPROVING VILLAGE SOLICITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilman Smith made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency for Resolution #972-24. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to adopt Resolution #972-24. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan invited Brian Hall to speak to Council. Mr. Hall thanked the mayor and members for the opportunity to give a brief presentation of the supplemental insurance policies available from the Globe Life Family Heritage Division, with an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. He explained that three policies are available: a Life Insurance product; a Cancer Insurance product; and an Accident Insurance product. By questioning members directly about what types of coverage they might be most concerned about, the topic of accident insurance became the focus. Mr. Hall explained that while standard insurance policies provide financial assistance for direct costs, such as hospitals and doctors, the Family Heritage policies provide financial help with indirect costs, such as groceries, utility bills, and housing while unable to work, plus any number of indirect costs not covered by other insurance, as well as supplemental payments in addition to what another insurance policy pays for things like hospitalization, emergency treatment, special diagnostics, bone fractures, and catastrophic medical events. Benefits from the Family Heritage policies are paid directly to the policyholder to be used in any way the policyholder sees fit. Benefits are paid in addition to any other insurance the policyholder may have. Coverage is guaranteed renewable for life, so long as the premiums are paid on time. Only the policyholder can cancel the policy. The premium does not increase because of age or claims. Customers who do not cancel out of the program receive back what they put into it after 25 years, minus anything paid on claims during the life of the policy. Policy premiums vary based on age, marital status, and whether or not there are children. Each of the three types of policies offered—life, cancer, or accident—

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is charged individually. If a person takes out multiple policies, claims paid on one policy do not affect another policy. With nothing more to discuss, Mr. Hall left his business cards for members and said that he would remain available after the meeting if anyone wanted to talk with him to get more information or to sign up for a policy. The mayor and members thanked Mr. Hall and he left the meeting.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we received an invitation to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of the Wood County Economic Development Commission. It is on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg, Ohio. 6:00-7:00 p.m. is cash bar networking; 7:00-9:00 p.m. is the dinner and program in the Commodore Ballroom. The mayor said that we have funds for any members who wish to attend; the cost is \$50 per person. Reservations will be accepted through April 10<sup>th</sup> or until all places are sold. The mayor said he will probably go and, if his workplace reserves a table, he may sit with them; they may even pay his \$50.

**ZONING:** Mayor Shanahan reported that we are working on securing a time to have a discussion with Margaret Deluca about her dilapidated house on Main Street. He said that we would like to talk with her before taking any legal action to declare the property a nuisance, so she can have an opportunity to take care of the problem before legal action is necessary. The mayor also told members that picture evidence of a nuisance needs to be more than just pictures of the house; we also need picture evidence of specific things like animals going in and out of the house. We have to provide pictures to the Health Department and then have them give us a report. Then Zoning Inspector Owens will give the Health Department's report to Solicitor Skaff, which he will use to file a motion. Councilwoman Mackey suggested that it might be in our interest to contact the neighbor who lives across the alley from the nuisance home and ask them to snap a picture for us, if they observe rodents going in and out of the house. Councilman Smith added that even a picture of evidence of rodent infestation would be good. The mayor concluded that some of us will get together with Ms. Deluca and talk to her about this and about some issues at her property on Lincoln Street as well.

**UTILITIES:** Nothing to report.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Mayor Shanahan reported that he emailed the township trustees about the idea Zoning Inspector Owens had suggested about putting a stop sign on Tontogany Creek Road at Main Street. The trustees were not in favor of doing that, reasoning that the drop-off line for the school would get backed up even worse than it already is, and it would increase the possibility accidents. Councilman Fox asked if a roundabout at Crom Street and Tontogany Creek Road had ever been discussed, which, he suggested, is what we really need. The mayor responded that, in the time he has been involved, we have never talked about a roundabout in general. Mr. Fox gave some suggestions of how a roundabout should be set up for access to the school. The mayor commented that North Street and Crom Street get a ton of traffic, partly due to the school sign at Centennial Park, whereas Opperman Road would be a more ideal route to the school to avoid village traffic, but people choose to drive through town over going down Opperman. One concern is that, if we put any preventative measures on North and Crom Streets, the result will be that traffic just gets shifted down to Washington and Main Streets. Mr. Fox responded that most of the traffic problem actually comes from Kellogg Road in the morning. Councilman Smith pointed out that putting in a roundabout would require taking out two homes and he did not see that as a viable option. There would certainly be resistance by the neighbors. Councilwoman Mehring and others agreed. Mr. Fox stated that he was just suggesting it as a best solution for the problem traffic there. Mayor Shanahan offered that another thing we could consider is putting in temporary speed bumps and signage as traffic nears the school; then take them out during the bad weather season. Otherwise, we can just keep communicating with the Wood County Sheriff's Office and keep them aware of our concerns. Members responded favorably to this last suggestion. The mayor reminded members that we had also talked previously about the solar-powered digital speed signs, as a

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less expensive option for us as well. Mr. Fox commented that we need to have better communication with the school on the flow of traffic. If traffic flow was organized better it would reduce or eliminate problems, especially in the morning when large amounts of people are coming and going from the school in all directions. The mayor answered that Otsego Superintendent Kevin O'Shea will be in the village tomorrow and he would approach him about having a discussion about better traffic flow. Mr. Smith suggested that it might not be a bad idea to get an aerial photo of the campus, print about ten copies, and then play with it with pen and paper to come up with various possibilities for traffic flow. The mayor added that aerial photos of traffic on Tontogany Creek Road would also be helpful for this. Mr. Fox offered some more observations and suggestions about traffic flow. The mayor commented that coming up with new plans is great, but educating people and getting them to follow the new plans is the real challenge.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Beth Hayes has asked if Council would consider putting stop signs at the corner of Broad and Washington Streets, due to people speeding down Broad Street. Councilman Fox commented that he could see a four-way stop at Broad and Crom Streets before he could see a four-way stop at Broad and Washington Streets. He said he has been nearly hit two or three times by people running the stop sign at Crom Street. Councilwoman Mackey agreed with Mr. Fox that a four-way at Broad and Crom Streets would be better.

