

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

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, May 10, 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

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

### **PRESS:**

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

### **VISITORS:**

Lou Prevost

Gus Vargas

John Coleman

**PLANNING COMMISSION CONCERNS-** Lou Prevost informed the Council that he had been asked by the Planning Commission to be the spokesperson for the Planning Commission concerning drilling in and around Wellsboro. He informed the Council the first page in the packet contains the recommendations from the Planning Commission for the Borough Council to consider.

1. Add mineral Extraction to the Schedule of Uses as a Condition use in The Rural Residential Zone.
2. Add Mineral Extraction to the list of Conditional Uses in Section 2.2.3.
3. Add the following definition of minerals from the Municipal Planning Code, to the list of definitions in the Ordinance.

**"MINERALS,"** any aggregate or mass of mineral matter, whether or not coherent. The term includes, but is not limited to, limestone and dolomite, sand and gravel, rock and

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

stone, earth, fill, slag, iron ore, vermiculite, and clay, anthracite and bituminous coal, coal refuse, peat and crude oil and natural gas.

Mr. Prevost said the second page was concerning the Source Water Protection Plan and stated the steering committee did a good job at the time; however the plan should be updated due to the current Marcellus drilling activity. He referred the Council to the enclosed ordinances from York and Bucks County.

Mr. Prevost then recommended the Council consider having a meeting with Advantage Engineers from Mechanicsburg Pa. He stated this firm could act as a consultant to the Borough and this firm would be unbiased and objective. Mr. Prevost stated he attended the town meeting in January, and said he was not sure that Moody & Associates can be an objective firm.

Mr. Prevost stated he has spoken with Tracy Mausteller at Penn DOT, she is the Road Pavement Manager for this district and she loves the ambiance of Wellsboro. Mr. Prevost asked the Council to keep the truck traffic off the Main Street of Wellsboro.

Mr. Prevost said the Planning Commission members are in favor of drilling; however have concerns for protecting Wellsboro and the water source. He requested a task force be created with members of the Council, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission and Chamber of Commerce.

Council President Hart said the Borough has ordinances which protect the water source and the Borough is testing the water. She said the Council would need time to read and review all of the material which Mr. Prevost handed out. Council Member Bryant asked if Mr. Prevost had any range of the cost to have the Advantage firm as a consultant. Mr. Prevost stated there would be no charge to meet with the members of the borough council to explain what they could do. He stated they were highly recommended as an unbiased company.

Mr. Prevost stated with the current drilling out near the Wellsboro water source the Council needs to protect the water supply. Council President Hart stated the Borough Engineer does a good job on keeping up to date on new laws and procedures which need to be updated. Council Member Wood said the Council had several things to look at, he said he would want to hear every side and would like to hear from the drilling companies. Council Member Wood said the drilling companies will be in this area and we need to work with them. Mr. Prevost stated the ambiance of Wellsboro is being threatened with the truck traffic. Council Member Wood said he would never want a by-pass around Wellsboro, he said towns which have by-passes have been killed by the by-pass.

Gus Vargas said the traffic has not slowed down on Central Avenue. Chief Bodine said the speed sensor device has been set up between the borough line and Adrian Lane. Chief Bodine said the department is looking into purchasing more speed sensor devices. Gus Vargas stated the police departments in New Jersey paid and off duty officer his overtime rate just to work at stopping speeders and the fines paid for the officer's overtime rate.

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Chief Bodine explained the department has a device that will log the speed of vehicles. Council Member Scharf said the police department is doing a good job on addressing the issue. Mr. Prevost stated there are two issues: one is the truck traffic and the second is to keep the drinking water safe. Council President Hart said the council would table the issues until the next meeting.

**REQUEST TO CLOSE CENTRAL AVENUE FROM WATER STREET TO MAIN STREET-** Marge Wetherbee requested the block be closed for a block party as a fund raiser for Relay for Life. Mayor Daugherty said this would require Secretary Stephens sending a request to Penn DOT. Police Chief Bodine said there would be no problem for his department. Chief Bodine requested once the Borough gets notification from Penn DOT they notify the Mayor. Council President Hart said this would be tabled until the Borough can contact Penn DOT.

**MAYOR'S REPORT-** Mayor Daugherty informed Council the Police Department will be entering the busiest time of the year for the department, with all of the special events during the summer months.

Mayor Daugherty thanked the Borough Council for allowing the Mayor and Council President Hart to attend the PSAB Conference in Pittsburgh. He informed Council that Wellsboro received the Bridge of the Year Award for the Central Avenue Bridge over Kelsey Creek.

Mayor Daugherty informed the Council, Pittsburgh is doing various events and is taking over the parking garages and has started a program with the revenue from the parking garages to give high school graduates \$10,000.00 for a four year college education.

Mayor Daugherty informed the Council there are two local girls up for scholarships, at the Mayor's Association being held in State College on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**CHIEF OF POLICE-** Chief Bodine informed Council the department is gearing up for the upcoming special events.

**TRAINING-** Chief Bodine stated the Civil Service training had been very informative.

**TRUCK TRAFFIC-** Chief Bodine explained to Council, due to the bridge being repaired on route 6 East near Penn College the truck traffic is being routed down Grant Street to Route 287.

**SPEED SENSOR SIGNS-** Chief Bodine explained the new signs would be solar powered and be in the school zones. He stated after school time the sign would be moved down to the Packer Park location. The signs can have vehicle count, log time and speed of vehicles; this will also show when the highest volume of traffic is occurring.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-** Superintendent Dieffenbach requested a change in the April minutes. He stated the crew was trying to get the depth information

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

at the Grant Street intersection, for the hospital for the waste water collection line at the hospital.

Superintendent Dieffenbach said the crew has detected and fixed five water leaks.

**FOUR TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS-** Superintendent Dieffenbach recommended having Scott Bray gather the information and have it stored on Scott Bray's computer and then he would be able to forward the information to Penn DOT.

**STREET PAINTING-** Superintendent Dieffenbach stated A1 has begun the street painting. Mayor Daugherty said he has had some problems painting due to the water trucks run 24/7.

**FIRST CITIZENS BANK -** Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council the bank will pay for and have three lamps between Walnut and Pearl Street and will raise the pedestals.

**COMPOST OFFER-** Superintendent Dieffenbach said there had been no bids for the compost; however he had received a good offer to have the piles removed with no cost to the Borough. This will save the Borough \$3,000.00 by not having to hire NTSWA and will not need to have it pushed off, the contractor will take the mulch and remove it. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to have Superintendent Dieffenbach proceed with the offer, seconded by Council Member Wood, carried 6-0. Council Member Scharf asked if the Borough should charge a fee for dumping at the compost site.

**PLANT SUPERVISOR-** Dan Brought told Council that Sand Filter 2 is drained, scraped, washed and will be back on line tomorrow May 11<sup>th</sup>. The chemicals will also be here tomorrow.

**SEWER PLANT-** The crew has cleaned three of the four tanks.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-** Council Member Sticklin reported that the Stream Restoration Project report has been done by Scott Bray. Superintendent Dieffenbach requested the Council have a meeting with Scott Bray to review the report. Council Member Scharf stated since the report is completed the Council should try and get grant money for the project. Council Member Sticklin stated the Public Safety Committee can get the facts and present the information to the Borough Council.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE-** Council Member Scharf reported the Finance Committee has proposed a sewer rate adjustment. Council Member Sticklin made a recommendation to table the request until there is more time to review the request.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR 4/28<sup>th</sup>, 4/30<sup>th</sup> & 5/24<sup>th</sup>-** Council Member Scharf made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 6-0.

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHAMBER REQUEST CLASSIC CAR STREET CLOSING- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the request for the last Saturday of May, June, July and August from noon to 3 p.m., seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO REPLACE & UPDATE ORDINANCE 615 – Council President Hart asked to have this tabled until Council has more information.

CONSIDER SENIOR PROJECT TO HOLD YOUTH CYCLING RACE- Chief Bodine stated this would be held before the Pet Parade and would involve having the state highway closed for a longer time period. Chief Bodine said he appreciated the senior getting involved with the community and it would be a good idea, if it could be at a different location. Council Member Bryant asked if it could be held on Water Street. Council Member Sticklin made a recommendation for Chief Bodine and the Street Committee to meet and made a recommendation for another route.

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT /LOAN PROGRAM- Council President Hart requested Superintendent Dieffenbach review the program and give Council a report.

NORTH CENTRAL SEWER AGENCY- Council President Hart recommended the Borough write a letter of support to continue the program. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to write a letter, seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0.

Penn DOT LETTERS- Council President Hart tabled this for the evening. Council Member Scharf recommended this be turned over to the borough engineer, Scott Bray.

BOROUGH OF MANSFIELD CODES AGREEMENT PROPOSAL- This issue is turned over the Council Member Scharf's committee to make a recommendation to Borough Council.

CONSIDER GAS LIGHT PAINTING- Council Member Sticklin asked if this could be a senior project. Mayor Daugherty said there has been a problem in the past with students being on the street. Council Member Scharf said this has been budgeted for, he recommended hiring someone. Council President Hart said Council does not have enough information this evening this will be discussed at the next Council meeting. Council Member Sticklin requested Secretary Stephens get quotes and talk to Charlie Griscavage.

WALN STREET NO PARKING BOTH SIDES- Council President Hart stated some of the business employee's park on the street. Council Member Wheeler suggested the residents be polled for their recommendations and suggestions. Chief Bodine said it is a local problem with the volume of traffic. He stated there are other areas with the same problem such as Pearl Street. Council Member Bryant said parking is a problem, he stated first Council recommends employees working in the borough park and walk to

## REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

their place of employment and then Council takes parking off the streets. Mayor Daugherty said there needs to be a parking garage in the Borough. Council Member Wood recommended this issue be turned over to the Highway Committee for their recommendation. Council Member Wood stated a parking garage has a base minimum cost of one million dollars per floor. He stated this issue had been discussed several years ago. Council Member Bryant said once the Deane Center is opened that will create more parking problems. Council Member Wood said the hospital has their parking solved by using the annex parking lot. Council Member Wood recommended the parking Authority review the parking in the two municipal lots and also behind the senior center.

REQUEST FOR WATER BILL REDUCTION - Council Member Sticklin said the Borough has a past practice of forgiving the sewer portion.

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR KING STREET BRIDGE- Superintendent Dieffenbach stated there were two bids and recommended the Street Committee review both proposals and details of bids and report back to Council. The bridge is to be replaced in 2012 with 80% Federal, 15% State and 5% Local match.

**ADJOURNED 7:20 p.m.**