

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 25, 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 25, 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

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Stephens

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS:

Ron Patt- 20 Highland Street

Steve Gee- 160 Decker St., Mansfield

Ed Grala- 19 E. Wellsboro St., Mansfield

Shawn Forrest- 19 E. Wellsboro St., Mansfield

VISITORS- UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE- Shawn Forrest thanked the Borough Council for the opportunity to explain the Uniform Construction Code program. Shawn explained that Mansfield Borough does not charge additional fees. The program is self-sufficient; the building fees collected pay for the program. Shawn Forrest informed the Borough Council the fee structure is enclosed in the council packet. The Mansfield Borough fees are competitive and do not go above State code with the exception of any local amendments which may have been made by a municipality. The fee is determined by the square footage and the construction. The permit fee includes all cost for the plan review, administrative fees, all inspections and the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The Borough of Wellsboro does not have to have their own appeals board. In the six years Mansfield Borough has been doing the permits for Wellsboro only two

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have gone to the appeals board. The Uniform Construction Code does allow a municipality to have more than one agency; however the code requires only one individual serve as the primary building code official for enforcement of the code and act as the administrator. There is a liability issue if one person does the inspections and another person is responsible for issuing the permit. Shawn Forrest informed the council he also serves on the Wellsboro HARB Committee. Council Member Wood stated that two or three month prior to this meeting, the Wellsboro Borough Council voted to relieve you of your duties and contract as of April. The Council voted to have Jake Ur step in as the building code official. Council Member Wood said the Borough has received complaints about your service. Council Member Wood said that Jake Ur should have been invited to this meeting. Shawn Forrest informed the Council he had included a list of permits for the past two years and could have other prior years if the Council would like to contact any of the residents he had issued permits to. Shawn Forrest said if he denies a plan he needs to write the violations and the reason for the application to be denied. Council Member Wood said that the Wellsboro Borough Council had voted to have Jay Ur. Council President Hart said she would turn the issue over to the Code Committee to make a recommendation to Council at the next meeting. Steve Gee from Mansfield said Mike Wood has said there are contractors who have complaints against Shawn Forrest; we can bring in many contractors who would highly recommend Shawn.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR YMCA IN MANSFIELD- Mr. Ed Grala explained the letter the Mansfield Borough has sent out to local municipalities for support of the project. The project should be a substantial program and funded by the YMCA in five years. At this time the building needs a new heating system, new windows and floors. He said Mansfield Borough first tried to find a partner and the second attempt is for other municipalities to join in the support. Council Member Scharf asked how the residents of Wellsboro would benefit? Mr. Grala said the YMCA would offer what programs the community wanted. It will possibly be opened this summer or early fall of 2010. Council Member Scharf asked what the total cost of the renovation would be? Mr. Grala said the cost for Phase 1 would be \$218,000.00. Council Member Wood asked if the Borough were to donate funds, what the cost would be to residents of Wellsboro? Mr. Grala said the YMCA has the same fee for everyone due to it being a STATE program.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Daugherty informed the Council the new police car is in Elmira being fitted at Brico, it should be completed and back in Wellsboro by next week.

VISITORS- Mr. Ron Patt said he had questions in letters he has sent to the Borough and would like to get to solve the problems created by residents not seasoning wood before burning it. Council President Hart said she had met with Chuck Dillon at Senator Scarneti's office and had requested the Public Safety Committee review the information and makes a recommendation to Borough Council. Council Member Bryant said the committee had met with Mr. Patt, Mr. Meadows and neighbors in the two areas. He said the Borough Council is continuing to educate the residents of Wellsboro on the proper storage of and the burning instructions. Council President Hart informed Mr. Patt the water/sewer bill for February will have information printed on the back side of the bill. Mr. Patt suggested the Council think about creating an ordinance for indoor stoves, he

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said there are some people who will not do it correctly unless there is an ordinance, which makes it necessary to burn properly. Council Member Bryant said he would make the recommendation of the committee to continue to educate the public as a motion for Council, seconded by Council Member Wood, motion carried 6-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- MUNICIPAL HEATING, COOLING SYTEM- Council Member Scharf informed the Council the Borough has received one quote for the system and asked if the Council would like Secretary Stephens to advertised for more quotes on replacing the municipal building heating cooling system? Council President Hart stated the quote included in the packet was for all of the borough buildings; the Council would only be looking at the portion, which pertains to the municipal building. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to get quotes to replace the boiler heating/cooling system for the municipal building, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

TAX COLLECTION AGENCY- Council Member Scharf asked what the Borough could do about the letter from the Tioga Tax Collection Committee invoice for \$2,800.00 for the collection for income tax revenue. Council Member Scharf stated all of the municipalities have already created the budgets for 2010. He stated the State has mandated every municipality go to this committee. Council Member Wood said the Borough needs to write a letter to Harrisburg and state that Wellsboro does not want to participate in this program. Council Member Wood made a motion to call Harrisburg and see if there is any alternative, seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0.

GRANTS- Council Member Scharf informed the Council he had spoken with Mr. Dillon at Senator Scarneti's office and there are grants from Homeland Security however it is administered by each state not the federal government. Council Member Scharf said the grants are for jails, fire stations, and municipal and emergency management buildings. Council Member Sticklin stated this building is considered a disaster center as well as a fire station and municipal building. Mayor Daugherty said there is money in the Johnstown Flood Tax account, which the borough should try for. Council Member Wood said the borough should apply for three grants one for the generator, one for the doors and the third for the solar system. Bryan Robinson said the Council should contact Dave Cohick, he said Dave's wife was hired to write grants for the county.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT- Superintenedent Dieffenbach reported the crew had done some water/sewer taps and was working on fabricating a machine which would roll up the hose. The crew is preparing for the pump test for 72 hours.

Dan Brought reported the crew would outfie the shed once it arrives; saving the Borough money. Once the first shed arrives and is in place would like to get another one for the Banik well.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- Secretary Stephens reported Westfield Borough has 40 meters, which Wellsboro could purchase for maintaining our present

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meters. Council Member Bryant said he would like the council to go to digital parking meters Council President Hart requested Council Member Wheeler the chairman of the parking committee review the information and give a recommendation to the Council. Council Member Bryant requested Mark Dieffenbach and Hershel Holsomback be part of the meeting.

NEGOTIATIONS SAVINGS- The amount for funding this account will be discussed mid-year.

DISPOSAL OF RECORDS & BROKEN FURNITURE- Secretary Stephens will present a list at next months meeting and will get the cost of a shredder.

MECHANICAL DEVICE TAX- Secretary Stephens said the letter would be in the mail this week.

BID FOR VEHICLE- Superintendent will get the information for the bid.

APPROVAL OF BILLS- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the bills for 1/13th and 1/20th, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

WELLSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST TO APPLY FOR GRANT FOR TIOGA STREET PROPERTY- Council Member Bryant made a motion to allow the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce to apply for grants to do work on the Borough property at Tioga Street, seconded by council Member Sticklin motion carried 6-0.

WELLSBORO ELECTRIC CO. POWER BREAKFAST- Will be held February 10th at 7:30 a.m. those attending will be Secretary Stephens, Council President Hart, Council Members Sticklin, Bryant, Scharf and Wood, also Mayor Daugherty and Mark Dieffenbach and Dan Brought.

ADJOURNED 7:10 p.m.