

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 21, 2025

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 at roll call, but arrived at 7:02 p.m.; Lincoln Fox, here; Paul Neal, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader/Zoning Inspector Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors attending: Joshua Niemer of Pro Rain Lawn Sprinklers, LLC. Minutes from the July 7th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mehring asked about the \$860 invoice from Jupmode for 100 150th Year T-shirts. Mayor Shanahan explained that the 150th Committee ordered 100 fundraiser t-shirts, purchased with money from the Village's 150th appropriation account. The Village will be reimbursed with proceeds from the sale of the t-shirts. 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.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #987-25, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST AND EXPENSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL AND SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SHADE TREES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE BLIGHT AND DISEASE OF SAME; AND FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS AND WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OF THE VILLAGE. The mayor commented that the assessment amount for tax year 2026 will be \$5,000.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #988-25, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST AND EXPENSE OF THE LIGHTING OF THE STREETS, ALLEYS, WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY. The mayor commented that the assessment amount for tax year 2026 will be \$4,000.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #989-25, AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FISCAL OFFICER. The mayor explained that Ohio law requires the fiscal officer to reside within the village that he or she serves, unless Council passes an ordinance approving the fiscal officer's residence outside of the village. Since Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger moved to Bowling Green, Village Solicitor Skaff advised that a new ordinance allowing the fiscal officer to live outside of the village needs to be adopted, if Council wishes to give approval to his residency outside of the village.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector Johnson asked about the mayor's conversation with Habitat for Humanity about the vacant lots by the creek on Wall Street. Mayor Shanahan responded that he forwarded the information received from Solicitor Skaff to the current property owners. He said he also had a phone conversation with the executive director of Habitat for Humanity, in which he discussed some issues Mr. Johnson had brought up about two different lot sizes and one lot extending into the ditch. He asked the executive director to email exactly what he was wanting to do with the property, and then he forwarded that information to Solicitor Skaff, who gave his feedback. The mayor said he shared Mr. Skaff's feedback with the property owners. Based on the added expense to the property owners to have the land surveyed and to apply for a variance, the current property owners do not want to go through all of that; they want to sell the property as is. The mayor said that the executive director was adamant about wanting to build two homes there, so the mayor asked him if he would consider buying the property as is, building just one home, allowing for a bigger yard for a family with kids. The executive director responded that they would prefer not to do that. He also told the mayor that they are doing a similar project in Rudolph. The mayor said he shared the information with the property owners, who were still not interested in paying to have it surveyed, unless the cost of surveying could be added to the sale price of the property. The mayor said he didn't know if Habitat for Humanity would be willing to pay the extra cost for the property, but he

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intends to call the executive director again this week. Mr. Johnson commented again that there would be problems trying to put two houses there. He told the mayor and members that he received a call last week from another person who wants to buy the property and put one modular home on it with a barn out back, to which he replied that that would be great. The mayor commented that this sounds like it would be a better fit for the village and for the property owners. He asked if the new interested party had contacted the property owners. Mr. Johnson answered that he did not know.

Mr. Johnson reported that he has not had a chance to do anything more about zoning violations, because he has been swamped with working on meeting the deadline for completing the EPA's three-year annual survey requirement.

UTILITIES: Utilities Superintendent Johnson reported that he had Palmer come and fill in the settled waterline trench by Jill Murphy's home north of the school on Tontogany Creek Road. He said that Ms. Murphy asked him what would be done about seeding the spot, to which he had no answer but would have to ask Council about it. Mr. Johnson asked if Council might want to consider asking Josh Heckerman if he would be interested in fixing people's yards after we have to dig them up for waterline issues. Mayor Shanahan responded that it wouldn't hurt to ask. Councilman Smith commented that Josh would probably quote us a price for it.

