

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MARCH 8, 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 8, 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  
Superintendent of Public Works- Mark Dieffenbach  
Superintendent of Water & Sewer Plants- Daniel Brought  
Police Chief- Jim Bodine  
Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Stephens  
Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

**PRESS:**

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy  
Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

**VISITORS:**

John Coleman  
Ron Patt

**MINUTES-** Council President Hart stated the new building code inspector's name should be Jay Erb. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Council Member Bryant.

**CHIEF OF POLICE- WATER STREET/CENTRAL AVENUE BRIDGE-** Chief Bodine reported there have been complaints of people driving too fast around the corner since the stop sign at this intersection has been removed. The concern is, with school children walking down from the Middle School, there could be an accident. Superintendent Dieffenbach said he would need to order a special bracket with a breakaway assembly before he could install a stop sign.

**TRAFFIC LIGHT EAST AVENUE/GRANT STREET-** Chief Bodine asked that the Borough contact Penn DOT to request a left turn signal on the traffic signal. With school

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traffic and the additional truck traffic the intersection has become more dangerous. Council Member Bryant recommended they consult with an engineer and also requested there be no left turns at the Pearl Street/East Avenue intersection. Council Member Scharf asked what the Northern Tier traffic study had recommended? Council Member Wood said he agreed with everything except the no left turns onto East Avenue, at the Pearl Street intersection. Council Member Bryant said there would be a bigger problem once the bank is opened in that block. Council Member Wood said the problem then would be the Walnut Street intersection. Superintendent Dieffenbach sated he has blown-up photos of each intersection and Mr. Beiry would need information from him concerning the intersection. Council Member Bryant made a motion to proceed with the East Avenue/Grant Street left turn signal at this time and wait until the Bank is constructed on the Pearl Street right turn-only, seconded by Council Member Wheeler: motion carried 6-0.

**VEHICLE FIRES-** Chief Bodine informed the Council the department is in the initial stages of the investigation however Chief Bodine said they are taking pre-cautionary measures within the borough.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- WELL SITE-** Superintendent Dieffenbach informed Council the 72-hour pump test started at 2:15 p.m. today and will be completed on Thursday. DEP will be here at 10a.m. on Thursday for the 2-hour test sample pulling.

**BRAKE RETARDER SIGNS-** Superintendent Dieffenbach reported these signs are all installed.

**CREW REPORT-** Superintendent Dieffenbach informed Council the crew had repaired several water and sewer leaks. Also had worked on vehicle 962 and repaired other equipment.

**PARK PLACE-** The catch basin for Park Place has arrived and will be installed.

**PEARL ST./WALN STREET BRIDGE & SIDEWALK-** Superintendent Dieffenbach reported the bridge components are in. The crew will also be doing the sidewalk from the Pearl Street Bridge to the Pearl Street Shop Building.

**STREETS IN BOROUGH-** Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council the township supervisors are noting rutting in the highways due to the large truck traffic. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the Borough should do everything possible to protect our streets.

**PLANT SUPERVISOR- MANN WELL-** Dan Brought reported the well had been pulled and put back in service. He reported all wells are up and running.

**SEWER SLUDGE-** Dan Brought reported one load of sludge has been done and is being tested.

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**HAMILTON LAKE MOTOR-** The cost for the new motor is \$3,495.00. Dan Brought informed the Council they have received the new motor and it should save the Borough electricity. They plan to save the old motor to use as a spare.

**TIOGA STREET LAUNDROMAT METER-** The new meter will be located behind the building and will be easily accessible. The Borough Council needs to approve the \$500.00 payment from Luckenbill for his portion of the cost of the new meter. The total cost will be \$1,634.39. The Borough will need to pay \$1,134.39. Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the arrangement, seconded by Council Member Wheeler; motion carried 6-0.

**WATER METERS-** Superintendent Dieffenbach reported to complete the upgrade of the water meters he will need 12 more for a total cost of \$1,267, at a cost of \$105.00 each. With this, the Borough will have seven or eight used meters on the shelf. Council Member Wood asked if the townships had automatic reads? Superintendent Dieffenbach said yes and the time for reading went from three hours down to approximately ½ hour. The next area to be done will be the former Acorn Market at Kelsey Street up to L.G. Lane. Superintendent Dieffenbach recommended the Borough purchase 15 to 20 meters each year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-** Council Member Sticklin reported he had spoken with Eric Warriner from Osram and it was agreed the Borough over charged Osram in 2009. He stated the Borough should reimburse them \$6,000.00. Secretary Stephens stated the budget had not included this. Council Member Sticklin stated that Osram would have their people keep the rags out of the sewer line, and Dan Brought was asked to keep checking to make sure this is being complied with. Council Member Wheeler made a motion to deduct \$2,000.00 from the sewer bill for three months, seconded by Council Member Wood motion, carried 6-0.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE-** Council Member Sticklin informed Council that the hospital has a list of community activities and programs which they include in their employment packet. Council Member Scharf recommended the Borough have the same to hand out to people signing up for water in the Borough.

**MEETING WITH JAY ERB-** Council Member Wood requested Secretary Stephens set up a meeting with Jay Erb within the next two weeks to meet with Council.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- FINANCE COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1 Apparatus Room Lighting is in at Denney Electric; The recommendation is to pay this invoice of \$3,934.00 from the PLGIT account 3647046 Fire Station Municipal Bldg., and the invoice for \$4,500.00 from Kevin Borden, when job is completed, from the General Fund line item 01.409.4450.

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2. GRANT COMMITTEE- Envinity has a total cost of \$14,300.00; since this is a professional service no bidding is required. The recommendation is to pay \$4,500.00 from General Fund line item \$01.400.4600 and \$9,800.00 from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve account 3647046. Council Member Scharf suggested if the Council award the energy audit to Envinity, then Council should appoint either Scott Bray or John Rathmell to oversee the project. Council President Hart said the Council should have a workshop with Mr. Rathmell. Council Member Wood said Envinity should notify the Grants Committee Chairperson of each step of the project.

3. WATER METER TO COMPLETE UPGRADE- the recommendation is to transfer \$3000.000 from 06.420.4370 to account 06.423.4370.

4. PURCHASE OF COPIER- Council Member Wood informed the Council he had attended the meeting with the representative from Phillips, the Borough would save over \$6,000.00 going through state bid. The representative will come up and train the three employees on the different options available and the new copier will be able to store often used documents for the general public. The Finance Committee recommends the Borough purchase the new unit to save interest and fees for leasing the unit. Secretary Stephens informed Council not only does the new copier store often use documents it also can be used to fax documents, so the office will no longer need the fax machine.

Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve items 1, 2 3 & 4, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0. The purchase of the copier is to be paid a third from each of the Rainy Day Funds. General Rainy Day Fund account 3647292 for \$2,421.66, Water Rainy Day Fund account 3647253 for \$2,421.66 and Sewer Rainy Day Fund account 36347266 for \$2,421.68. The old copier is to be put out for bid.

PARKING METERS- Council Member Bryant requested that Hershel Holsomback be included in the meeting concerning the purchase of new parking meters.

MUNICIPAL RECORDS – The shredding of the old records has been completed, 35 boxes at a cost of \$7.00 per box.

FISCHLER STREET FUNDS- Secretary Stephens reported the money should be in by the end of the week. It should be \$53,000.00 to \$55,000.00,

BLUDE RIDGE CABLE –The check was \$2,000.00 more than budgeted and it arrived this morning.

SIDEWALK BIDS FOR CHARLESTON STREET- Secretary Stephens reported two bids had come in. Ackley's for \$5.50 a square foot. The second from Benton PA., at \$6.50 a square foot.

APPROVE BILLS- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the payments, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

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SHORT PROPERTY ON TIOGA STREET- Secretary Stephens reported that Mark Dieffenbach and she met with the Beautification Committee Chairman, Gary Mosher and Electric, Phone and Cable Companies, and Bob Williams. At this meeting, the recommendation was made to keep the utility poles as is and have the project enhance the bridge, add lights and a welcome sign, and landscaping. Due to the heavy traffic on Tioga Street the recommendation was made not include a park area with benches.

CHAMBER REQUEST FOR STPR EVENT- Chief Bodine recommended the Borough talk to the residents on Charles Street. He said he would meet with the Chamber and report back to the Council. Mark Dieffenbach requested a meeting with Chief Bodine and the Chamber concerning ordering some signage for this event. Council President Hart appointed the Public Safety Committee to meet with Chief Bodine and Superintendent Dieffenbach and discuss this.

HAMILTON LAKE EASEMENT RIGHT OVER 2.09 ACRE PROPERTY- Council President Hart stated the agreement states this area is a flood plain and is to remain same and be kept as Borough-owned property. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to sign the agreement, seconded by Council Member Wood motion carried 6-0.

FENCE ORDINANCE- Council Member Bryant made a motion to do away with the fence ordinance, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 4-2, with Council Member Sticklin and Council Member Wood voting NO. Council Member Sticklin said the ordinance should be kept in the file so that it could be pulled out again, if needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 7:30-7:45 p.m. Council President Hart stated it was a police personnel issue. At the end of the Session Council Member Sticklin made a motion to hire Tom Young as a part-time police officer, seconded by Council Member Wheeler; motion carried 6-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

AT&T TOWER- Council Member Wood requested the Council look into the status of the tower.

PERMITTING WATER FOR GAS WELLS- Superintendent Dieffenbach said the Borough has to get by the next pump test before doing anything. Council Member Wood said the Borough should sell water from the sewer plant. Secretary Stephens said the Borough would need to obtain permits from the SRBC for that. Council Member Scharf asked if we could sell water from Hamilton Lake? Superintendent Dieffenbach said the work needs to be done on the well and then we need to obtain the permits. The Borough needs to contact our local representatives and find out where the applications are and if they are held up in Harrisburg.

**ADJOURNED- 7:57 p.m.**