

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MARCH 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 six members present at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 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

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

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Stephens

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

**PRESS:**

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

**VISITORS:**

Ron Patt -20 Highland Street, Katherine Berkowitz & Elizabeth Berkowitz – 99 West Avenue, Kevin & Jenny Connelly -152 Main Street, John Coleman – Calkins Lane

**HARB RECOMMENDATION-** Secretary Stephens informed Council that Bob Williams was unable to attend the meeting however had delivered the plans with the recommendation for approval of the new sign at the former West End Market on Main Street. Secretary Stephens passed out a drawing of the sign for Council to view the finished product. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the sign, seconded by Council Member Bryant: motion carried 6-0. Council Member Bryant thanked the Connelly's for being active in the community and informed the Council that Kevin has expressed an interest is serving on a committee for the Borough.

**SEVERANCE TAX ON NATURAL GAS-** Elizabeth Berkowitz informed Council she was representing a citizen's group concerned about natural gas drilling in Tioga County. The group is in support of a tax and had read the Borough has a resolution against a tax. Council President Hart stated the resolution opposing a severance tax on natural gas was from the Tioga County Association of Borough's organization and the Borough Council would not be voting for or against the tax at this evenings meeting. The Council can make any changes to the resolution. The Tioga County Association is asking each

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borough to review the resolution, make changes if they want to and then send it into the State Association. The resolution is for no tax until the wells are started then there will be a tax. Elizabeth Berkowitz said if the Council has questions on this issue the group she is with has done extensive research and could present the information to the Borough Council. Council Member Wood said he would be interested in hearing both sides on this topic. Katherine Berkowitz said the group was not against gas drilling, just interested and has concerns about the community. Kevin Connelly said he travels for his company and the roadways are being severely damaged by the trucks for the drilling. Council President Hart said Senator Scarnati is working to get funds for this area. Elizabeth Berkowitz asked how the borough would prove damage to the streets? Council Member Bryant suggested the council hold a workshop session. Council Member Sticklin said he understood the State would collect the tax and determine where the funds would be distributed.

WOOD SMOKE- Council President Hart informed Mr. Patt the council is still working to educate the public and the new water/sewer bill will have information on the proper use of wood burning.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT-**  
Secretary Stephens informed Council there were five items on page one requiring Council action:

1. Recommend approval of bills dated 3/10/10
2. Recommend approval of Steve Whittle's bid for maintaining the parking lots twice a year to trim, spray, preen and clean both lots, and to spray both lots once a month for seven months. The proposal is for \$1,700.00 and would be paid from the Parking Capital Reserve account 3647208.
3. A. Recommend Council appoint First Heritage Credit Union as a Borough banking organization.  
B. Approve establishing 24 month CD's at the rate of 2% at First Heritage as follows and send PLGIT balances from the same account names.

Sewer Jet Vac	\$82,216.11
Garbage Truck	\$16,192.47
Accumulated Sick Leave	\$35,367.53

C. Authorize transfer Sewer Jet Vac line item 06.490.4100 in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the Garbage Truck line item 01.492.4727 in the amount of \$5,000.00 to accounts of the same name at First Heritage.
4. Authorize Secretary Stephens to get written quotes from Parente Beard and J.H. Williams and Co. for 2 years of audit services, establishing deadlines for Audit Report Completion.
5. Authorize Borough Solicitor & Engineer to prepare rate adjustment ordinance. This increase would offset the unbudgeted Osram credit and provide some additional revenue in the Sewer Fund. The increase would bring approximately \$30,000.00 more into the Sewer budget a year. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve all five items listed above, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

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POSTIVE NOTES: Secretary Stephens informed Council that:

1. Apparatus Room lighting is on Kevin Borden's schedule
2. Envinity will be in the second week of April
3. New copier will arrive on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
4. Material bids will be going out this week.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM- Council Member Scharf asked how the program was coming? Council Member Bryant stated Ackley's had come in with a bid of \$5.50 a square foot. Secretary Stephens said she had sent the information to the residents involved with Charleston Streets' proposal. Council Member Scharf requested the sidewalk program information be included some month on the back of the water/sewer bills. Council Member Wood said all of the sidewalk information should be given to the Solicitor to review before putting it out to the public.

TEMPORARY DEANE CENTER SIGN- Secretary Stephens informed Council the Deane Center has requested permission to install a temporary sign to direct people to the theatre on Central Avenue. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the sign, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

SPRING CLEAN-UP- Secretary Stephens informed Council that Mark Dieffenbach had recommended the community Wide Yard Sale be April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> with the clean-up week to be the following week of April 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the dates, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

ADOPT PA. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR CONSULTATION SELECTION- Secretary Stephens informed the Council the bidding procedure for a federal program has changed and requires the borough to do the advertising and to select the top three firms, then select the top firm and give the information to Penn DOT. Council Member Bryant stated this is a federal highway and the Borough will incur the cost of the advertising and administrative duties. Secretary Stephens said the funding will be the same as the Central Avenue Bridge, 85% will be paid by the Federal agency, 5% by the State and 5% by the Borough. The advertising cost will not be part of the 5%. Secretary Stephens informed the Council the design phase would be in November 2010, the formal design would be November 2011- 2012 and the construction phase would be spring of 2013. Secretary Stephens said the Council has budgeted \$5,000.00 for the project in 2010. Council Member Bryant made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT – Secretary Stephens said the second step would be a motion to advertise so the bids would be in time for the May Council meeting. Council Member Bryant made a motion to authorize the advertisement, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried. 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- MEADE STREET COMPOST- Council Member Wheeler informed the Council his committee had met with Mark Dieffenbach and would recommend the Council make a motion to take bids to sell the chips as is and have a time

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table to have area cleared out at the Meade Street lot. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

**THANK-YOU LETTER-** Council Member Wood requested the Council send a letter to the TOPS Company for keeping the store open and keeping the employees employed.

**BED TAX-** Council Member Scharf stated the town has a bed tax, which is collected by the county commissioner's. Council Member Scharf requested Council contact the Borough Solicitor's about the borough receiving a part of this tax for the infrastructure of the town. Council Member made a motion to contact the Solicitor, seconded by Council Member Scharf. Council Member Wood recommended the Secretary contact the PSAB on this concern before going to the Solicitor.

**WELL TEST RESULTS-** Council Member Wood asked what the well test results had been? Council President Hart stated the test had been completed and the results should be in on April 15<sup>th</sup>, in time for the Wellsboro Municipal Authority's meeting.

**ADJOURNED: 6:45 p.m.**