Mr. Johnson reported that he received a call last night from Tim Smith's sprinkler service man, wanting to know what is going on, because Tim's bill showed 52,000 gallons of water used and Tim wants Pro Rain to pay for the extra water above normal usage. Mr. Johnson said he replied to the gentleman that he did not know what the details were about the situation, but he read the meter on his regular route and Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger went to Tim Smith's place and reread the meter, confirming that the original reading was correct, so the 52,000 gallons of water did go through the meter. Mayor Shanahan explained further that Tim had come to his home yesterday, asking for the mayor's advice whether he should come to tonight's meeting, since he thought the sprinkler company would be coming to the meeting. Tim also filled the mayor in on conversations he had with Mr. Harnishfeger and other details of the situation. The mayor said he told Tim that he didn't know that he needed to be at the meeting. The mayor told members that Tim Smith had an issue with his lawn sprinkler system. He had Pro Rain come out and they did something in the meter pit. A couple of days later, Tim was trying to take a shower and do some laundry and the water sounded funny and the pressure didn't seem right. He went out and looked in the meter pit and saw water knee-deep in there. He called the sprinkler company back out and they told him something they did didn't work right. The mayor said he didn't know what the whole timeframe was, but the meter showed 52,000 gallons of water usage. Yet his yard never flooded and nothing backed up into the house. Councilman Neal commented that he used to have a separate sprinkler meter that he decided he didn't want anymore, because he learned that he could just use his home water meter with a fixed sewer charge that would not include water used for sprinkling his lawn. He said he called Pro Rain, but they would not touch his meter. The mayor responded that, in Tim's situation, it may not have been the meter itself, but the line leading up to it. Mr. Harnishfeger added that Tim Smith does not have a separate meter for his sprinkler system; he has one meter for all water usage and it showed 52,000 gallons of usage. He also commented that he tells customers that we have to go by what the meter says, not by what the customer thinks they have used. He added that we double-checked Tim's reading, to make sure the original reading wasn't some type of entry error. The mayor commented that the sprinkler company's focus was on no evidence of where so much water went, while Tim's focus was on not being responsible to pay for water that leaked because of the sprinkler company's actions. Tim is willing to pay for his normal water usage, but thinks the sprinkler company should pay for the water that leaked as a result of their work. The sprinkler company doesn't think they should have to pay it, so Tim doesn't know what to do. The mayor said he thought that if it can be shown that the extra water usage happened after the sprinkler company's faulty work, then they should be responsible for it. However, the mayor said he thought Solicitor Skaff would probably tell us that it is a private property issue, not the

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Village's concern. If Tim wants to take the sprinkler company to court, he can do so. Mr. Johnson commented that Bowling Green doesn't give us billing breaks on leaked water from a waterline rupture, so he doesn't know why we give anybody billing breaks. Mr. Neal commented that we haven't talked about the controls for the sprinkler system, which is separate from the meter. He related how he learned to operate the controls for the sprinklers after receiving an enormous water bill the first time. The mayor responded that Tim has had his sprinkler system for a very long time and he knows how to operate it. The mayor remarked that it is curious where 52,000 gallons of water went to, which would be way more than enough water to fill a pool. He pointed out also that everything worked fine after the sprinkler company came back out and fixed their previous mistake.

Joshua Niemer of Pro Rain Lawn Sprinklers arrived at the meeting and Mayor Shanahan invited him to introduce himself and speak to Council. Mr. Niemer told members that he was here to represent Pro Rain who services Tim Smith's sprinkler system at 18650 North Street. They came out on June 20th to service Tim's sprinkler system, which he has had for many years. Then seven days later they received a call from Tim, asking them to come back out again because there was a leak problem and water in his pit. Being nearby on Washinton Street, Mr. Niemer came and told Tim that he identified the leak and turned the water off. He then sent pictures to his guys to look into the matter and come back to fix it. Then they received a copy of the letter from Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger stating that 52,000 gallons of water were used. Mr. Niemer commented that he wouldn't say that 52,000 gallons was impossible, but improbable, because the water had to go somewhere. He said he was in the crawl space and it wasn't flooded; the water they found was in the pit. Mr. Johnson asked what "pit" was being talked about—the one by the house or the one out by the road. Mr. Niemer answered that the pit being talked about is the one right by the house. He suggested that maybe there is some other explanation, such as an error in reading the meter, a clerical error, such as in calculating the usage, or a faulty meter. Councilman Fox commented that we took a manual reading for July billing, but the month before was an estimated reading (due to a breakdown of our meter reading device). Therefore, Tim could have had a leak or something running for at least two months, which showed up when the real reading was taken at the beginning of July. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Harnishfeger responded that that was a good point, which hadn't been considered. Mr. Fox added that there could have been leakage over a much larger period of time through May and June, instead of it all happening in a week before the July reading, which could mean a leaky toilet or some other type of leak that Tim doesn't know about. Mr. Fox asked if we checked the meter to see if it was running. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Harnishfeger what his second reading showed. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that the reading was just a little more than the original reading taken a couple of days before, showing that the original reading was not an error. Mr. Niemer asked if it could be 5,200 gallons instead of 52,000 gallons. Mr. Johnson replied that the reading and the gallons were correct. After a little more discussion, Mayor Shanahan told Mr. Niemer that, at the end of the day our attorney will say that this is not a Village issue. Mr. Niemer said he was just trying to make sense of what happened, since it seems improbable that that much water leaked but left no evidence in the yard or under the house. He also pointed out that, if there is an unknown leak, not related to the work done by Pro Rain, Tim Smith could end up with another huge bill in August. He asked if another reading can be taken now to be sure there is not more leaking. Mr. Johnson offered to go and do another reading now to see if there is any indication of a leak. Mr. Johnson also suggested, in light of the estimated reading taken in June, that Council might want to give a discount of half of the bill and then let Tim and the sprinkler company work out the rest, since some of the water could have leaked out before the problem with the sprinkler system. Mr. Fox cautioned that the problem with us eating part of the cost of the leaked water is that we, as the middleman, already had to pay for the water from Bowling Green, and Bowling Green is not going to give us a discount on the leaked water. Councilman Bergfeld asked Mr. Harnishfeger if the extra cost on Tim Smith's bill was just for water or for sewer as well. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that the extra cost on the bill was only for water, because Tim's sewer charges are on the "winter averages" plan allowed by Northwestern Water & Sewer District, which keeps the sewer charge at a fixed amount all year, no matter

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how much water is used. Members discussed various theories of how the water could have leaked. Mr. Harnishfeger gave his viewpoint that no evidence of leaked water seen in the yard or crawlspace, but only some water in the pit due to the sprinkler company's work, would suggest a strong likelihood that most of the leaked water went down a drain. He suggested that one option, if Council was open to it, would be to adjust Tim's bill to only charge him the Village's wholesale cost for the leaked water. That way Tim would get a break on the leaked water without the Village suffering a loss. Mr. Fox replied that he thought that would be the fairest option. The mayor and members agreed with Mr. Fox. Mayor Shanahan pointed out that none of our observations clearly show how much of the leak was due to the sprinkler company and how much was from another cause. Mr. Bergfeld asked what the wholesale price of the water would be, compared to the retail cost. Mr. Harnishfeger said he would have to look it up to be sure, but he guessed it would be about half of the retail cost; it would definitely reduce the cost significantly for whoever ends up having to pay the bill. He said he thought we still might want to consult Solicitor Skaff about the whole matter, as was previously suggested. The mayor responded that he would email Solicitor Skaff about it and copy Councilman Smith, Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger, and Utilities Superintendent Johnson on it.

Having left the meeting to go and do another reading of Tim Smith's water meter, Utilities Superintendent Johnson and Mr. Neimer returned to report what they found. Mr. Neimer reported that they looked in the meter pit out front of the home and found no movement. They looked in the pit next to the house and it was a little damp and there was one drip about every three seconds, which would add up to a few gallons at the most over a whole year. He said they will come back and fix that for Tim, but, of course, this does not explain the 52,000 gallons of usage on the July bill. He said he would take it up with Tim, unless Council has thought of some other possible solutions. Mayor Shanahan responded that the only thing we had decided was to touch base with our solicitor, who will probably say it is not a Village issue, but we will at least have brought it to his attention. Perhaps he will have some input that we haven't considered. Mr. Johnson reported that he got a new reading of 4837 from Tim's water meter. He asked Mr. Harnishfeger if he knew what the original July reading was. Mr. Harnishfeger looked at his records and found that it was 4769, taken on 6/27/25. With a multiplier of 100 on the meter, a calculation showed that 6,800 gallons was used between 6/27/25 and 7/21/25. Members noted that that is not the normal usage for Tim of approximately 1,500 gallons, indicating either a leak or another use, such as watering the lawn. Mr. Neimer commented that the current reading showing 6,800 gallons of usage could mean that Tim might have a bill for as much as 13,000 gallons in August. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to stop down at Tim Smith's home after the meeting and have a conversation with him to explain the readings and the numbers to him, and let him know that there may be a problem he is unaware of. Mr. Neimer asked if the Village had any inclination to use leniency on Tim Smith as a long-time resident and customer, and allow time to check out what the problem is, or if full payment of the high water bill is due now no matter what. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that our normal custom is to work with customers through unusual utility circumstances; we will not shut off Tim's water or give him a late fee while this matter is checked into and a payment course is decided upon. Mr. Neimer asked if we could compare usage in previous years at the same time. Mr. Harnishfeger looked and found that in the previous three years, during the months of June, July, and August, there was usage ranging anywhere from 1,800 gallons to 14,500 gallons in any of the given three months, which would most likely be an indication of lawn watering in those months, rather than his normal usage of about 1,500 gallons. Mr. Neimer asked if it would be out of the question to show Tim Smith these numbers, along with Mr. Fox's observation that June's reading was an estimate, meaning the 52,000 gallons could have been accumulative over a period of two months and it is Council's opinion that it is not due solely to the sprinkler company's actions. The mayor responded that he would err on the side of caution about using those terms. Councilman Bergfeld commented that the water went through the meter; where it went, we do not know. The mayor also commented that he would prefer that Mr. Neimer not talk to Tim Smith about the numbers we discussed, but that we have Utilities Superintendent Johnson do that. Based on what we are seeing, we could recommend that Tim have his plumber come and look at it. Mr. Neimer commented that what he was

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considering doing was to give Tim Smith a check for part of his bill, an amount Mr. Neimer considered fair, and advise Tim to reconcile the rest of the bill with the Village. Councilman Smith responded that it is not our business, but it seems like a fair solution. Other members agreed. The mayor asked Mr. Johnson to have his conversation with Tim first, informing him of the numbers we have discovered, that we know the water did go through the meter, and that he may want to get things looked at by a plumber. The mayor asked Mr. Neiman to wait until after Mr. Johnson talks to Tim before he has his conversation with Tim. The suggestion was made that maybe a separate meter for the sprinkler system would be helpful. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that the only reason for a second meter for a sprinkler system is to save on sewer charges for the water used to sprinkle the lawn. However, the “winter averages” plan offered to homeowners by Northwestern Water and Sewer District keeps the sewer charge on the home’s main water meter to a fixed amount each month, no matter how much water they use to fill a pool or water a lawn. This negates the need for a second sprinkler meter, which only ends up costing the customer an extra monthly water service charge, even when they aren’t using the sprinkler system. With nothing more to discuss on the matter, the mayor and members thanked Mr. Neiman and he left the meeting.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Mayor Shanahan reported that he never got with Isaac yet about potholes on Broad Street. Councilman Smith said he didn’t have an update either. The mayor said he would reach out to Isaac.

Councilwoman Mehring asked about adding another name to veteran banners this year. Mayor Shanahan commented that we already have two banners more than usual this year. Councilwoman Mackey said she thought that, at this point, we should consider any more banner requests for next year. The mayor said he just got the three Hafner boys, which he will scan in tomorrow and have everything to the banner guy, which will let him know what our turnaround time is. Then he can get the invoice and submit for the reimbursement, once we can show a paid invoice.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith reported that we got the tree in front of the funeral home and the dead tree on Tontogany Creek Road by Scott Coon’s home cut down. Mayor Shanahan asked about the tree by Scott Coon’s home, if Abe Rowe had just trimmed the tree down or taken it completely out. Mr. Smith answered that he just trimmed it down; access was an issue for taking it out, but it is cut down to a safe level now where it can’t fall down and do damage. The mayor asked if we had Abe trim the tree by the banner on Tontogany Creek Road. Mr. Smith answered that we did not because he had completely forgotten about that one. He added that he himself will do what he can one of these days and take care of it for good. The mayor asked if the funeral home is keeping the wood from their downed tree or if the wood is for anyone. Mr. Smith answered that it is for anyone. He also commented that we could have Abe dispose of everything for an additional price, if we want to go that route, but he always tells him to just leave all of the limb wood and take everything else away. The mayor commented that typically people come and take the wood away within about a week. Mr. Smith added that it helps our neighbors, it helps the people in town, and it helps our bottom line.

Councilman Neal reminded members that we approved appropriations to put in a sidewalk this year between the hall and the railroad tracks to complete the sidewalk on the other side of the tracks. He proposed that we get it done before the 9th. Mayor Shanahan responded that he would be surprised if we could get it done before the 9th, because it won’t be a big moneymaker for a contractor. He suggested that we get quotes for it and then decide on the right quote and move forward with it. Councilman Bergfeld asked if there was a place to cross in between the tracks yet. Councilman Smith answered that it is just the asphalt in the crossing. Councilman Fox recalled that we had discussed this before and determined that the railroad has to take care of the crosswalk between the tracks, if the Village puts in sidewalks up to the tracks on both sides. The mayor suggested that the members on the Sidewalks Committee get some bids submitted.

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DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilman Smith reminded everyone that someone had shown an interest in the village administrator position. Mayor Shanahan replied that the gentleman never responded to his email offering to have a preliminary conversation with him. The mayor said he would be happy to reach back out to him to see if he is still interested.

Mayor Shanahan reminded members that on Wednesday there will be, by invitation only, the premiere viewing of the 150th Documentary in the hall. Response to the RSVP shows that we will have around 50 people attending. The ice cream and all of the fixings were bought today. The mayor said he will do a test run with the projector after the council meeting. He said they are making something like Hollywood Walk of Fame stars for each of the people who were interviewed for the Documentary. They are still trying to find a red-carpet runner. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a few opening words from himself and Hannah, followed by the Documentary, which is about 26 minutes long. They will put up the 150th selfie banner for anyone who wants to take pictures in front of it. After the premiere viewing, they will hold the video until Togany Fest, when they will run it on a loop in the hall during the pancake breakfast. At Togany Fest they will publicly put the YouTube link out there for those who weren't able to see it and would like to see it. But they wanted to make sure that the Documentary participants got a private viewing first. Interviewees for the Documentary ranged in ages from sixty all the way up to one hundred years old. Councilwoman Mackey asked, given the fact that we will be using the hall for some 150th activities, if there was a chance that we could get with the Odd Fellows and see if there is anything in the hall, such as the piano or other excess furniture, that they no longer use and could be cleared out of the hall to make more room. The mayor asked who was the contact person for the Odd Fellows. Councilwoman Mehring said she thought it was Bob Green. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger said he had Bob Green's Odd Fellows contact information in the office. The mayor asked Mr. Harnishfeger to email him the contact information and he would reach out to Mr. Green.

Councilman Fox reported that he did some research, trying to find a company similar to Muni-Link who might be able to handle our needs. He said he got connected with three companies, and he got a conference call set up for Thursday, whereby he hopes to get some more information from the referral company. He said he hoped they could direct us down maybe another avenue instead of just going by word of mouth. He commented that it may turn out to be a whole lot to do about nothing or it could turn out to be a good thing, but he was just trying to drum up more information. Councilman Neal added that the referral company is Capterra. He also said that he copied information from the Capterra website and gave it to Mr. Harnishfeger. He told members that another good thing about the information Mr. Fox found is that Muni-Link has a rating of 4.8 out of a possible 5 stars in comparison with about twenty utility software companies researched by Capterra. He commented that this is good news because it means we are on the track of a company that is rated up near the top. Mr. Fox agreed, but added that we want to have more than one company to pick from, at least a couple of companies to look at and see which one fits our needs. He commented that Muni-Link seems to be a good fit for us, but maybe a little on the high side in price. Mayor Shanahan asked Mr. Fox to feel free to email the mayor and members a recap of any good information he may find out, so they can review the information before the next meeting and be able to discuss it then.

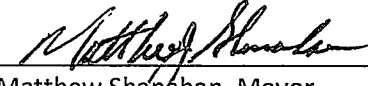
Councilman Neal reported that he updated his *Tontogany Village Utility Billing Project Task Schedule*, and he passed out copies to everyone. He told members that "C" on the chart means the task is complete; "A" means we are actively working on the task. He noted that, if we keep to what the schedule suggests and have Mr. Harnishfeger's replacement hired by December, we should be able to have Ryan's retirement party in July or August of next year. Mr. Neal told members that he put prerequisite tasks in bold print on the list, to draw attention to them, because if we miss the target on those tasks, it will push the project conclusion date out further. He told members that if they see something missing on the schedule, we would love to add it to the chart. He pointed out that we did get from Mr. Harnishfeger the

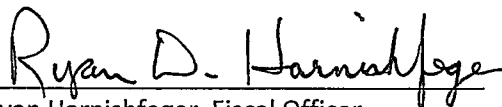
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job description for the utilities clerk position; now we are waiting on the job description for the fiscal officer's position. Those two items are critical before we can search for replacements. Councilman Smith commented that the utilities clerk job description was very complete and there were a lot of things going on there that he wasn't aware of. Councilman Fox reminded members that we had discussed briefly where to place job postings. He said that it seems like Indeed is now the go-to site for job postings. Councilman Bergfeld added that he thought Indeed is free. Mr. Fox agreed. He said he thought it was a no-brainer to put something up on Indeed. But he cautioned that we will probably get a lot of hits—too many hits; so, in order to weed them out, we will need to have some kind of vetting process and criteria on who we are going to interview. Mayor Shanahan responded that he can ask Solicitor Skaff for his recommendations, based on what other villages he serves have done to fill some of their critical positions. Mr. Fox said he thought we should definitely use Indeed, but we will have to be very precise in how we word the job postings. Mr. Niemer asked what jobs the Village is looking to fill. Mr. Fox replied that we are working on filling three part-time positions, two of which are being done right now by Mr. Harnishfeger—utilities clerk and fiscal officer—which could be hired out to be done by two people, or both jobs could be done by one person. The third position is village administrator. Mr. Niemer said he knows of someone who may be interested, especially in the part-time administrator position, if he can get the job description. Mr. Fox commented that our problem is that if we post a job description in the newspaper, practically nobody sees it. Mr. Niemer recommended trying LinkedIn as a better place to seek job applicants than Indeed. Mr. Fox commented that one of our problems is that the positions are only part-time, and we don't offer benefits either. Mr. Niemer asked how many hours are involved in the part-time positions. Mr. Fox answered that one is 15 hours. He asked Mr. Harnishfeger how many hours he works on his two jobs. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he is in the office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. four days a week, and he does some work on weekends, such as writing minutes. Councilman Neal advised that we don't shoot from the hip on the answer of how many hours for each job. He suggested that we should do some thinking about the number of hours, because we need to consider what we haven't talked about yet, which is the difference between the skill level of Mr. Harnishfeger and a new employee. Mr. Fox commented that we intend to go with a new automated system, and he asked how much work time that might relieve. Councilman Bergfeld replied that we won't know until it is in use. Mr. Neal remarked that he has been in the IT business for a long time and has found that "saving time" usually does not happen. Mr. Neal also commented that one thing he is interested in learning about through the conference call regarding utility software companies, is the cost of service. He noted that Muni-Link was in the upper ten percent of companies reviewed, so, as far as consumer reports go, he is comfortable knowing that at least one of the companies we are considering has one of the highest ratings of all companies researched.

Councilman Neal asked about the status on painting the flagpole. Mayor Shanahan inquired if we had asked anyone about it yet. Councilman Smith answered that we have not. The mayor asked if Abe Rowe might have the right equipment. Councilwoman Mackey commented that she knew Jim Head would do it if he had the means to get up there. Councilman Fox asked what the cost would be to rent a bucket lift. Mr. Smith answered that it would be about \$150. Mr. Neal offered that if you give him a bucket and a brush, he would be willing to paint the flagpole. The mayor responded, tongue in cheek, that he doesn't want Mr. Neal's wife yelling at us for sending him up that high off the ground.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer