

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
APRIL 12, 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, April 12, 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

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:

Dave Merwine-77Main Street, Jay Hixon-no address, Ron Patt-20 Highland Street, Jeff Himes-89 Main Street, John Coleman-367 Kelly Road, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Colton-Fischler Street, Dante Cimorelli-no address, Stephen & Nancy Bickham- 120 Fischer Street.

MINUTES- Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes for March 8th and March 22nd as presented, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, and carried 6-0.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS: PARKING PASS REQUEST- Mr. Hixon informed the Council he had owned the Timeless Destination for ten years and has come to Council to request a new parking metering system in the Pearl Street lot. He said there are 46 meters in the lot and only 2 are more than 2-hour meters and 9 of the meters are currently broken. On Crafton Street there are 11 meters and all are two-hour meters. On Waln Street there are 14 meters, which are two-hour meters. He would recommend having a parking pass for a year for a \$100.00, or at least have parking meters which have a five or

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ten hour time period. Council President Hart said the Council is looking at getting new meters. Council member Bryant stated the Council has a problem which is all of the meters cannot be 10 hour meters or the customers would never be able to find a place to park, however there needs to be some system which works for employees. He stated customers need a shorter time so there would be a turnover of cars in the lot. Council Member Bryant said the business people know which meters are broken, and have looked at card reader systems for some of the meters. Council Member Bryant said some meters could be more time for a quarter.

Council Member Wood said the Council had looked at parking passes in the past and found there was a legal issue, due to the parking lots being public properties. Council Member Wood said that a card swipe system might not work in the wintertime due to the freezing temperatures. Council Member Bryant recommended having a few more meters which have a longer time period. Jay Hixon said he has six or seven employees each day and also a delivery driver who is in and out constantly. Council President Hart said if each business had designated meters there would be none left for the customers and the retail businesses would have a problem.

DANGERS OF WOOD SMOKE- Ron Patt said Council had said the back of the water/sewer bills would have the dangers of wood smoke and this last bill did not have any information on it. Secretary Stephens informed the council the prior month more bills had the information then were needed for the monthly billing so this month those bills were mailed out with some new bills not having the information. Secretary Stephens said the water/sewer bills would each month have information to the residents some would be about the dangers of wood smoke however other information for the public would be included on the bills.

FISCHLER STREET CURBS- Mr. Colton informed Council that he had used the borough's curb forms when he constructed curbing on Fischler Street at his former home at his own expense. He stated he would like to have curbing at his other lots on both sides of Mary Lou Deane's home. Mr. Colton stated there would be no cost to the borough. Council Member Sticklin stated that Mr. Colton would need to put the curbs in the way the borough wanted curbing installed. Council President Hart requested the Highway Committee meet with Mr. Colton on the request.

VOLUNTEERED SERVICES- Mr. Dante Cimmerolli informed the council that he has retired and would be willing to serve on any committee for the Council.

NO PROHIBITION ON GAS WELLS- Mr. Steve Bickham said he was a retired philosophy professor from Mansfield University and was surprised to learn there was no prohibition of gas well drilling within the borough. Mayor Daugherty said it required 300' from any residence. Mr. Bickham requested the Council take some action to prevent this from happening within the borough. Council President Hart said the Borough Council is working on what the borough can do to protect the residents of Wellsboro.

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MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Daugherty informed the Council this would be a busy summer for the police department with the additional truck & equipment traffic and the department has training for the officers.

CHIEF OF POLICE- Chief Bodine informed the Council the department is still working on the car arson cases.

Penn State training – Chief Bodine informed the Council, he had returned from the training for 80 hours with very good information and knowledge from the training.

WEST AVENUE/MAIN STREET SPEED LIMIT- Council President Hart said the residents on West Avenue and Main Street had requested the speed be reduced to 25 m.p.h. Council Member Bryant said Council would need to consult with the traffic engineer for Penn DOT out of the Montoursville office, to check the traffic. Council Member Scharf said that Montoursville has a 25 m.p.h. speed and that is also a stated highway.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- PARKING LOT- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council that Hershel Holsomback is doing a good job on collecting the parking meter money and also keeping up on the repairs of the parking meters. Superintendent Dieffenbach said his department has received information on other types of parking meters and one is being keyed and sent to the borough as a sample of what would be available. Council Member Sticklin stated one block up Waln Street would be free parking however the employees don't want to have to walk a block to get to work. Chief Bodine recommended the Council consider a centralized machine for the parking lots where employees or customers could buy the time they needed. Mayor Daugherty stated the meters are short term for the customers. Chief Bodine said if the borough were to get long-term meters the residents living in the apartments above the businesses would park there. Superintendent Dieffenbach said Hershel Holsomback and Donald Knowlton had straightened all of the meter posts. Council President Hart asked if a community service group could paint the posts? Secretary Stephens said there might be a Boy or Girl Scout group that would take on the project.

CREW PROJECTS- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council the crew had been working on installing inlets around town and Don Knowlton had the street sweeper around town.

GRANT STREET SEWER LINE- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council there is a sewer problem. There is a problem under the traffic signal at the intersection of Central Avenue and Grant Street; the crew had been digging today to verify the 12" sanitary line.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dan Brought reported they are draining sand filter # 1 and pressure washing the liner.

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SEWER PLANT- The crew is working on cleaning the tanks and making sludge. Dan Brought informed the Council he is gathering more information for Envinity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Scharf informed the Council the information is included in the folder. He said the committee has done a good job, hiring the firm and gathering information for the energy audit. Council Member Bryant stated Envinity has been hired to do the energy audit and is reviewing all of the borough buildings, so the borough will have the information needed to apply for grants.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE- Council Member Wheeler asked Superintendent Dieffenbach if he wanted to advertise for tar & chip?

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- GRANTS CD- Secretary Stephens asked for Borough Council's approval to establish a GRANTS CD at First Heritage Credit Union with \$20,000.00 from the following three accounts, General Rainy Day Fund, Water Rainy Day Fund and Sewer Rainy Day Fund, Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the new account, seconded by Council Member Wood, motion carried 6-0.

PAYMENT OF 4-CONTRIBUTIONS- Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the recommendation to pay the four non-governmental contributions of \$500.00 each to GROW, TCDC, EMTA & GREEN FREE LIBRARY, seconded by Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR MARCH 23rd, 31st and APRIL 7th- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0. Council Member Scharf thanked all of the borough supervisors for watching their budgets.

DEANE CENTER TEMPORARY SIGN- Secretary Stephens informed the Council the Middle School students had created a mural to be painted on the front of the Former Davis Furniture Store front while the Deane Center is under construction. Secretary Stephens passed out the design for the Council to review. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0. Council Member Wood stated it was a good design, however he voiced concerns that someone may want to deface it and recommended they keep it up to standard.

GANNETT FLEMING PUBLIC OFFICIAL BRIEFING- Secretary Stephens informed the Council of a public meeting with a public officials meeting on April 20th starting at 5:30 p.m. for public officials with the general public from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. this will be held at the Wellsboro High School auditorium.

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UPPER PINE CREEK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REQUEST- Secretary
Stephens informed the Council the Pine Creek Council requesting the Borough Council
writes letters to the State Senator and Representatives

ADJOURNED