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

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

**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Councilwoman Mackey reported that she had asked Jim Head if he would be interested in repairing the fence at Centennial Park. Mr. Head looked at the fence, noted that there are four broken posts, and told her that it is more than he feels he can tackle at this time. Ms. Mackey suggested that maybe we just need to contact a company to have it done. Councilman Smith commented that it will probably cost \$1,000 to have a company come out and do it, and he stated what materials and work would be needed for the repair. The mayor asked if new fence posts could just be put in over from the old ones and the bases of the old ones left in the ground. Mr. Smith responded that the new ones would be slightly out of line and the old remains might be unsightly at best. The mayor suggested that some of us go look at it again to make a final determination on the best way to fix it. Members discussed who we might get to fix the fence. Mr. Smith said that there is a fence company in Bowling Green on Poe Road. Ms. Mackey said she would ask Ron if he remembers who did the fence in the first place. Councilman Fox told members that he found another fence company to consider: Advance Fence Company on Mitchell Road. The mayor commented that it doesn't hurt to get some quotes.

Councilwoman Mackey asked Councilman Smith for his thoughts about taking down the old broken slide at Mehring Park. Mr. Smith answered that it comes apart easily enough. The concrete will be the heavy part, but, if we can get Isaac there with a tractor, we can pull it out like a tree stump and haul everything away.

Mayor Shanahan reported that he shared with the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee the wooden Christmas ornament crafted by Nichole Knipp and they are interested in using it as a fundraiser. The initial price for the ornaments was \$5 apiece. The 150<sup>th</sup> Committee is interested in selling them for \$10 apiece to make a \$5 profit. For making 150 of the ornaments, Nichole will drop the price to \$3 apiece. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reminded members that this purchase was on the invoice list submitted earlier in the meeting. The mayor told members that he was asking them to approve the fiscal officer paying the invoice for \$450 for 150 ornaments, since we appropriated \$5,000 for this purpose. Then Nichole will make the ornaments and give them to us. Due to the price being discounted to \$3 apiece, the total profit will now be \$1,050, instead of \$750. The mayor said that he would be in charge of all 150

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ornaments and he will turn all proceeds in to the fiscal officer to put back into our account. Councilwoman Mackey asked for clarification about the \$5,000 budgeted for this type of purchase, since she had apparently been absent at the meeting where this was done. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger responded that we had appropriated \$5,000 in the general fund for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Then we inquired of the Village Solicitor and an assistant state auditor to be sure we were legally allowed to use the money as intended for assisting the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee in fundraiser purchases, and we were told by both that we could do so. Members agreed with having Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger pay the invoice for the 150 ornaments, with no one voicing opposition.

Councilman Fox told members that he had another idea for fundraising for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He recalled a church that used to have something like a "Night at the Races" casino-themed fundraiser, which was a BYOB event. People would pay something like a \$10 admission fee and would be able to play various types of gambling games, which produced a lot of money for their fundraiser. Mr. Fox asked if that kind of fundraiser had ever been discussed. Mayor Shanahan responded that that type of fundraiser has not been discussed by the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee. Mr. Fox said he didn't know for sure what the rules are about gambling at certain locations. He said he knows the Legion does not have a gambling or lottery license, but they have a bingo license. He said the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee would probably need to be a 501 (c) (3) to get a permit. The mayor responded that the 150<sup>th</sup> Committee is not a 501 (c) (3) and will not likely seek to become one, since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is just a one-time event. Mr. Fox said it was just food for thought. Although there is no gambling at Togany Fest, he has seen it at some other festivals. He said he would ask his boss about any rules for special events.

Mayor Shanahan reported that State Rep. Haraz Ghanbari will be in the village at Doc's tomorrow, as a kind of "get to meet your candidate" event. It is not a village-sponsored event.

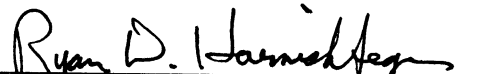
Mayor Shanahan reported that he received a phone call from a man, asking if the village would have any interest in having a marijuana dispensary, and the mayor told him he would present the matter to Council. Members discussed the matter and, based on an array of concerns, including ethical concerns with a school and 1,700 students on the village doorstep, policing problems, traffic problems, zoning problems, and many other unanswered questions and potentially undesirable side effects, Council decided they are not interested in bringing a marijuana dispensary into the village.

Mayor Shanahan reported that he spoke with Councilman Lee last week, and tonight will be his last meeting. Village Solicitor Skaff has advised that when Mr. Lee's address changes, he will need to resign his position as a council member at that time. Then Council has thirty days in which to appoint a replacement to fill Mr. Lee's vacant seat. After thirty days, the mayor can appoint someone to fill the vacant seat. The mayor told Mr. Lee that we appreciate what he has brought to the table, our friendship will remain intact, and we would desire to continue to utilize his skills for various village events. The mayor asked members to get the wheels turning on seeking a replacement council member.

Councilwoman Mehring asked when we are going to get the mattress and stuff moved that were mentioned in the previous meeting. Mayor Shanahan responded that it is a work in progress.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

  
Matthew Shanahan, Mayor

  
Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer