

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
September 27, 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 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 27, 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 Keck
Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

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

VISITORS:

Jack Showers- Shell Company
Kevin Connelly- West Main Street resident
Borough Solicitor- Bob Cox

MINUTES- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Member Scharf, motion carried 6-0.

VISTIOR- REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC SPEED TO BE REDUCED- Kevin Connelly asked Borough Council to consider reducing the speed of traffic on Main Street. He informed the Council due to the number of businesses on the street, a funeral home, library, a couple of churches, dance studio, café and a bed & breakfast there are a lot of cars parked and children crossing the street. He asked if a petition would help to get the speed down from 35m.p.h. to at least 30 m.p.h. Council Member Bryant said Main Street is a Penn DOT road however the borough could request Penn DOT do a traffic study. Kevin Connelly said traffic starts to speed up once they pass the King Street intersection.

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Council Member Bryant said Chief Bodine is working with installing speed sensor signs around town. Chief Bodine said he could use the speed sensor sign to get a reading on what speeds the cars are traveling, going out of town. Council Member Sticklin said the speed in Galeton is 25 m.p.h. Council Member Bryant said Galeton had to request a traffic engineer from Penn DOT, and the change in the speed had to be approved by Penn DOT. Chief Bodine will have a speed sensor sign there to gather information and Secretary Keck will write a letter to Penn DOT requesting a reduction in the speed limit.

MAYOR'S REPORT- HALLOWEEN- Mayor Daugherty informed the Council, Halloween would be held on October 30th, the parade would be at 5:30 p.m. with trick or treating to follow from 6 to 8 p.m. Mayor Daugherty informed the Council that Soldiers & Sailor Hospital would not be having their Halloween program this year, which will have more children going around to homes in the borough.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION- Mayor Daugherty proclaimed by proclamation October 10, 2010 Montana Abplanalp Day in Wellsboro. Mayor Daugherty said several organizations have events planned to raise money for the medical expenses. Mayor Daugherty explained she was an 18-year-old girl who graduated from high school in June, and for no apparent reason developed liver failure. She was taken to Geisinger Medical Center and doctors gave her 48-hours to live unless she had a donor for a liver transplant. A liver was transplanted however was rejected due to being too large and would not function. The second day a second liver was received and transplanted and this one has started up. However she is still having kidney problems and she has a long road back to recovery and the cost will be extreme. Mayor Daugherty said he was asking all fraternal and service organizations and the gas companies to help with funds to cover the expenses. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to proclaim October 10, 2010 Montana Abplanalp Day, seconded by Council Member Wheeler motion carried 6-0.

REFINANCING OF WATER LOANS- Solicitor Cox explained at the end of the August 17th Wellsboro Municipal Authority meeting Council Member Hart and Council Member Scharf requested Mr. Cox review the water loans and see what type of savings would be possible for the borough, if the borough were to refinance. He had reviewed this with the members of the Authority last week. There are currently four loans; the Pennvest water loan is at a very low rate and we would not be able to match it, so he recommended the Pennvest remain as is. The three notes he reviewed were Citizens & Northern guaranteed loan in 2004 at a fixed interest rate of 3.9%, paying \$197,000.00 per year up to and including 2019. In 2020 the payment will be \$105,000.00; the principal after the payment on 12/1/2010 will be \$1,580,000.00. The First Citizens water note of 2006 has a fixed interest rate of 4.99% paying \$43,000.00 per year until 12/2019. The principal owing after the 12/2010 payment will be \$500,032.00. The third note is a 2005 sewer note at Citizens & Northern Bank with a interest rate of 4.45% paying \$111,500.00 per year up to 2024. In 2025 the payment will be \$55,788.00.

Mr. Cox then contacted Citizens & Northern Bank to see what if any savings could be achieved by re-financing. They said 3.99% would be the rate. He then contacted Rhoads & Sinon and they called Public Financial Management, who had done a presentation to

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the Borough, approximately nine months ago. Mr. Cox asked them to run a scenario with keeping the three maturity dates the same, (one note maturity is 2019, one 2029, and one 2024). This scenario would be, one bond issue for the three debts with the rate as low as its been for 60 years. Run this way, the savings would be \$114,704.00 over the life of the bond issue.

The rule used when investment bankers determine if it is worth while to refinance is, if you achieve a savings of 2% after all costs have been paid, it is worthwhile to refinance. The Borough would receive 3.7%, which is worth refinancing. We could run the savings of \$114,704.00 out evenly over the period of the bond to 2029, which would make the savings approximately \$6,000.00 a year. Or, the savings could be taken up front over two or three years.

Borough Council could do a proceed resolution; this would be a resolution to engage the Financial Institution, the Bond Counsel and Solicitor to proceed with putting together a bond issue. Council Member Scharf asked if the Council was to do the resolution and then Borough Council would vote it down what would the financial cost be to the borough? Mr. Cox said they could tell the borough the cost when they were up here to make the presentation.

Council Member Sticklin made a recommendation to have the financial people find the best scenario and that is what Council should go with. Council Member Wood said any savings from this refinancing should be put in the Rainy Day Fund. Council Member Bryant said the Wellsboro Municipal Authority and Borough Council needs to look at other options possibly sell sewer water, we need to set in motion to do the application to see if selling the water would be possible.

Council Member Bryant said it would be Seneca And East that needs to go before the SRBC. Council Member Wood said if the borough were to do the refinancing the Authority would not be able to borrow any more money for new projects. Mr. Cox said the Authority has never borrowed money it has always been the Borough. Council Member Bryant asked if the other local banks had been contacted concerning the refinancing? Mr. Cox said he would contact all three banks and private bond bankers on the Internet.

Council Member Sticklin made a motion for the refinancing resolution, and a meeting with the Finance Committee and Rhoads and Sinon so the Finance Committee could have a recommendation for Borough council at the next council meeting, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0. Mr. Cox said the Finance Committee meeting would need to be advertised as a workshop.

CHIEF OF POLICE- STREET CONCERNS - Chief Bodine informed the Council he has gotten some concerns on Bacon Street. He said during 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. there are over 900 cars on that street, the speed limit is 35 m.p.h. and the reads are 37 to 47 m.p.h. Chief Bodine said 35 m.p.h. is to fast for that street, he recommended dropping the speed to 25m.p.h. The second street is Morris Lane to Woodland Avenue; Chief Bodine would

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also recommend the Street Committee drop the speed on this street. Council Member Wood said the borough has adopted a 25m.p.h. speed on all streets within the borough with the exception of the state highway streets. The third street is Norris and Pearl Street going into Pearl Street, people are parking to close to the intersection, this prevents cars stopping for the stop sign to see cars coming up Pearl Street. Superintendent Dieffenbach said he could install the sign if Chief Bodine could show him where the set back should be.

CENTRAL AVENUE SPEED SENOR SIGN- Chief Bodine said Penn DOT has notified him that the borough needs to take the sign down. Chief Bodine said we would need to have a traffic study before using any of these devices.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- No report

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dan Brought informed the Council the crew has been working on sand filter #1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- PARKING ORDINANCE- Council Member Bryant asked members of the council to review the parking ordinance for the next meeting. Council Member Wood said he has spent a few days observing the parking meters. He stated 60% of the people using Main Street are utilizing the parking meters and 40% are not. Then he observed the side streets and the parking lots and found 40% were using the parking meters and 60% were not and the Water Street parking lot only 10% were paying the meters and 90% were not. Council Member Wood said raising the cost per meter is penalizing the people who pay the meters.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION- Council Member Wheeler stated the Civil Service Commission recommends the Borough Council change Chief Bodine's status to be covered under the Civil Service Commission. Council Member Wheeler made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Council Member Bryant motion carried 6-0.

The second concern is the hiring of the new police officer and the recommendation is to hire Joshua Bell. Council Member Wheeler said if an applicant is a veteran he needs to be hired. Joshua Bell, with the veteran preference, had a total score of 101%, the second was Steven Hurd with a total score of 97.5% and William Davis had 98.5%. Council Member Wheeler said the Civil Service Commission would recommend hiring Joshua Bell pending the results of his testing. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, seconded by Council Member Wheeler, motion carried 6-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Council Member Scharf reviewed the finance committee report. Council Member Scharf thanked Mark Dieffenbach for the excellent report on the breakdown of expenses for the hospital project.

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Council President Hart said the borough has received \$4,312.00 grant from Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- CHARLESTON STREET CURBING- Secretary Keck informed the Council that the borough only received one bid from Lundy's for \$18,457.50. Council Member Bryant made a recommendation to accept the bid upon the review of the Borough Engineer, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 6-0.

EXPERIENCE WORKS FUNDING- Secretary Keck asked Council to consider helping the program with funding in next years budget.

KAREN'S CUTTING EDGE SANDWICH BOARD SIGN- Council President Hart recommended the owner come to the next council meeting with a drawing of the proposed sign.

WHITE CANE DAY- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the October 9th Day, seconded by Council Member Bryant. Mayor Daugherty requested they not stand near the Main Street intersection.

PENNDOT PROJECT- Secretary Keck informed the Council in 2011 Penn DOT would be paving Route 6 & 287 from Harsch's Produce to the Junction. The Borough will need to do the storm water and utility services.

LETTER TO A.C.SMITH- Council Member Scharf requested council write a letter to upgrade the property. Council Member Bryant said there had been a problem with the amount of traffic at the old Hornet's Nest.

ADJOURNED 7:55 p.m.