

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: May 20, 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; Lincoln Fox, absent. Also present was Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mackey remarked that there were a lot of expenses. Mayor Shanahan commented that he knew Utilities Superintendent Johnson was doing the lead inventory, but he didn't realize he had already spent nine hours on it, as shown on his payroll extra-hours sheet. Ms. Mackey asked if she correctly understood that there are not very many customers in town that need to be inspected for lead. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger responded that he had received a call in the office today about the lead survey, and they had said there were 87 sites in Tontogany scheduled for inspection. Councilman Smith commented that digging holes around the utilities the way they are doing it is the safest way to do it; they will need to dig about 170 holes. The mayor added that Mr. Johnson was getting the letters out this week to notify people that this lead survey is coming, starting on about May 22nd. Councilman Smith made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Resolution #973-24, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WOOD COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution #973-24. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Resolution #974-24, a CONTRACT TO FURNISH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BETWEEN WOOD COUNTY, OHIO AND THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution #974-24. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that there is one paid hall rental scheduled in June, on Saturday, June 15th. He reported that there are also two pending requests for use of the hall on Saturday, June 1st, and Saturday, June 8th.

A copy of the proposed Estimate of Revenues for 2025 was provided to everyone and Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reminded members that he had sent them a copy of it last week, to give them a chance to review it before tonight's meeting. He reminded them that the Estimate of Revenues must be adopted on or before the 15th of July each year and must be submitted to the County Auditor by July 20th for consideration of the Wood County Budget Commission. Failure to comply may result in loss of Local Government and Local Government Revenue Assistance allocation. Mr. Harnishfeger explained to members how the estimated beginning balances and revenues for 2025 were calculated, using current-year budget data in combination with end-of-year data from the previous year and any other known factors. He pointed out that the estimated 2025 beginning balance in the general fund was lower than ordinary, due to a large amount of monies appropriated in 2024 to assist the water fund in the backflow prevention and the lead survey projects, as well as some funding to assist the street maintenance fund, if needed. He told members that he estimated \$4,000 in revenue for the street light fund, which would only be realized through a special-assessments ordinance. He recommended doing an ordinance for street lights this year when we do the tree fund special-assessments ordinance, because the street light fund has fallen way below previous levels, due especially to the large expense of changing all street lights to LED. Councilwoman Mackey agreed that it would be a good idea to start doing special assessments for street lights again, since we haven't done it for a number of years. Mr. Harnishfeger told members that, if approved by the Wood County Budget Commission, the Wood County Auditor

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then uses the amounts on our Estimate of Revenues to create our Official Certificate of Estimated Resources, which will govern the legal extent of our appropriations budget for 2025. Councilwoman Mackey made a motion to accept the Estimate of Revenues for 2025 proposed by Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

ZONING: Councilwoman Mehring reported that there are cars with flat tires, trailers, grass, and a lot of other things in town that need to be addressed on almost every street. She said someone told her that they had never seen the town looking this bad before and that Main Street looks terrible. She said she thought the Zoning Inspector was supposed to be handling these kinds of issues. Mayor Shanahan responded that he appreciated the input and that at the last meeting it had been decided that he and Zoning Inspector Owens and Councilman Smith would get together to develop a plan to deal with problem vehicles, so Mr. Owens could then go out and execute that plan. He said that they just haven't met together in the last two weeks. Councilwoman Mackey pointed out that we do have an ordinance. The mayor agreed that we found an old ordinance that we weren't aware of before. Mr. Smith commented that we need to work on the zoning code, which tends to lack attention because everyone is busy. Ms. Mehring commented that she was under the impression that Mr. Owens could go up and down the streets and deal with issues. The mayor responded that he will, but we want to put together a plan first. Mr. Smith added that we need to have the zoning code updated so that we are all on the same page to know what is legal and what is not and what we are or are not willing to spend the town's money on in possibly expensive legal action. The mayor added that we want to make sure we are not throwing Mr. Owens into a lion's den and we want to be sure he has answers for specific questions that may come up. The first question Mr. Owens himself is likely to ask is: How will we enforce? Mr. Smith remarked that, if we decide to enforce some things, it will cost us a lot of money. Ms. Mackey commented that a lot of people, once given a notice, will be compliant. Mr. Smith agreed, but cautioned that if we send letters out, we have to be ready to pay the price to back them up; if one person refuses to comply and we don't follow through, others will learn that we aren't serious and will refuse to comply as well.

Councilwoman Mackey reminded members that we have an ordinance dealing with tall grass and weeds. She said she was about to request that a notice be sent to one person with tall grass, but then they mowed it. However, the trimmings from the mowing ended up in the alley. She said she thought this is a safety issue that Council needs to address. Councilwoman Mehring added that it is especially unsafe for motorcycles. Mayor Shanahan commented that he knows of a few properties where people blow the grass clippings into the street and don't blow them off of the street afterwards. Councilman Smith stated that there is an Ohio Revised Code for that, and, if it can't be handled neighbor-to-neighbor, it can be handled on the local law enforcement level. He advised first talking to the property owner before contacting law enforcement, and he added that he thought we should probably educate the entire village about this issue with perhaps a social media post or a reminder on the utility bills, since it doesn't seem to be just an isolated occurrence. Councilwoman Mehring asked about the mowing of service alleys. The mayor and members agreed that most people just mow their half of the alley, which is how it has been done down through the years. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that he received a phone call today from a resident, wondering if they could cease mowing the triangular strip of grass next to the railroad beside their property. He said he referred the matter to Zoning Inspector Owens. The mayor commented that Mr. Owens followed up on that with the resident. It is railroad property, so, we may need to contact the railroad about it, but we have had difficulty in the past getting them to follow through on our requests. The mayor said he would look at his railroad contacts again, and maybe we could ask State Representative Haraz Ghanbari for some help with the railroad, since he has helped us with issues in the past. The mayor commented that he would especially like to see the railroad property looking nice for the upcoming 150th celebration, including the repaving of their alleys.

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UTILITIES: Councilwoman Mackey asked if the water fountain is working at Centennial Park. Councilwoman Mehring answered that it is broken and Utilities Superintendent Johnson needs to get a new tool to fix it. She added that she thinks we should get rid of the fountain. Ms. Mackey reminded everyone that the line was drained last year and it was supposed to have solved the problem of it freezing and breaking. Mayor Shanahan said he would follow up with Mr. Johnson to get the details of what the problem is, whether it is just a matter of getting into the fountain to turn it on, or if it is another major repair problem again.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilwoman Mackey stated that she thinks we should have Tontogany Creek Road striped sometime this summer, because the stripe is no longer visible and it is a school zone. She suggested that all we need to do is contact the county and find out when their striping schedule is for this area, and have it done. Mayor Shanahan said he would reach out to Jason and ask if there is any chance that they will be out prior to the repaving of Tontogany Road. Ms. Mackey noted that Tontogany Creek Road goes beyond the town, so we may need to contact the township to see if they want to go in with us on the cost of striping. The mayor responded that we will first find out a dollar amount that it will cost, and then talk to the trustees about how to share the cost. The mayor also said that he would go around and make a list of the faded stop signs in town and see if we can get that on Isaac's summer schedule. Councilman Smith commented that he doesn't have time right now, but maybe in a month he would have time to work on the stop signs himself.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilwoman Mehring reported that she had a tree cut down by Extreme Tree Service, LLC. They did a nice job and she asked the gentleman, Chris Livingston, for his business card to give the village another option for tree maintenance work. Extreme Tree Service, LLC is located in Swanton, Ohio; Chris can be contacted at 419-466-1551.

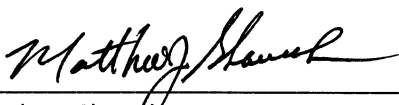
Mayor Shanahan reported that Scott Coon called him about a tree on the creek side of his home with branches around the electric line. Mr. Coon asked if the village could have it looked at. The mayor commented that maybe we could ask Penn to take a look at it while they are in the area. Councilman Smith remarked that Penn would be needed if it is a primary line, but secondary lines can be handled by people with less certification than Penn.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

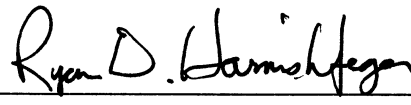
CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Smith asked if the new pickleball nets have arrived yet. Mayor Shanahan responded that they did arrive and they are in the office. Councilwoman Mackey reported that she used the Velcro strap to temporarily make the ripped net usable until it is replaced. She also reported that she has a reservation for the shelter house for June 8th (not paid yet) for a graduation party and she thinks we should make sure the water fountain is working by then.

Mayor Shanahan asked members if they were okay with adding Dan Ballard's father's name to the list of veterans to be honored this year with a hometown hero banner. Members were okay with it, with no objections voiced. The mayor said that he would make an announcement of our next batch of veteran banners at the Memorial Day event.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer