

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

Council President Joan Hart called the regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council for the Borough of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, to order with a quorum of six members present at 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2010 in the council room of the John E. Dugan Fire Station Municipal Building, 28 Crafton Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

PLEDGE TO FLAG- The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was given by all present.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The following elected officials of the Borough of Wellsboro were present

Mayor James Daugherty

First Ward Council Member- Michael Wood

First Ward Council Member- Rudolf Scharf

First Ward Council President- Joan Hart

Second Ward Council Member- John Sticklin

Second Ward Council-Vice President- John E. Wheeler

Second Ward Council Member- Terry Bryant

APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

The following appointed officials of the Borough of Wellsboro were present

Superintendent of Public Works- Mark Dieffenbach

Superintendent of Water & Sewer Plants- Daniel Brought

Police Chief- Jim Bodine

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Stephens

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS: Brad Wilson, Ron Patt, Brian Meadows,

MINUTES- Council Member Wood stated on the minutes for December 28th page 2 under the Secretary/Treasurer's report the vote was 4 -1 to adopt the 2010 budget. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes for December 14th & December 28 2009 with the correction, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICER- Chief Bodine introduced the new police officer, Brad Wilson to the members of Borough Council.

VISITORS- Mr. Ron Patt requested the Borough Council address the problem with outdoor stoves and education the public on how to burn wood Secretary Stephens stated that they had contacted one resident who they had received complaints about and the resident had been burning seasoned wood and had it stored in the garage. Council President Hart informed Mr. Patt the next water/sewer bill has information on the back of

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

the bill informing the residents on how to store and burn seasoned wood. Council Member Bryant informed Mr. Patt that his committee had met with the resident on Mr. Patt's street and the stove spec's meet the requirements. Mr. Patt stated that adding 3' to the stovepipe would not help the problem. Mr. Patt stated they get the wind from the West and a down wind in the evenings is sending smoke downtown. Mr. Patt said the Borough Council has an obligation to the community. Council President Hart said the Borough couldn't afford to purchase new stoves. Mr. Patt said the Federal Government has stimulus money to buy new stoves and boilers. Mr. Patt said Borough Council should seek to get Federal funds with the assistance of Senator Scarneti and Representative Baker. Council Member Wood said he was all for residents using seasoned wood. He said residents in Wellsboro could not afford to heat their homes with natural gas. However he said he would never go for an ordinance for going into someone's home to enforce an ordinance. Mr. Patt said that his neighbor was trespassing in Mr. Patt's air space. Council Member Sticklin said he agreed with Council Member Wood about going into someone's home however if a stovepipe is not installed properly it does create a hazard. Mr. Patt suggested using the outdoor stove ordinance for indoor stoves. Mr. Meadows stated the regulations for indoor stoves are ineffective. Mr. Meadows said he had spoken with State representatives for Pennsylvania and they all say that it comes back to the local council. Mr. Meadow said looking at a stove tells nothing, it depends on the size of stove purchased and how it is operated, if it is too large for the area to be heated then they burn it choked down and that creates a problem.

MAYOR'S REPORT- No report will turn it over to Police Chief Bodine.

CHIEF OF POLICE- NEW TAHOE VEHICLE- Chief Bodine informed the Borough Council the new police vehicle is parked in the parking lot.

DURANGO VEHICLE 106- Chief Bodine informed the Borough Council the department had been approached by the Gaines Township with an offer to purchase the vehicle as a package for \$8,000.00, without the radios and V-spec. If the Borough sells to another municipality or township it does not need to get bids. The light bar, console and cages will remain in the vehicle for Gaines Township. The transfer will not take place until the Tahoe is in service.

Council Member Scharf asked what the value would be for the equipment that is included with the package to Gaines Township? Chief Bodine said the equipment and console would be approximately 75 to 100.00 and the light bar is near the end of its service life. Council Member Wood made a motion to accept the \$8,000.00 offer when the Tahoe is in service and to replenish the funds, seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0.

JUNK CAR ORDINANCE- Chief Bodine reported the officers are bringing in addresses and Chief Bodine is contacting the owners.

GRANT STREET PARKING ISSUE- Chief Bodine informed the Borough Council there are two concerns. The first is the EMTA bus will be going up to Lincoln Street and the

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

second concern is there are aides who need to deliver meals three times a day. Chief Bodine had said the aides could park on the street if unable to park in the driveway. Chief Bodine said the property owner should address the parking issue for the aides assisting the residents at that home. Council Member Scharf recommended the aides have a sign in the car window, so police would know who is driving the vehicle. Chief Bodine recommended continuing with the no parking signs so other cars would not be parking in the area. Council Member Sticklin asked how long the area could be posted with the temporary signs? Mayor Daugherty said the one resident has been running over the signs.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Borough Council the crew has not installed the fire line for the hospital that work will be done in the spring of 2010.

CREW- The crew has day lighted Morris Lane from Bryden Street to Dr. Wilson's driveway.

INSPECTION OF COMPOST AREA- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Borough Council the inspection went very well.

HYDRANT- The hydrant at the intersection of Waln & Bacon Streets was a 950 model and can no longer get parts to replace the hydrant. The cost of a new hydrant is \$3,699.00.

HIGHLAND/NICHOLS STREET SEWER LINE- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Borough Council the crew had installed a 180' gravity sewer line.

WATER RESERVIOR- Superintendent Dieffenbach said the crew had cleaned out the sediment basin at the water reservoir.

VEHICLE 956- The frame of Vehicle 956 has been sand blasted and has purchased a flat bed body for the vehicle. The crew has also been doing preventive maintenance on the other vehicles.

PACKER PARK PLAYGROUND- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Borough Council the crew has cleaned out the area behind Packer Park along the stream bank and took down trees and cleaned the stream out while the stream is frozen.

PUT VEHICLE 962 OUT FOR BID- Council Member Scharf made a motion to advertise the vehicle for bid, seconded by Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 6-0.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dan Brought reported the department has done routine testing at both the water and sewer plants.

HAMILTON PUMP STATION- Dan Brought informed the Borough Council they had done maintenance on one pump and recycled the bar screen and had Moss Machine Shop

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

make 12 pins for the screen. Superintendent Dieffenbach said that Steve Moss has done an excellent job. Council Member Scharf said he had attended the Wellsboro Municipal Authority meeting and the Borough has looked for a new water source and has yet do not have a new water source. He stated when the Borough uses water from Hamilton Lake it plugs up the sand filter. Superintendent Dieffenbach suggested he talk with the Borough Engineer S. Bray. Superintendent Dieffenbach said if the Borough were to remove the lake, as water source the Borough would not have enough water. Council Member Wood stated the problem is the lake needs to be dredged.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- UPDATE BUILDING MAINTENANCE CODE- Council President Hart informed the Borough Council that Chris Lantz's letter requested Council update the ordinance so when the code is updated the ordinance would be updated. Council Member Bryant requested Borough Council have more time to know what it involves. Council President Hart tabled the issue.

SOLICITOR'S COST- Council President Hart informed the Council the cost for Bob Cox is \$115.00 per hour, Chris Lantz \$95.00 per hour and no change in the cost for Bill Stokes or Scott Bray. Secretary Stephens informed the Council that at last week's meeting the motion was to accept if there were no changes in the cost. Council Member Scharf asked who determines who does the work? Council Member Wood said Mr. Cox handled the ordinances, Mr. Lantz does 95% of the Borough's work and Mr. Stokes does the research. Council Member Scharf requested the invoices be itemized by who did the work.

MECHANICAL TAX- Council Member Scharf asked what the members of Borough Council wanted to do about the mechanical device tax? Did the Council want to continue to keep the tax and receive the revenue or do away with the tax and remove it from the budget line item? Secretary Stephens suggested a list be created of state approved mechanical devices and a letter be sent to the businesses and ask the businesses to mark off the number of mechanical devices and sent in the payment for the tax. Council Member Bryant asked if the tax included pinball machines and pool tables? Council Member Sticklin stated the distributor pays the fee; there is no cost to the vendor. Council Member Scharf said he had paid the fee when he operated the mini golf course with the games, and had been charged \$50.00 per machine. Council President Hart recommended sending letters to each vendor and if they don't respond then send the police to the business. Council Member Wood said originally it was the police department who enforced the ordinance. Council Member Scharf made a motion to keep the ordinance and have it collected, seconded by Council Member Wood motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE- Council Member Wheeler informed the Council the borough had received a letter from the Dept. of Transportation on where signs needed to be posted. The signs could be on route 6 west at Cone Street, on route 287 north of Old Tioga Street, south on Route 287 between Sherman and Sturrock Streets and near the borough line on West Avenue. Mayor Daugherty said it would be a waste of borough money. Mayor Daugherty said the truckers would not use the retarders in the Penn DOT

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

designated areas, he said trucker's use the retarders to save wear and tear and the cost of replacing brakes. Chief Bodine recommended the Borough look into purchasing speed sentries, lighted devices that tell drivers the speed of their vehicle. Chief Bodine informed the Council his department has one and is for looking into getting grant money for the purchase of more, the cost for one is \$3,795. Council Member Bryant made a motion to install the signs, seconded by Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 4-2 Council Members Scharf and Wood voted against the motion.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- REOPEN THE BUDGET- Secretary Stephens explained the 2010 budget needs to have an additional \$6,215.00, added to a mowing category account 01.430.4451. Secretary Stephens informed the council this would have the General Fund revenue at \$3,874,805.99, expenses at \$3,857,704.61 with a net of \$17,101.38. Council Member Sticklin made the motion to approve the additional expense in the General Fund budget, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Secretary Stephens informed the Council of the items of interest on the Finance report.

PARKING METER REVENUE- Secretary Stephens asked if Council would consider using a portion of the revenue from the two municipal parking lots to maintain the sidewalks surrounding the parking lots? Council Member Bryant said he would prefer to keep the money to upgrade the meters in the parking lots. Council Member Scharf said the walk bridge at the intersection of Pearl Street and Waln looks really nice however the sidewalk around the parking lot needs to be repaired. Council Member Scharf said Whittle Landscaping had maintained the lots and sealed the parking lots last summer and he recommended the Borough request bids for maintenance once or twice a year for this coming year. Council Member Wood said the sidewalk does needs to be repaired however a catch basin needs to be installed so the water does not stay on the sidewalk. Council Member Sticklin told the members of Council, the Borough should maintain their sidewalks before they enforcing the sidewalk ordinance on the residents of the Borough. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to put the maintenance of the lots out for bid, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

APPROVE BILLS- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Member Bryant, and carried 6-0.

KUHARCHIK PROPOSAL FOR MAINTENACE ON TRAFFIC SIGNALS- Secretary Stephens informed the Council of the proposals that were part of the Council packet. Council Member Wood made a motion to accept the proposal for maintenance as recommended by the Superintendent, seconded by Council Member Bryant, motion carried 6-0.

AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the members as presented, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010**

FENCE ORDINANCE – TABLED

INSTALLATION OF NEW AND REMOVAL OF OLD LIGHTS APPARATUS ROOM- Council President Hart tabled the item until the Borough can get two more quotes.

ESTIMATE FOR GENERATOR- Secretary Stephens asked for Borough Council to appoint a committee to review the specs and give recommendation to Council. Council President Hart said that would be the General Government Committee, Council Members would be Rudolf Scharf, John Wheeler and Mike Wood.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 7:45-7:50 P.M. Borough council needs to address Safety issue.

MAINTENANCE ON GASLIGHTS- Council Member Sticklin asked whom the Borough would have to do the maintenance on the gaslights? Superintendent Dieffenbach stated the Borough has to have someone who is trained to work on the lights. He recommended the Council have a contract describing what is to be done. Council President Hart asked Secretary Stephens and Superintendent Dieffenbach create the contract.

SEWER RATE STRUCTURE- Council Member Scharf requested this be kept on the agenda for the 2011 budget.

JACKSON STREET WATER PRESSURE- Council Member Scharf asked what Council was going to do for the residents on upper Jackson Street with the low water pressure? Council Member Wood said the residents could either install a pump or drill a well. Council Member Bryant said that many homes in that area have pumps to maintain pressure.

INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS- Council Member Sticklin asked if the Borough could have some small article in the newspaper each month to keep the residents informed about what has or will be happening in the Borough? Council Member Wood recommended having a brochure to hand out in the office when people come in. Council Member Sticklin volunteered to be in charge of getting information to the paper in a section possibly called the Wellsboro Corner to keep the residents of Wellsboro informed on what has happened in the last month or what will be taking place in the coming month.

ADJOURNED 8:07 p.m.