

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: March 18, 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, absent; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson, Zoning Inspector Brian Owens, and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Bodde Simon, for Otsego government class; Jamin Roe, to talk about projects. Minutes from the March 4th 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 Bergfeld seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan invited Jamin Roe to speak to Council. Mr. Roe related to members how his employment situation had opened him to an opportunity to take a position with American Structurepoint Inc., a company which, among other things, helps cities and villages with planning and procuring funding for various projects. He gave an example of a water line project in Van Wert that he is involved with. Mr. Roe suggested that there is a lot of grant money available for municipal projects of various kinds and Structurepoint has people who work with villages such as Tontogany to facilitate the acquisition of grants for their projects. They help you figure out what a project would look like and then they find out what funding you may qualify for. They also manage construction risks for their clients. Mr. Roe gave his business card to the mayor and members and invited them to call him if they ever would like for him to send a Structurepoint expert to a meeting to talk about a project the village wants to do. The mayor and members thanked Mr. Roe and he left the meeting.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Josh Heckerman had submitted a mowing quote for 2024 and everyone received a copy of it, as well as a sheet from the fiscal officer comparing 2023 prices to the 2024 quote. The mayor asked if members had any questions or concerns about the quoted prices. The mayor noted increases in mowing costs for 2024: an increase of \$75 for Centennial Park; an increase of \$35 for Mehring Park; an increase of \$35 for the village hall; and an increase of \$5 for the corner of Kellogg Road. Mulching, pruning, and fall cleanup prices remained the same as 2023. Councilman Fox asked if we had received any other quotes. The mayor answered that we had not. Councilman Bergfeld and Councilman Smith both gave their opinions that the prices quoted were not at all excessive, considering how the costs of everything, especially equipment, have gone way up. Members briefly discussed the quote for mulching and had no problem with still having it done at the price quoted. Mr. Fox asked if we should wait for other quotes. Members answered that we never do and we never advertise it. Mr. Smith noted that we have always been happy with the service provided by Josh, and he has been reliable. Mayor Shanahan told members that Brett Swanson had asked if it would be okay for him to plant a large pink dinner plate hibiscus in the flowerbed across the alley from the hall, at no cost to the village. The mayor said that he told Mr. Swanson that he didn't think we would have any issue about him doing so. Members agreed. Councilman Bergfeld made a motion to accept Josh Heckerman's mowing quote for 2024. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he had emailed Solicitor Skaff, requesting that he draft a resolution for Council to approve the spending of village funds to support fundraising efforts by the 150th Committee for the village's sesquicentennial celebration in 2025. Mayor Shanahan added that the resolution would specify that fundraising proceeds would go right back into the 150th Celebration Expenses account.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Owens reported that he issued zoning permits for a fence and front porch or deck at 18545 Crom Street, a fence at 18550 Main Street, and a deck at 18759 Tontogany Creek Road.

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mayor Shanahan commented that we will continue moving forward with discussions with Margaret Deluca about her property, as discussed in the previous meeting. The question was asked if she ever got a permit for work and an extension built onto her house on Lincoln Street. Mr. Owens said he would have to go look and check into it.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson asked if we had signed and returned to Feller, Finch the revised backflow prevention project agreement that Engineer Dave Kuhn had emailed to the village. Mayor Shanahan responded that we had done so. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger confirmed that he had mailed the signed agreement to Feller, Finch.

Mr. Johnson reported that he received an email from Northwestern Water & Sewer District that the contract was awarded and work started on the lead inspections. They began at Weston. Tontogany will be scheduled later in the year.

Zoning Inspector Owens reported that Wood County has scheduled repaving of Tontogany Road this year, and he wondered how that would affect our water line there, which is in bad shape in spots. Councilman Smith commented that, if we don't replace the pipes that need replacing and they put new pavement over them, we will need to tear up the new road if we have a water main break. He added that the worst thing you can do to asphalt is to cut a hole in it, dig something up, and then patch it to put it back together. Mr. Johnson reminded members that the section of the Tontogany Road water line that needs replaced is from Main Street to Kellogg Road, and we have previously discussed the need for new pipe on Broad Street as well. Councilman Bergfeld commented that we would need to sync up with the county, if we decide to replace the section of water line on Tontogany Road from Main to Kellogg. Mayor Shanahan said he would reach out to the County Engineer about this matter and ask for a timeline on their paving project.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilman Bergfeld reminded members that they had discussed a request for a stop sign at the corner of Broad Street and Washington Street, to help reduce a speeding problem there. Mr. Bergfeld said he thought it was illegal to use a stop sign for the purpose of speed control. Mayor Shanahan responded that he didn't have knowledge about such a law, but Council's discussion of the request had resulted in a consensus that there were other locations in town that might benefit more from measures to alleviate speeding problems. Mr. Bergfeld reiterated that our stated purpose for putting up a stop sign anywhere should not be to control speed.

Councilman Smith reported that he noticed someone had posted on the Otsego community page about the school changing traffic patterns. Mayor Shanahan responded that he had seen Otsego Superintendent Kevin O'shea and he will be reaching out to us after Tuesday for discussions about traffic concerns at the school and in the village. Councilman Fox stated that he thinks the traffic measures they have already implemented will be helpful.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Nothing to report.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Smith reported that he replaced three out of four of the bad fence posts at Centennial Park. He has one more fence post to replace. He said he did not pull the other concrete bases out; there are a number of other old bases still there from previous fence post repairs. He also reported that we removed the old slide from Mehring Park. Mayor Shanahan added that the bases of the slide were cut off down below ground level and covered with mulch, so kids can't get at them or get hurt by them.

Councilwoman Mehring asked if we are going to put in new playground mulch at Centennial Park this year. Mayor Shanahan asked when the last time was that we had mulched the playground.


TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Councilman Bergfeld said he thought it was in 2021. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reminded members that Councilwoman Mackey was our expert on getting mulch, which she had done through a park grant in the past. The mayor commented that Renewed Outdoors was the source from which we purchased playground mulch. He also suggested that we have a healthy enough parks budget that we should be able to purchase mulch at the village's expense, if needed. Councilman Smith estimated that it would cost about \$2,500 to mulch the playground at Centennial Park. Ms. Mehring remarked that we need it badly.

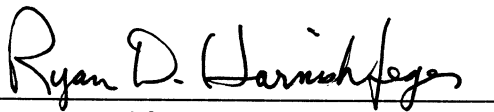
Mayor Shanahan reported that Councilwoman Mackey had sent him a text with her thoughts about veteran banners. She thinks we should keep it to no more than six new veteran banners per year and it should be limited to only veterans from in Tontogany. The mayor then read off some names of veterans that Ms. Mackey had suggested for banners. Councilwoman Mehring suggested a few more names of veterans that she thought would be deserving of banners. The mayor said he would like to get moving on it because it usually takes about a month and a half to collect information. He said we will push it to the next meeting and try to make a decision on who will get banners this year; he also commented that we do not necessarily have to do six banners. Councilman Fox commented that it seemed to him that we might want to ask the community for suggested veteran candidates for banners. The mayor responded that we have not done that because, from talking to other communities, we learned that sometimes people were recommending and/or donating to have their family members chosen, but it was discovered that they were not honorably discharged from military service.

Mayor Shanahan told members that he will be away and not be able to attend the next meeting on April 1st.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer