

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: June 3, 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, here. Also present were Zoning Inspector Brian Owens and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: a deputy from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the May Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status Reports were given to the mayor and the Finance Committee to review.

Copies of the May Incident Report were provided to all for review. Mayor Shanahan asked if members had any questions or concerns for the deputy. Members had no questions. The mayor reported that he called the police nonemergency line recently, because the gates and lights did not work at the Kellogg Road crossing the other day when a train came through at high speed. A pedestrian was there and called the safety line for CSX. The response they received was, "Sometimes that happens when they go so fast." The deputy responded that there isn't much the Wood County Sheriff's Office can do, except to put a patrol car there with its lights flashing. With nothing else to discuss, the mayor thanked the deputy and she left the meeting.

**ZONING:** Zoning Inspector Owens reported that Solicitor Skaff sent him a proposal for updating all of the village's zoning ordinances. Mr. Owens gave a copy of the proposal to Mayor Shanahan. Mr. Owens then told the mayor and members that he was resigning from his position as zoning inspector, effective June 30, 2024. He said that he had nothing further to report, except that he had given the fiscal officer payments from a couple of zoning permits done in May.

Mayor Shanahan reported that Chad Baranski had reached out by email, expressing interest in open job positions for the village, but he did not mention particularly what job he might be interested in. The mayor said that he would follow up with Mr. Baranski, and that he thought he may currently be the zoning inspector for the township.

**UTILITIES:** Councilman Smith noted from the list of invoices that the water fountain at Centennial Park cost us another \$300 to repair it. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reminded members that we paid \$500 or \$600 last year to Kellermeier to fix the fountain and now another \$300 this year. He suggested that Council might just want to tell Utilities Superintendent Johnson not to call in Kellermeier to fix it if it breaks again, because continuous repair costs are adding up into the thousands of dollars. Councilwoman Mackey suggested that we might want to seek a park grant next year for a new fountain. She also mentioned that she had told Mr. Johnson that the fountain was not working and he had told her that Kellermeier fixed it, so it should be working; then Mr. Johnson went and turned on the fountain and it worked. Councilman Smith proposed that it might be that we don't even need to keep a water fountain at the park, since many people carry water bottles with them these days anyway. The mayor commented that he agreed. Ms. Mackey reminded members that we still have the old fountain that was uptown, which we could use as a replacement at the park, since we never seemed to have a problem with that fountain. Mr. Smith suggested that we replace the current fountain with the old fountain the next time there is a problem, and then, if there is a problem with the old fountain, we just remove it altogether. The mayor wondered what the cost would be for Kellermeier to change out the fountains. He also commented that nobody is renting the park because we have a water fountain.

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mayor Shanahan reported that the sand they are putting into the holes excavated in yards for lead testing is sinking. Councilwoman Mackey responded that they said it would sink and they would come back later to fill it up. The mayor remarked that some of the holes are sinking much deeper than expected and Mr. Johnson has been informed about the problem. Ms. Mackey commented that it sounds like they won't have to do every one of the houses they originally thought they would have to do. Houses built before 1982 will have to be checked, but there are some houses that they already know have copper pipe and they won't have to check them. The mayor told members that he had asked Mr. Johnson to find out whether his time and related materials purchased for the lead testing project would be covered under the grant as well.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that Neil Brokamp called the office to report a street light out at the end of the cul-de-sac in Harley Woods.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Councilwoman Mehring reported that there is a camper on the lot across from the elevator at the corner of Wall Street and Broad Street. She said she was wondering what they are doing with their waste. Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger commented that we only set them up with electric utilities so far. The mayor and other members said they had noticed the camper there too, and that he is doing some kind of gardening, growing sunflowers, and trying to improve the looks of the property; it is a work in progress.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Councilwoman Mackey reported that the trash container in front of Doc's uptown was overflowing and full of maggots. Mayor Shanahan reported that he was able to get the bag out of the container and get it into the dumpster there, which Doc's told us we could use, but it was a nasty mess to contend with. He asked members if they think we really need a village trash can there in front of Doc's. He remarked that Doc's could provide their own waste receptacle if they want one for their customers there. Ms. Mackey added that we had talked about getting rid of the village trash can in front of Karen Current's, because Karen was complaining about it stinking. So, they switched it out with the one at the park and put the holder in the shed. Then they got a text message from Karen that she had been taking care of the village can uptown and now she was concerned that people would start putting their trash in her private trash can, which is located at the side of the building. Ms. Mackey stated that she feels that we should have a trash can uptown, but maybe we should move it to a different location. The mayor pointed out that rainwater getting into the trash exacerbates the stink problem. Ms. Mackey responded that they took care of that problem at the park by moving the trash cans under the shelter house. Councilman Fox asked if we might want to just use Rumpke cans uptown. The mayor answered that there would be no way of keeping a Rumpke can secure so someone doesn't drive by and take it, and they could also spray paint it to cover up the identification number and make it look like a non-Rumpke can. The mayor concluded that, for the time being, we just need to get into the habit of pulling the trash bag out every week. Ms. Mackey reported that they emptied the trash at Mehring Park and put it out by the street for pickup, but Rumpke didn't pick it up. She said she will call Rumpke and tell them to make sure to pick that up. Mr. Fox said he would send a picture to members of a Rumpke representative who he has had good luck with in getting issues taken care of. Ms. Mackey wondered if we could get Rumpke to pick up a bag uptown, if we put it out for pickup there. The mayor commented that critters might get into it. Zoning Inspector Owens advised taking advantage of Doc's offered dumpster.

**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Councilman Fox observed that the drains are working well, as indicated by the water being gone.

**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Councilman Smith asked if we received a bill for the new slide at Mehring Park. Councilwoman Mackey answered that they are not finished with the installation yet; they did not put

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

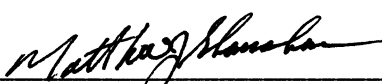
any concrete in the two end posts at the bottom of the slide. She called them this morning to let them know, and they said they would figure out a time to come back and finish securing it properly. Councilman Fox asked if it has caution tape on it. Ms. Mackey answered that it doesn't but it is safe to use. She added that they told her they installed the slide with the consideration that we would probably be needing to add six inches of mulch. Councilman Fox told members that he noticed that there were a number of pallets of rubber mulch at the Legion. Mr. Smith remarked that we can watch and see how that rubber mulch works for the Legion. He added that, by experience, he learned that if you change your mind and don't want the rubber mulch anymore, you have to dig it out and haul it away, whereas wood mulch disintegrates over time. Ms. Mackey reminded members that Renewed Outdoors gave us quotes on 8 inches of mulch and 10 inches of mulch at around \$7,000 to \$8,000 per park. She reported that the last time we had mulch installed was in 2021; we did 4 inches at each park and it was \$3,672 for Centennial Park and \$2,160 for Mehring Park. She told members that, if they were okay with it, she would call Renewed Outdoors back and ask them for a new quote for 6 inches of mulch for each park (maybe even just 4 inches for Centennial, since it doesn't seem to need as much). Members were okay with her doing so and voiced no opposition. Mr. Fox commented that he wondered if we could do anything around the merry-go-round because it turns to mud every time it rains. Members discussed it a little and thought mulch might not be the best solution for that, but maybe a rototiller or another tool could be used on it and then pack it back down. Mr. Smith told members of an idea he had to move some of the mulch around at Mehring Park to get the depth desired, and then add just 2 or 4 inches of new mulch on top of that to make it look nice. The area where the old slide used to be is now open, so the mulch could be combined into a smaller playground area and some grass planted in the extra space. Members discussed various ideas on how the extra space might be used.

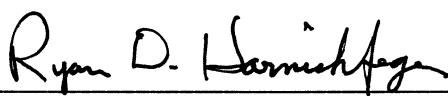
Councilwoman Mackey asked if we could get the Christmas wreath taken down from the side of the hall. Councilman Smith recalled that he had volunteered to take it down in the past and it was a huge mess and awkward to deal with, and he did not want to do it again. Members also discussed what to do about kids or someone turning the Christmas tree lights on again and again. Mayor Shanahan suggested that we could cut the plug off, so it can't be plugged back in and turned back on by anyone.

Mayor Shanahan asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to order some new 3' x 5' flags for downtown. Mr. Harnishfeger asked how many flags to order. The mayor and members asked him to order at least 10, or a few more if, say, the pricing was like for 12 or 14.

Mayor Shanahan reminded members that we have decided on four veterans to receive banners this year. He told members that Kim Head had asked if we would consider doing veteran banners for her father and uncle, who were both lifelong residents of Tontogany, which would bring our total to six banners this year, if members approve. Members voiced their agreement with adding Kim's father and uncle to the list. The mayor said he usually sends in the order when he has all of the pictures needed for creating the banners. He said that the picture of Grover Wires may be too small to be usable. Councilwoman Mackey reported that she has been trying to get a larger picture from Thelma Wires, even if it is not in military uniform. The mayor said that, if we can't get a bigger picture, he will send in the one we have and see if they can use it. Or another possibility is a banner without a picture, which he has seen done elsewhere.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Shanahan, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer