

WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2010

Ed Owlett presided over the Wellsboro Municipal Authority meeting held on March 16, 2010 in the Council Room of the John E. Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE: Municipal Authority members: Dennison Young, Grant Cavanaugh, Ron Gontarz, Ed Owlett, Council Members Terry Bryant and Joan Hart, Engineer: Scott Bray, Superintendent of Public Works: Mark Dieffenbach, Superintendent of the water & sewer plants: Dan Brought, Solicitor William Stokes, Secretary/Treasurer Susan Stephens, Planning Commission Member Lou Prevost.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved with a correction on page 2 of the February 26, 2010 minutes where reference was made to what should be 250 Gallons Per Minute vice 250,000 Gallons Per Minute. This motion was made by Grant Cavanaugh, seconded by Denny Young and carried 4-0.

Solicitor Billy Stokes asked for an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Scott Bray reported receiving information from Miles that there were 2 varieties of sand; the Borough obtained a sample and one has been sent to CNT labs. This will be compared to DEP filter sand specifications. It would be nice if it matched our needs and we could ship the sand in by rail. DEP granted permission to re-sand the slow sand filter. The ferric chloride building is on the wall at the sewer plant. Electric should be hooked up any day now: this is progressing. Last month, Scott mentioned the filament problem: it is settling. We made adjustments and sent sample of the filament to identify. If we add chlorine it will kill the filament. Last month, we recommended sampling for the sources: got a list sent over and will look at 7-9 different constituents per source. It will be \$15 a pop for constituents and so \$200.00 per source.

Mark: shouldn't we be grabbing samples if we know there's activity in the area?

Terry: An attorney he knows is testing his water and it doesn't hurt to have it on record.

So we could do a test at the spring runoff, summer, and fall seasons with testing = of approximately \$200.00 a source for 8 sources. If we do this every quarter it will establish base line information. Then we'll see if there's a difference in samples and compare to see if quarterly is enough or if semi-annually would be better.

Ed: We could have you go ahead subject to Scott's review and begin this testing.

~~Scott: It could be done before the next meeting.~~

Lou: It would be prudent, given the active drilling and the consequences of a spill or error, and the amount of time between a spill and the problem it creates. Drilling will only increase.

Mark: We drop 2 sources in the summer.

Ron: Let's get base line testing (April- August- establish 6 months of trend) and take a round of samples.

Scott: There is no drilling nearby at this time: that would answer question for now. A motion to authorize starting with sampling on present permitted sources was made by Grant, seconded by Ron and passed 4-0.

At the next meeting Scott will give recommendations.

Terry posed a question; 'if someone has property along water line and has a place big enough for trucks, can that someone sell finished water?'

Scott answered: 'Not without permitting through S.R.B.C. One can't create a cottage industry. But an absolute answer? Scott didn't know. If that someone were a business, yes. But if the sold water ends up in an oil or gas company, one would have to have approval from S.R.B.C. Then we go back to our wells and test. Generally, if you take water, you have to put it back in aquifer. Drop one to an oil or gas company comes under scrutiny of the S.R.B.C. and then the whole system comes under scrutiny.

Are we S.R.B.C. approved? (We aren't) We are grandfathered.

How do we handle that, an amendment to the ordinance? Does our ordinance prohibit that? We should check. The S.R.B.C. may say they have jurisdiction and they may call the whole system to task when we ask the question. Then the S.R.B.C. answers "we have control over the water". We need to protect ourselves, maybe update the ordinance. This would require council action.

Ed: We should recommend to council to update the ordinance.

Scott: Blossburg is going to either have discussion with S.R.B.C. or individual who wants to sell water. If we sell to oil and gas, the concern is, will it end up under S.R.B.C.? The gas people know the rules. They take it out of the streams and they account to the S.R.B.C for that. If not accounted for, it raises S.R.B.C. concerns. Anyone would have to have S.R.B.C. approval. A volume of water couldn't get through S.R.B.C. Allocations are permitted, metered, and paid for and they have to show uses and locations. It has to balance amount of water taken.

**Bills**

\$1,227,50 Sewer

\$20,603.61 Water

Moody - \$13, 600.68

\$7,002.93

Motion to transfer money to pay bills made by Denny, seconded by Ron, and carried.

Sue was asked to get Dates from Alan to set up meeting.

Scott: The steps in Alan's e-mail say that Bob Cox should complete his review and comment to Alan, then set-up a meeting. Appoint a committee with 2 members each from Wellsboro Municipal Authority and Borough Council.

Joan will appoint 2 Wellsboro Borough Council to the committee and it will be Ed and Bob DeCamp from Wellsboro Municipal Authority.

### **Other Business**

Scott: The Keck Well pump test was completed on Thursday, 11 March with a pump rate of 249 gallons per minute. The well drew down 11.5 feet. The monitoring wells dropped just a small amount. We didn't know what the impact would be. Now we'll be waiting for results of the battery of tests and the Moody report. The sand screen at the bottom of well inhibited or restricted the well pumping. If there were no sand screen, it would really be more (gpm). Most of the water in valley's are smelly and chewy, but not here.

Lou: Asked to address and review questions that were surfaced at the high school, gave out some information he had brought titled: Gas well operators in Tioga County. To the Borough Council and Wellsboro Municipal Authority: the EPA publishes water reports: small Boroughs can send these in. The Borough should do this. It would create more awareness and elevate concern. County commissioners should set up a network to protect the county. The Borough should suggest this to the commissioners; get support from the county to protect residents of the county and support well owners by helping with protection.

Scott: Has some concerns with giving too much information that isn't asked for or required by our regulatory agencies.

Lou: We should be distributing to these folks.

Go into Executive Session: 4:45 P.M.

Out of Executive Session 4:55 P.M.

Authority Member Gontarz made a motion to ratify actions of the Chairman to execute and sign responsive pleadings regarding a pending Lawsuit. Denny Young seconded, carried 4-0.

Motion to authorize officials to execute a certain agreement was made by Grant Cavanaugh, seconded by Ron Gontarz, carried 4-0.

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Motion to authorize distribution for signatures and Resolution for Scott to provide certain information was made by Grant, seconded by Ron.

PMAA support may be needed at the local level. We need to ask these questions of the PMAA: Scott Bray will contact PMAA and ask:

Are others having these problems?

Are you ready to engage?

Are you aware of problems? (With S.R.B.C.)

ADJOURN