

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: February 16, 2026

Council called to order in regular session at 7:01 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; Paul Neal, absent; Keri Hain, here. Also present were Utilities Superintendent/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Brad Hain. Minutes from the February 2nd meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Mayor Shanahan asked if the bill for the water leak on Tontogany Road was received yet. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger answered that we haven't received the bill from Palmer for that yet, but we did receive a bill from Aqua-Line Inc., who was called out to detect the location of the leak. Councilman Bergfeld made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a first reading, by title only, of Ordinance #993-26, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND INDUSTRIAL USERS OF THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY'S WATER SYSTEM. The mayor explained to newly appointed Councilwoman Hain that, as long as it is not emergency legislation, an ordinance receives three readings, after which, once adopted and signed, it becomes effective 30 days after passage. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger pointed out that this particular ordinance is written with an effective date of May 1, 2026, in order to avoid changing rates in the middle of a month. The mayor further explained to Ms. Hain that anytime we do emergency legislation, it gets read just one time, by title only; then someone makes a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency; once the emergency is approved, someone makes a motion to adopt the legislation.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we received the 2026 mosquito spraying quote from NWO Control. He commented that it was \$219.84 per application in 2025, and this year it will be \$241.82 per application, a difference of \$21.98 per application. We usually do six applications per year: the first one a week before Memorial Day, another in June, two in July, and two in August. He reminded members that mosquito spraying is typically paid for through the community development grant we receive each year from Suburban Natural Gas. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the 2026 mosquito spraying quote from NWO Control. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we received Josh Heckerman's 2026 landscaping quote. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger commented that Josh simply made a photocopy of his 2025 quote and changed the date on it, so everything is the same as last year. The mayor read from the quote: mulching of city hall and Mehring Park, \$875 total; pruning of city hall, \$450; mowing of city hall, \$75/mow; mowing of Mehring Park, \$100/mow; mowing of Centennial Park, \$300/mow; mowing of Kellogg Road (the little triangle), \$35/mow; (all mowing prices include trimming, blowing, and mowing of property as needed); fall leaf cleanup at Mehring Park, \$300; fall leaf cleanup at city hall, \$150; spring stick and trash cleanup for all Village properties, \$225. The mayor reported that he also received a mowing quote from sixteen-year-old Grady Frank. His quote did not include mulching, which the mayor said he mentioned to Grady. His quote was as follows: mowing of Centennial Park, \$300/mow; mowing of hall, \$100/mow; mowing of Mehring Park, \$100/mow; mowing of Kellogg Road triangle, \$50/mow; brush pickup, as needed, \$25. The mayor said that Grady indicated that he would get back to him with a price on mulching, but that has not happened yet. Councilman Bergfeld asked if they need to show that they have insurance. The mayor replied that he did ask Grady about that and he said he would look into it. The mayor said he told Grady that having insurance would be a big selling point and an important consideration for Council, although he could not guarantee him anything. Councilwoman Mehring stated that she thought we should stay with who we have been using for mowing, since he does a good job, he is reliable, and he

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has been doing it for many years, whereas the teenage bidder has little experience. Mr. Bergfeld agreed that Council needs to take that into consideration, but he said he didn't think we should put it to a vote yet, until we see if Grady has insurance, which may be a cost he hasn't considered. The mayor said he would be happy to reach back out to Grady about a price for mulching and about insurance. Mr. Bergfeld said he was not too concerned about mulching because we will have a community serve day again. Councilman Smith said he was good with tabling the issue for now, to give Grady a chance to get his proposal in order before we make a final decision. Members agreed.

