

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
DECEMBER 13, 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, December 13, 2010 in the Council Meeting 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

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 Water & Sewer Plants- Daniel Brought

Police Chief- Jim Bodine

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Keck

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS:

Mike Oscamp, Mr. Stallone, John Coleman, Lee Talbot, EQT

Lee Talbot: An independent contractor representing Equitable Production or EQT Production, is requesting to be on the property of the Municipal Water Authority and to do a feasibility study to allow access for a gas line pipeline right of way. The solicitor had recommended he appear before the Council and Municipal Authority. Mr. Wood would be in favor of a small right of way access. He could probably agree to that. Mr. Talbot agreed that a small right of way would be appropriate. Mr. Wood recommended the engineer and Borough people could work together to look at this. Mr. Talbot said maybe a 25 foot right of way for the Tennessee Gas transmission line. There would be a one-time fee that could be negotiated. Mrs. Hart recommended the Authority be consulted. The Engineer, our Superintendent, and Plant Supervisor could go to view the area with a member of Council. It was decided that no decision would be made until the Authority had been consulted.

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CHIEF OF POLICE- Chief Bodine reported the Dickens large turnout had less congestion problems this year. Parking continues to be an issue. He thanked the Wellsboro Morris, and Middlebury Fire departments for the excellent assistance.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dickens went without a hitch as the Chief said. The Garbage truck experienced some packer problems, but the parts are getting manufactured now and are expecting it to be back up and operating by the end of the week. NTSWA has loaned us a truck while ours is being repaired

COMMITTEE REPORTS- RECREATION

Council Member Sticklin reported news of commitment from the Foundations each for \$15,000 for New Reslip Tennis courts down at Packer Park. There is another commitment we are hoping will come through, the Borough committed 60,000 in its budget, and the school committed 10,000. So altogether nearly \$130,000 for this project.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Scharf said the 2011 budget was ready for advertising. It calls for a ¼ mill increase in taxes throughout the Borough; though the Borough still won't recoup all the expenses incurred in wages, health and hospitalization, and pension increases.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- Would ask Council to consider advertising the 2011 Budget with total revenues of \$3,996,791.74 and Total Expenses of \$3,971,929.79. Council Member Scharf made the motion to advertise the 2011 budget as presented; in General fund, with an increase of ¼ mill, will end up with a plus balance of \$11,462.11, with a 3% increase in the sewer rate, a plus balance of \$318.96 and a 3% increase in the water rate, a plus of \$13,080.88. This motion was seconded by Council Member Bryant. The motion carried 5-1, with Council Member Wood against.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Secretary Keck asked if any Council Member had any comments on the Finance Committee report. One action she asked to be considered is a flat fee for the faxing and emailing of ordinances, sign permits and fence permits. The administrative time could be reimbursed to the Borough in that manner. The Solicitor's office has commented that would be reasonable. This motion was made by Council Member Sticklin, seconded by Council Member Wood. The motion carried 5-1.

As a future project for consideration; we've discussed the idea of providing an auxiliary parking at the Charleston Street Ball Field for town events, and improving a walkway along Charleston Street. Council Member Sticklin pointed out that the ball field was in use much of the year and that there were better alternatives available; the Fairgrounds, for instance, has room for 500 or more cars.

We added in the Municipal Authority administrative expenses into the 2011 Water and Sewer budget because it is our obligation to pay those expenses.

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Approval of number 1 and number 3 of the Finance Committee Report Bills of 11/23, 12/1, and 12/8, was approved by motion of Terry Bryant, seconded by Council Member Wood, carried 6-0.

Regarding the King Street Bridge project, the Reimbursement Agreement has been received; we'll need to pass a Resolution giving signature authority to our Council President to sign the Reimbursement Agreement.

1. This reimbursement provides the terms for payment of the costs of \$8,000 toward preliminary engineering for a total engineering cost of \$160,000.
2. It provides for \$4,000 toward final design for a total final design cost of \$80,000.
3. It provides for \$2,000 toward Right-of-Way costs for a total Right-of-Way cost of \$40,000.
4. It provides for \$27,500 toward Construction for a total Construction cost of \$550,000.
5. It provides \$1,200 toward the Cost Sharing costs for a total of \$24,000.00
6. The Borough total is then \$42,700.00 out of a total cost of \$854,000.00
7. This signature authority was approved by motion of Council Member Scharf, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, carried 6-0.

Jay Erbs' notice on the new sprinkler requirement is an important reminder to prospective homeowners. This will require new residential construction to have a sprinkler system. We had opposed this by letter at the state level and it could still be overturned.

Secretary Keck presented the state model ordinance for Floodplain management. The State has mandated updating all of the existing ordinances to current standards, so the County Conservation District has been assisting in this by holding seminars and providing updates and comparisons to existing ordinances. We could simply insert the new language to comply with current state guidelines. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to insert the new language and begin preparations to adopt the updated ordinance. This was seconded by Council Member Bryant and carried 6-0.

Surveyor Duane Wetmore did a comparison between the 1989 FEMA mapping and the current FEMA mapping and found no significant changes.

Regarding the Water Loan and PennVest funding; if we are going to apply to PennVest to repay the Sand LOC we must apply within 180 days of the November 23, 2010 letter. Given the notification of the DEP Safe Water Grant award, Council and the Authority may have to meet on this subject to decide the proper course to take.

It was agreed the Borough will again contribute \$500.00 to GROW.

Kevin Stallone, of Sherwood Street, voiced his concerns about a water flow coming from the back of his property and the cemetery property. This creates a slip hazard on the sidewalk and an icy patch on the street. The neighboring property owners put in a drain

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system over 20 years ago and it is thought that it is failing. It might need to be roto-rootered again. The Sidewalk ordinance says the sidewalks must be clear.

If the Borough put a connector pipe under the sidewalk, the property owners could connect to it . It would have to be done as a summer project. Dan Brought was asked to look at the depth and placement of the storm sewer on Sherwood to see if the idea was feasible.

ADJOURNED 6:49 P.M.