

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 28, 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, June 28, 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

Police Chief- Jim Bodine

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Keck

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS:

Lee Talbot, EQT Gathering, LLC

WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY LAND RIGH-OF-WAY- Mr. Talbot informed the council that EQT Gathering of Pennsylvania, LLC formally request permission to enter land owned by Wellsboro Municipal Authority to conduct a feasibility study concerning installation of an 8" natural gas pipeline. Mr. Talbot said he knew the plan would need to be presented to the Wellsboro Municipal Authority. He stated, at this time he would like permission to do a feasibility study with the Borough Engineer. If permission were granted they would install an 8" underground pipeline. Secretary Keck said she had spoken with both the Borough Solicitor and the Borough Engineer and they had both recommended Mr. Talbot speak with members of the Borough Council as well as members of the Municipal Authority. Council Member Wood stated he was in favor of the project; however he asked what size of right of way they were requesting? Council Member Wood said he was in favor of the smallest size possible; a large four-lane highway is not necessary. Mr. Talbot stated they would agree to the size the Wellsboro Municipal Authority and the Borough Council agreed with. Mr. Talbot said they could do just the size of the pipe however they would need the rights to go on the Municipal Authority's land to maintain and operate the pipeline safely.

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 28, 2010**

Council Member Wood said the Borough Engineer and the Borough people need to consider any other uses for the land, because once you obtain the right-of-way that ends any other possibilities for the land. Mr. Talbot said proper wording would protect the Authority and Borough. Mr. Talbot said this is only to install an underground pipeline, not a drilling pad or holding basin. He said possibly it could be 12 ½' on either side, which would be a 25' right-of-way or whatever the members of the Borough Council and Municipal Authority agreed on. Council Member Scharf asked what the pipeline was for. Mr. Talbot said to transport natural gas up to Tennessee Gas facility. Council Member Scharf asked what the financial benefit would be to the Borough. Would it be a yearly fee or just a one-time consideration? Mr. Talbot said it would be a one-time consideration but would be the prevailing fee. Mr. Talbot said while it was productive the Authority would not have use of the right of way however once it was not productive it would revert back to the Authority. Council President Hart said the Borough Council would need to speak with the Wellsboro Municipal Authority. Mr. Talbot said this trail would not affect any other uses for this area. Council Member Scharf recommended Mr. Talbot work with the Borough Engineer. Mr. Talbot asked if he could get on the land. Council Member Wood said to work with Mark Dieffenbach, Dan Brought Scott Bray and one member of Borough Council. Council President Hart requested he wait until he had talked with members of the Municipal Authority.

CHIEF OF POLICE- Chief Bodine reported Laurel Festival was a beautiful day with only minor traffic issues to deal with. Chief Bodine said this year they corrected a problem in the past, by not allowing vehicles to park in the area of Pearl, Charles and Norris Streets. Council Member Bryant thanked the police department and the extra volunteers for an excellent job with more coming in each year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- WO ODLAND PARK NEW RESTROOM- Council Member Sticklin presented a plan from the Parks Committee for a new restroom facility at Woodland Park. Council Member Sticklin said the new facility would be a pre-cast concrete modular restroom, which would be handicap accessible and could have 2 water fountains if needed. Council Member Sticklin said the total cost estimate would be \$59,970.00. Council President Hart said this cost was with the borough crew doing the labor. Council Member Sticklin said it would take two to three months to receive the unit once it was ordered. Council Member Sticklin said the crew could have the water and sewer lines to the new location before the unit was delivered. Council Member Scharf asked if a grant was available to pay for the project. Council Member Sticklin said there was \$84,000.00 in the Recreation Capital Reserve and the committee had hoped to apply for grants for some larger projects. Once you receive a grant your name goes to the bottom of the list and we have larger projects that will require grant money to complete. Council Member Wood said with the pool and other recreational projects the borough would need the grant money. Council Member Sticklin said the current restroom facility is out of compliance. Council Member Wood made a motion to use the \$10,000.00 in the budget and the balance from the Recreation Capital Reserve account, seconded by Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 6-0.

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 28, 2010

PARKING AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATION- Council Member Bryant informed the Council he and other members of the Council had met with the Parking Authority. He said the parking ordinance was in 1965 and were 5 and 10cents. The parking fine fee was \$1.00 and then it went up to \$2.00 and in 1985 was changed to \$5.00. The recommendation is to raise the fee for a parking violation to \$10.00. The second recommendation is to refurbish the meters to .25 cent per hour. Council Member Bryant stated the change would be phased in as the company who refurbishes meters does 20 at a time, they would powder coat to each meter and would also include the times when a person needs to feed the meters. Council Member Bryant said the hours currently are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 9 p.m. no charge on Sunday and 6 holidays. Council Member Bryant said the cost would be \$35.00 per single meter and \$55.00 for a double meter. Council Member Bryant said he spoke with customers and business owners and it is about 50% is for the proposal and 50% is against the change. Council Member Sticklin asked if they were starting with the two parking lots. Council Member Bryant said the recommendation from the Parking Authority is to change the ordinance and do twenty meters at a time. He stated there might be some 4-hour meters. Council Member Bryant said the group hopes some entrepreneur would have a lot for businesses to rent by the month. Council Member Wood said if people don't put in a nickel or dime they would not pay a quarter. He said many of the business people just walk away from the meters and never pay the coin and other businesses have someone watching for the police to be writing tickets and then they run out and feed all of the meters at the same time. Council Member Wood said he was in favor of raising the cost of the fines however he was against raising the cost for the meters. Council Member Wood said the parking fines should be enforced either by the police doing the tickets or by hiring a private source to write the tickets. Council Member Wood said when the borough had a meter maid she wrote a lot of tickets and then people started feeding the meters. Council Member Sticklin said the borough has 6 officers who write parking tickets. Chief Bodine said each year the parking tickets are increasing, however the crime reports are also increasing, at some point something is not going to get done. Council Member Wood said if the borough were to hire a private person to write and collect the tickets they would be paid from the revenue generated from the parking meters. Council Member Wheeler said he was in favor of hiring a private person to handle the parking meters. Council Member Bryant said the money in the Parking Meter account would do the Main Street. Council Member Bryant made a motion to advertise the ordinance to raise the parking meters to .25 per hour and the fines to \$10.00, seconded Council Member Sticklin, motion carried 5-1 Council Member Wood voted against raising the cost for the meters. Council Member Scharf said the quarry on Water Street had been discussed as a possible parking area for employees working downtown. Council Member Wood said this had been looked at for employees of the courthouse. He stated there is space enough for parking and more parking will be needed when the Deane Center is opened.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- APPROVAL OF BILLS 6/14, 6/15 AND 6/19- Council Member Scharf made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

**REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 28, 2010**

PURCHASE OF 26 SMART WATER METERS- Council Member Scharf stated the Finance Committee's recommendation is to purchase 26 smart water meters with the additional revenue from the HAAS water purchases. Council Member Wood asked how much money is in the water fund. Secretary Keck said the cost would be \$2,600.00 to purchase the new meters. Council Member Scharf made a motion to approve the purchase of 26 meters, seconded by Council Member Bryant, motion carried 6-0.

KEYSTONE PAYROLL COMPANY- Secretary Stephens informed the Council the company would do the entire weekly, bi-weekly, quarterly and yearly payroll duties. Secretary Keck said if the Council would approve this proposal then Florence would have time to assist Mark Dieffenbach in his office. Council President Hart said the company keeps up to date on the changing payroll laws. Secretary Keck said the state was behind in auditing our payroll records from 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 and the state held up a grant for \$50,000.00 until their audits had been completed. We owed no money and there were no mistakes found however our grant money had been held up. Council Member Sticklin asked how Secretary Keck determined the amount it cost to do the payroll. Member Sticklin said this has always been done within the borough, now we want to sub-contract it out this will either raise taxes or eliminate personnel. Secretary Keck said we are not payroll experts; we have organizational skills to help in other departments. Secretary Keck informed the Council, Parente Beard our auditing firm, has this company process their payroll. Council Member Wood asked how long it would take to give the weekly information to the new company each week. Secretary Keck said the representative said it would be only a few minutes each week. Council Member Wood said if the time is more than 2 ½ hours it would not be cost effected, however if ½ hour then it would be. Secretary Keck said the borough would not be locked into the company if the borough decided not to continue. Council Member Scharf made a motion to hire the payroll company, seconded by Council Member Bryant motion carried 5-1 Council Member Sticklin voted No.

ADOPTION OF SEWER RATE ORDINANCE- Council Member Scharf made a motion to approve the new sewer rate, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 6-0.

APPOINT TOM REINDL OF OSRAM TO WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY- Council Member Wheeler made a motion to appoint Mr. Reindl to the Municipal Authority, seconded by Council Member Bryant motion carried 6-0.

RATIFY KENNEDY SUBDIVISION APPROVAL- Secretary Keck asked for Council's approval with the stipulations listed in the letter to Mr. Kennedy. She stated that both lots the first lot containing 2.35 acre on Pearl Street and also the 5.53-acre lot on Kelsey Street are both restricted from any future subdivision and will remain single-family residential lots. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0

ADJOURNED 7:05 p.m.