

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 22, 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 five members present at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 22, 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

APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

The following appointed officials of the Borough of Wellsboro were present

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

VISITORS:

HARB Chairman- Robert Williams
Wellsboro Plaza Representative- Linda West
John Coleman- Caulkins Lane

HARB REPORT- 63 MAIN STREET SIGN- HARB Chairman Bob Williams asked for the help of Borough Council. Mr. Williams explained a gentleman came to the October HARB meeting and the application was incomplete and did not explain what they wanted to do. Requested he return to the November meeting, however he was unable to attend. He did meet with Mr. Williams at a later date when Mr. Williams explained the sign he wanted to install over Penn Oak Realty would need to be 8' above the sidewalk. Mr. Williams told Borough Council the hanging sign, would have wording on both sides and the size of the sign is 25" long and 14" wide so the sign will need to be mounted 10' above and the sidewalk and should be on a Victorian bracket. Mr. Williams asked the Borough Council to write a letter of approval and inform the applicant of these two requirements that the sign hang 8' above the sidewalk and have a Victorian bracket. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council

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Member Scharf motion carried 5-0. Mr. Williams said he would call the applicant tomorrow and request he stop in the office and see Secretary Keck.

Mr. Williams informed the member of council he would be resigning from the HARB Committee as of the end of December he will withdraw from the chair and the HARB Committee. He said he would make the announcement to the committee on December 14th. Council Member Wheeler thanked Mr. Williams for his years of service on the committee. Secretary Keck stated she had been at the first round table meeting to form the HARB Committee and when Mr. Williams was asked to serve as the chairman. Secretary Keck said Mr. Williams had really done a lot of work on the HARB Committee.

NORTHEAST KEYSTONE PROPERTIES- Linda Williams informed the Council she was presenting the Guthrie project at the Wellsboro Plaza project. Secretary Keck said this is the next phase to get more business into the plaza. Secretary Keck explained it would be in the location of the former Dollar Bazaar, Craft Fair and CPO2. Secretary Keck said this would be a large expansion for Guthrie, they will be adding on more doctors and more services at this location. Secretary Keck informed the Council the plan had been approved at all of the levels it needs to and it joins Charleston Township and the Borough. Secretary Keck said the County Planner and the Borough Engineer have approved the plan. She stated the Borough Engineer recommended the Borough keep part of the sales agreement on file, which details the shared services of the project. Linda West said she would take the plans to the Tioga County Court House and file the plan tomorrow. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 5-0.

CHIEF OF POLICE- Chief Bodine informed the Borough he had a long conversation with the programmer for GPS programs for this area. The programmer will indicate that Jackson Street is a one-way street and no truck traffic is permitted. Chief Bodine said the borough has experienced a lot of fire hydrant damage due to trucks making improper turns to the Osram plant. Chief Bodine said he had a long conversation with the programmer concerning streets in Wellsboro, from north of the borough south.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- CLEAN-UP WEEK-Dan Brought informed Borough Council last week was clean-up week and there were no major problems.

CHRISTMAS TREES & WREATHS- Dan Brought reported the crew has been putting up the Christmas trees and wreaths today.

WATER SUPPLY- Dan Brought reported the town has a good supply of water at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Scharf reported the proposed budget is available. Council Member Scharf said the Finance committee worked hard on the budget and stated Secretary Keck has the General Fund and Scott Bray is reviewing the Water & Sewer budgets.

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SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Wheeler made a motion to approve the bills for 11/10th – 11/17th, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- 2011 BUDGET INCREASE- Secretary Keck explained the Borough is responsible for all of the administrative expenses for the Wellsboro Municipal Authority. These expenses would include engineering and solicitor fees for the Authority. Secretary Keck explained the borough expenses for utilities, wages, and benefits are increasing. Secretary Keck said all revenue and expenses have been funded for the next year. Secretary Keck said the Finance Committee is hoping Borough Council could see the need for a 25 mil increase, this would mean for a homeowner with a \$150,000.00 home the increase would be \$37.50 and a home of \$100,000.00 it would be \$25.00. Council Member Scharf stated the budget has a 3% increase in wages and a 5% increase employee benefits. Council Member Scharf said the borough couldn't go backwards the borough needs to go forward. Secretary Keck said some good news is many properties are talking of developing. Council Member Wood said the members of Council would need to take a serious look as the line items on the budget. Council Member Wood said he was not in favor of a tax increase with a water and sewer increase. Council Member Wood said residents on a fixed income could not afford it. Council Member Wood said the borough has never gone backwards and the Borough Council needs to care for the general community. Secretary Keck asked any council member who had a recommendation to cut expenses to please get with the Finance Committee within the next week. Secretary Keck said the budget has to be posted and advertised for 10 days, which would be the week of December 15th if it were to be adopted by December 29th.

TENNIS COURT & BABY POOL- Council Member Scharf said the improvement at Packer Park would be \$60,000.00 for the tennis court and \$15,000.00 for the baby pool.

CHAMBER/GROW MEETING- Secretary Keck informed the Council the meeting would be a breakfast on December 6th at 7:30 a.m.; the speaker will be the former governor Tom Ridge.

MAIN STREET/ WEST AVENUE SPEED LIMIT- Penn DOT has agreed to reduce the speed from Lincoln Street to Stickley on West Avenue to 25' M.P.H. Council Member Wheeler said the borough would need to have a sign stating the lower speed ahead. Secretary Keck said she would write a thank you note for the traffic study and keeping the town safe.

EAST RESOURCES- Secretary Keck has requested all of the invoices be sent to them, they know our water system and willing to support our water system.

APPOINT GeoSERVICES, Ltd. As Hydro- Council President Hart informed the Council this firm has no connection with the drilling companies. Council Member Scharf said this company is highly recommended. Council Member Scharf made a motion to appoint GeoSERVICES, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 5-0.

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ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES- Secretary Keck said the minutes were included in council packet and includes a spec list from Warren Berg for the 2011 grant money.

ADJOURNED- 6:40 p.m.