

WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

OCTOBER 19, 2010

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wellsboro Municipal Authority was called to order by Chairman Robert DeCamp, in the Council Room of the John E. Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building on October 19, 2010. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ATTENDANCE: Municipal Authority Members: Robert DeCamp, Denny Young, Grant Cavanaugh and Tom Reindl. Council Members: Rudy Scharf, Joan Hart, and John Sticklin. Supervisors Mark Dieffenbach and Dan Brought. Engineer Scott Bray, Solicitor Bill Stokes Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Susan Keck and Water & Sewer Clerk Teresa Marshall.

VISITORS: Mary Worthington. Julie VanNess, Shawn Bryant, Brenda Galinac, Lynn Owlett, Josh from the Canyon Motel and Eric Jespersen.

MINUTES: The minutes from September 21, 2010 were approved as written. Grant Cavanaugh made the motion to accept and Denny Young 2nd. Passed. The Special Meeting of the Wellsboro Municipal Authority and the Borough Council on October 8, 2010 were also accepted. Grant Cavanaugh made the motion to accept and Denny Young 2nd.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: There was none.

SCOTT BRAY: The Slow Sand Filter # 1 is going along more quickly than he thought it would. They may begin filling tomorrow night. They are about three loads short of replacing the sand. It will then be leveled and then the filling process will begin. Slow Sand Filter # 2 is being drained and they are washing the liner as they go. They should start scraping next Wednesday and start the resanding process.

Scott received a letter from Seneca Resources on renewing their letter of intent to purchase effluent from the wastewater plant. They also sent a copy of a handling plan to avoid the truck traffic at the plant itself. He has looked at the plan and thinks that it is a good plan that they won't be bringing trucks right into the property.

Eric Jespersen, representing Seneca Resources, produced a larger map of the traffic flow plan. He had spoke with the Moose and Mr. Bastian on his proposed plan to come in on their properties. He has also spoken with Mary Worthington for the Grow property for access to their property. He also has talked to Sue Keck to make sure it was zoned for that purpose. Most of the Moose property belongs to Bastian.

BOB DECAMP: We have heard that the SBRC has entertained permitting of this kind of facility. He asked if they had plans of letter of intent.

SCOTT BRAY: We had two letters of intent – one from Seneca and one from East Resources. We also did an additional letter to East for raw water that has expired the first of this month. Both letters of intent have expired and we will need to obtain new letters of intent.

JOAN HART: Bob Cox has drafted the letters of intent already.

ERIC JESPERSON: We had met with Tom Body from the SRBC to get on the docket a couple of months ago. He told them that the SRBC now had the authority, because of a change last year, to assist in the administrative procedure to send the request off to DEP.

JOHN STICKLIN: He thought that DEP had to agree to the 10% first and then it was sent to the SRBC.

RUDY SCHARF: DEP has to agree how much water can be taken out. The SRBC can then agree to that.

ERIC JESPERSON: The SRBC's recommendation to Seneca was make application for water use and they would pass it off to DEP to determine quantity so that it wouldn't have an effect of Marsh Creek from a biological aspect. Those numbers aren't 100% clear. DEP knows what is coming out of Hamilton Lake and the wastewater plant every day.

RUDY SCHARF: They said to submit the request for a certain amount and then DEP could come back with what they could take out.

ERIC JESPERSON: In the same discussion last week, you can request a certain amount and if they deem that is too much they will come back with an alternative. It was an interesting discussion last week. We request a letter of agreement.

BOB DECAMP: We tried to do this before. Therefore, we should have the solicitor draw up the letters of intent for Seneca and East Resources. Bob Cox has e-mailed a copy to Scott Bray.

SCOTT BRAY: He has received this and the only thing he would like to add that the letter of intent be subject to, that if DEP decides that this will affect the discharge limits to the wastewater treatment, we have the right to say we don't want to do this. The reason would be, they may require us to increase our treatment process to do this, although he didn't think this would happen because there would be less discharge into the stream. Now that he knows DEP's a player, we need to be covered.

The letter of intent allows them to move forward to request the purchase of effluent water. If this is granted, then we would enter into an agreement with them.

ERIC JESPERSON: The SRBC wouldn't agree to it unless they know the Authority was all right with it. The agreement would cover all the costs.

BOB DECAMP: He asked if it was still the Authority's intent to sell effluent water for other uses. Grant stated that it was their intent.

A motion was made to agree to use sewer effluent water for other uses than just putting it into the stream. Grant Cavanaugh made the motion and Tom Reindl 2nd. Passed.

A motion to have the letters of intent formalized. Grant made the motion and Ron 2nd. Passed.

The gas companies will make the request to the SRBC and DEP with the letter of intent.

ERICK JESPERSON: Once a source is approved for one company then the other companies can take advantage of that. Scott suggested that we send two different letters of intent, one to each company.

SCOTT BRAY: He had met with East Resources back in September. They had reiterated that they would help us in finding new water sources and pay for the services of a hydro-geologist. He has attached a draft request for proposal in the packet. If this is acceptable, he would go forward and seek out proposals from hydro-geologists and present them for the next meeting. They hydro-geologist would become familiar with the system and have a plan of attack with the SRBC and DEP. Bob DeCamp stated that we have to go forward. We have to have a hydro-geologist or we will be spinning our wheels forever, Scott will send the request out. He has a list of contacts that he will send to.

BOB DECAMP: The proposal is to do what? We should explain what we are asking for.

SCOTT BRAY: Initially to bring in a hydro-geologist to become familiar with the system that we have, what we have done and where we are at this point in time. The next step would be to meet with the SBRC and discuss those factors. One of the things that we have is that if we go forward with the permitting of the Keck Well, we open up the grandfathering of the other wells in Brownlea and that would be expensive and time consuming. One of the things that we would look to do is, if we could get that held in advance while we are looking for alternative ground water sources. We would try and look at an alternate source in another location that would probably ultimately become the primary source. Bob DeCamp stated that the purpose of the hydro-geologist is to plan for the expansion of other water supply for the system. Grant also commented, that we need to get away from surface water and more into ground water.

RUDY SCHARF: He asked what was going on with the Keck well?

SCOTT BRAY: We have to look at this as an overall strategy. The Keck well needs to be a part of something and not just the primary. That is what we are hoping to take to

SRBC and talk to them about that in conjunction with other things and develop that plan to move forward.

BOB DECAMP: You were asking about the Keck Well. It is necessary to meet with the SRBC to discuss what Scott said, asking if they could do something with it in the meantime if we agree to future action. This future action could be the re-permitting of the other wells or taking it off and finding another source. We really need to find another source of water. If we find another source that we could combine the Keck Well or find another area where we could put three to four wells on, it would be great. We would alleviate the problems we have in September and October. Rudy then asked how much the Keck well will give us. The answer was 250 gallons a minute. He then asked if that wouldn't it help alleviate the problems we are having with the slow sand filter.

BOB DECAMP: In the meantime, he didn't have any doubt that it would but we have to get an agreement from the SRBC.

SCOTT BRAY: If we were to go in with an application now for just the Keck will we would have to permit all the wells in the Brownlea area. It has to be a part of a concerted plan to include the Keck well in other things that we are doing. We have to get the SRBC to agree to move forward with this to bring the Keck well on line along with the other things and get away from surface water. We have been trying to do this for ten years.

RUDY SCHARF: He feels that the citizens are asking what is going on? As officials, we need to know what is going on.

TOM REINDLE: What Scott is trying to say, we need to develop a comprehensive plan to get out of some of the problems we are having.

SCOTT BRAY: We need a hydro-geologist that is on our side and has the experience with the SRBC and has the contacts to move forward. We will have the proposals in for the November meeting. We will meet with the hydro-geologist that is selected and move forward from there. We need to hire someone and lean on his or her expertise to say how we should move forward.

BOB DECAMP: We have an offer from a large gas company to pay for the hydro-geologist.

JOHN STICKLIN: Those people know where the water sources are, how plentiful and how deep to drill the wells. That is where we need to start.

BOB DECAMP: He asked for a motion to move forward on the proposal. Tom Reindl made the motion and Grant 2nd.

BILLS:	WATER:	Cox, Stokes & Lantz	\$1,308.76
		Larson Design	\$1,417.08
		William Bray	\$ 520.00

	TOTAL	\$ 3,245.84
SEWER:	Cox, Stokes & Lantz	\$ 623.44
	Larson Design	<u>\$1,490.11</u>
	TOTAL	\$2,113.55

Grant Cavanaugh made the motion to pay the bills and Denny Young 2nd. Passed.

SHAWN BRYANT: Wellsboro Hotel Co. They run the Penn Wells Hotel, Penn Wells Lodge, the Arcadia and 1905 at Dunham's. We have been trouble getting accurate information on the water situation. As of yesterday, the Department of Agriculture, because of the slow sand filter failure over the weekend, has stated that there is a serious public health hazard. We are not using the dishwasher and have had to hire another person to do the dishes. We are boiling water. So far, we have spent \$1,831 on soda, water and ice and that just scratches the surface. He also included his time and his wife Ellen's time trying to figure out what to do instead of seeing to their business during tourist time. Lost sales. We spent the month of September remodeling the coffee shop only to tell people we can't serve coffee. They are also investing \$4 million for a new addition and remodeling for the Lodge.

He appreciated the challenges the Board faces but it doesn't give him any comfort that next year that they won't be doing the same thing ie. Boil Order. They have been told in writing that there is not any filtration system that they can use to filter out everything. They are also looking at a long term plan to move forward toward the next foliage season.

LYNN OWLETT: Lynn lives on Waln Street. There a number of Borough's that have water and have to abide to the same rules that you have to abide by and they don't seem to have the same trouble. He would like to know the factors involved that causes this.

BOB DECAMP: The Wellsboro Municipal Authority is not a working Authority. We are a leasing Authority. We cover the financing of the water and sewer systems. In turn, to guarantee our payments, we lease back to the Borough of Wellsboro so that we can do planning in finding other water sources. Our problem is that we get rock water from Brownlea. The water is taken out of wells, goes into pipes into streams into the collection system. Sometimes we take water from Hamilton Lake that is less than desirable. Many years ago the Authority looked for alternate sources and we finally found one and have been trying to put that well on-line. All of our wells have been permitted by DEP. In the time that we were looking for other sources of water, there have been changes and the SRBC has become empowered to do things that the DEP did.

When we get ready to permit the Keck well, water that doesn't have to be treated, we find that we have a problem that to permit the well we have a domino effect to permit the wells we all ready have. That is why we are trying to get another hydro-geologist. He

can't speak to other issues because we are not a working commission, he can't call them up to ask what they are doing. That is up to the Borough Council.

LYNN OWLETT: He fully agreed with what they were doing as far as the water supply is concerned. This is causing a lot of damage and he could hardly think of anyone who wasn't highly affected by it. Things happen, but there are practices to safeguard to prevent them. It seems that it is happening too often.

BOB DECAMP: The Borough Council is working with the Borough Employees to solve the problem and have been adding the sand necessary to prevent this from happening again. Sometimes a filter will fail. The filter is really a gravel pile covered with sand. There is a series of gravel that gets finer after each level and then it was covered with sand. This prevents micro-biological organisms from getting in. We signed \$500,000 in debt to bring in sand. The amount of sand should take care of us until we find another source of water.

LYNN OWLETT: Training and rules can help prevent this.

BOB DECAMP: It's not perfect. A sand filter can fail even if there is enough sand in it. It could develop a hole.

SCOTT BRAY: The dryer it gets, the more we have to use the lake water, the more of a layer there is to scrap off. This is why we are trying to get away from Hamilton Lake. Bob Decamp stated that it is costly to run the system. Mark & Dan are trying to do a good job in getting the sand in.

TOM REINDL: Osram Sylvania has some water treatment equipment. They have portable equipment available if we were interested.

SCOTT BRAY: The question would be if we could get it on line quick enough.

BOB DECAMP: No one person has the right idea that is why there are several of us. We are trying to do our best.

SCOTT BRAY: They need to get the proposals in and review for the next meeting or have a special meeting to discuss.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Teresa Marshall
