

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 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, October 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 Keck

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

Jenalz Tortorella – WETM 18 News

VISITORS:

Alan Goodhue - 49 Central Avenue

Kristina Gollwitzer – 41 Meade Street,

MINUTES- Council Member Wood said he had voted against the Charleston Street curbing. Secretary Keck explained the borough only received one bid and the borough was prepared to accept it upon the borough engineer's review and approval. She contacted the borough residents on Charleston Street and they were not able to do the project until spring. The Borough Superintendent contacted Lundy and they agreed to hold the project until the spring and would hold to his contract on the labor portion, however if the concrete price would go up he would like the Borough to accept the additional cost. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction; Council President Hart said the minutes stand approved.

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 11, 2010

MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Daugherty informed Council Trick or Treating would be held on Saturday, October 30th. The parade will be at 5:30 p.m. with trick or treating from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MONTANNA APBLANALP DAY- Mayor Daugherty said it appears the day was a major success. The event sold over 900 chicken halves. Mayor Daugherty said he delivered the framed proclamation to her today.

CHIEF OF POLICE - POLICE VEHICLE- Chief Bodine said the Tahoe is back in service and he has received the insurance check to pay for the expense.

REDUCTION OF SPEED ON MAIN STREET- Chief Bodine said he would be getting the speed instrument up in that location to get some speed information. Secretary Keck had written the letter to Penn DOT requesting the traffic study.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed Council that, due to the water emergency all vacations for the public works crew were frozen. A track hoe has been delivered to start the scraping. Dan's crew started pressure washing the liner as the first step in the procedure and the sand would begin arriving on Wednesday and stop over the weekend. We are paying by weight and the company is drying the sand so we won't be paying for water.

Superintendent Dieffenbach requested Council consider postponing clean-up week from October until further notice, due to the water plant operation needing the full crew. The solid waste crew will be able to pick up bagged leaves. The week of October 25th will see the resanding project approximately 2/3 complete. Council President Hart made a recommendation to postpone clean-up week until further notice.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dan Brought reported the machines are here and the sand delivery will begin. Council Member Bryant asked what the time line is to get the town off the boil order? Superintendent Dieffenbach said it is hard to predict as it is weather dependent. If the temperatures stay warm it would move along faster. Last time the process took 60 days due to cooler temperatures in October. The best case would be the end of November of the first part of December.

Alan Goodhue stated he was very upset and asked for an accurate estimate for the total cost. He said the sand cost is ½ million dollars and asked if there would be any fines imposed, and asked what the cost would be for the rental of equipment. Council Member Scharf said there is not an accurate figure at this time. Council Member Sticklin said there could be fines, however that is also unknown at this time. Before this problem began the borough had already purchased \$40,000.00 worth of sand. The Borough has been working on the water, and it is excellent water, however DEP has a certain required depth and the borough is working to maintain that depth.

Council Member Wood said the depth in the sand depends on if the sand is dry and fluffy or wet and compact. Council President Hart said the crew has been working diligently since the town went on boil to get off the boil order and the water concern is the

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 11, 2010

borough's first priority. Council Member Scharf said the problem is not the quality of the water; it's the quantity of sand in the filter.

Alan Goodhue asked how often DEP does inspections? Superintendent Dieffenbach said they could come anytime. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the borough has electronic machines, which monitor the water quality and the borough wasn't aware the permitted amount was 30". Council Member Sticklin said the gentleman was correct the borough must have a permit stating the amount of sand needed. Council Member Bryant asked when the system had been permitted? Superintendent Dieffenbach said the sand filter had been permitted in 1991.

Alan Goodhue asked if there were any other preventive measures the borough is unaware of? Council President Hart said there is nothing more she knows of. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the Borough Council and the Wellsboro Municipal Authority have worked the last five years on getting the cleanest water into the water plant, however the borough still has Lake Hamilton as a water source and that is less than acceptable water. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the last 4" of rain helped the Borough and we needed the moisture however the lake became cloudy and had to be turned off. Council Member Bryant said the crew does a daily water test and there is nothing wrong with the water; it's the sand level that is not deep enough.

Council President Hart said the borough is not saying the residents can drink the water. DEP has put a boil order on the drinking water due to the level of sand.

Alan Goodhue how the borough is going to pay for the expense? Council President Hart said the Council is looking into applying for a grant or a Pennvest loan or a line of credit to pay for the sand as its is being delivered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- PARKS COMMITTEE- Council Member Sticklin informed Council the plan is to resurface the tennis courts.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Scharf requested if anyone had any questions they could ask the Secretary.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR 9/29 & 10/6- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PARKING ORDINANCE- Council Member Bryant made a motion to adopt the parking ordinance at the next meeting, seconded by Council Member Sticklin. Council Member Scharf questioned the amount of the penalty on page 5 of 8 in section 11 being \$15.00. Council Member Bryant said it has been \$5.00 since the 1960's. Council President Hart said the fine is \$10.00 and a person has fourteen days to pay. She said a person would only pay \$15.00 if the ticket were not paid in the first fourteen days. Council Member Wood said the borough is penalizing people who put

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 11, 2010

money in the meters. Council President Hart asked for a vote on the motion, motion carried 5-1 Council Member Wood voted no.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- MUNICIPAL PAYMENT OPTION- Secretary Keck asked Council to consider having a debit/credit card payment option available in the borough. The Finance Committee had seen a demonstration on the program. She explained if the customer's bill was under \$60.00 a fee of \$1.50 would be paid by the customer, if the bill was over \$60.00 a 2.65% fee would be paid by the customer. This would provide another way for customers to be able to pay the water/sewer bills, fines & violations, or fees for permits. The Borough does get requests from customers to be able to pay their bills with either a debit/credit card. Secretary Keck requested Council review the information and could decide at a future meeting. There would be no fee to the borough for either the transactions or the program.

DESIGNATE SECRETARY AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER- Council Member Wood made a motion to appoint Secretary Keck as the administrative officer for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, seconded by Council Member Sticklin. Council President Hart called for a roll call vote. Council Member Scharf- Yes, Council Member Wood- Yes, Council President Hart- Yes, Council Member Wheeler- Yes, Council Member Sticklin- Yes, Council Member Bryant- Yes. Motion passed.

CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES PROPOSAL- Secretary Keck said the borough has received two proposals and could be budgeted into the 2011 budget. The second proposal from Penn Valley Publishers was \$6,000.00 less than the Keystone Publishers due to the fact that they had started the process a few years ago.

LETTER TO GLENN THOMPSON- Council President Hart recommended putting information in the letter explaining our current water problem. Council Member Scharf suggested the Council oppose the Chesapeake Bay proposal and that if the government is going to mandate it, the government should fund it.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION #6- Council Member Scharf informed Council the \$30,000.00 budgeted in account 01.354.3090 was coming from a grant which the borough did not receive for the restroom at Woodland Park. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to move \$30,000.00 from the PLGIT Recreation Capital Reserve account to the general fund budget.

TENNIS COURTS- Mayor Daugherty stated the foundations in the borough had agreed to pay part or all of the cost. Mayor Daugherty stated the school should pay a portion of the cost the tennis team uses the court 60% of the time and the former school superintendent said the school would pay \$10,000.00.

RESPONSE FROM THE WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY & BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS- Council Member Bryant said he wanted to make clear how both committees responded to the water emergency. The members on both committees met within two days and held an emergency meeting and agreed to borrow the money. They

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 11, 2010

acted prudently to solve the problem. At the same time we were borrowing the money we were on the phone with Pennvest and doing everything possible to secure grants for the money. The timeline for changing the sand is a process that is determined by the weather; warm days will help ripen the filter. Superintendent Dieffenbach stated the water table has never been lower.

Superintendent Dieffenbach said both the Wellsboro Municipal Authority and the Borough Council are both looking for another water source. Council Member Wood said one of the borough's water sources need to be dredged. He said the silt in Hamilton Lake should be cleared. Council Member Wood said ten years ago the silt displaces 25 million gallons of water, which is not there.

A resident asked how the residents pay for the water. If the same cost for 1,000 gallons or 10,000 gallons there is no incentive for the residents to conserve water. She recommended a discount if residents conserved water usage.

RECESSED 6:40 p.m. until 10/18th at 6:00 p.m.