ZONING: Mayor Shanahan reported that he turned in a zoning permit for a 12- by 14-foot shed for Tyler Jones at 18705 Crom Street. The mayor said that Councilman Smith and he and Brad Hain went and chatted with Mr. Jones, who walked them through the yard and mentioned a couple of different plans, one of which was a two-car garage and one was a smaller shed. He ultimately decided to go with the 12- by 14-foot shed. The mayor told members that the reason they had Brad Hain join them in visiting Mr. Jones was that Mr. Hain is interested in accepting the zoning inspector position for the Village. The mayor said that he and Mr. Smith will work with Mr. Hain in transitioning over, but with Mr. Hain's background of building pole barns and having a knowledge of permitting and other things, he will be well-suited for the job. He told Mr. Hain that he would need to get with Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger to receive payroll paperwork and fraud reporting information required by the Auditor of State. Mr. Harnishfeger asked if Mr. Hain's appointment as zoning inspector needed to be voted on and what would be considered his starting date. The mayor responded that he thought the zoning person is appointed by the mayor. Former Zoning Inspector Johnson looked it up and verified that the mayor does appoint the zoning inspector. The mayor asked when would be the best starting date for Mr. Hain. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that a start date of March 1st would probably work best. The mayor commented that that would give us time to transition the paperwork and everything. He asked if Council had any opposition to March 1st as the beginning date for Brad Hain as zoning inspector. No opposition was voiced. The mayor told Mr. Hain that we would need to get a phone number and email address for him. He also told Mr. Hain that we publish the zoning inspector's phone number on the website, so people can see who to call directly about zoning issues. He advised Mr. Hain that, if people call him while he is at work, he can let the call go to voicemail and then get back to the caller later and set up a time to meet with them after work.

UTILITIES: Mayor Shanahan told Utilities Superintendent Johnson that we got our rate-study person set up and we qualified for a no-cost water-rate study. He said she reached out to Mr. Harnishfeger and himself with a list of what she needs to complete that study. He said he emailed her and asked for a little patience as Mr. Harnishfeger finishes up some end-of-year numbers and other items. He told Mr. Johnson that Mr. Harnishfeger may be asking him for some help in coming up with the information needed for the rate study. He commented that this will help us to fulfill last year's requirement from the EPA to have a rate study done. The mayor commented that this woman does not do electric rate studies, so, if we should decide we need an electric rate study at any time, we would need to either pay for it or find another company that does those at no cost.

Councilman Smith asked Mr. Johnson if he had talked with Bowling Green lately, especially concerning the tree limb by Thelma Wires' home that needs to be cut away from the electric lines, so Abe can then come out and finish working on the tree. Mr. Johnson answered that he had not talked with them lately. He commented that Mr. Harnishfeger called him today about a woman on Kellogg Road that reported a buzzing electric line on the poles, but he did not think it was anything important enough to call Bowling Green out on a holiday. He said he would get ahold of them tomorrow.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Mayor Shanahan reported that he had noticed that our white lines at stop signs are getting pretty faded, so we may want to get a quote to have them repainted, since it has been about three years since we previously had it done. He asked who we had do that. Councilman Smith recalled

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that it was done by Stipe It Up. After a brief discussion, it was decided that other striping, such as downtown and in front of the hall should be included in the quote. The mayor said he would send a note to Councilwoman Mackey to ask her to reach out to Stipe It Up for a quote when she gets back to town.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith commented that we need to get a sidewalk letter out before too long. He said he would dig out the letter we used previously. Mayor Shanahan added that it would be good to start getting quotes for sidewalk work.

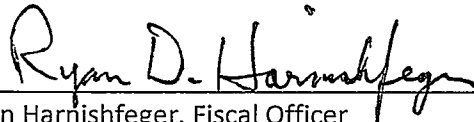
DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Brad Hain asked how long we are going to let the guy park his truck in the street on Main Street every night. Councilwoman Hain added that the guy lives in the motor home there. Councilman Smith commented that it is something we will have to have the deputies look at. Mayor Shanahan suggested that we can talk to him, since he is in our right of way. Then, if he doesn't comply, we can ask the deputy to stop by and talk to him. The mayor said we could talk to him tonight, if he is there. Mr. Smith agreed to help the mayor do so.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Matthew Shanahan, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer