

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

January 24, 2011

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, January 24, 2011, 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

Secretary/Treasurer- Susan Keck

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy

Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS:

John Coleman- Caulkins Lane

Kristina Gollwitzer- 41 Meade Street

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE NEW VEHICLE- Superintendent Dieffenbach asked Borough Council for authorization to purchase a new 2011 Ford pick-up, three quarter ton truck for the Water & Sewer Plant Superintendent and his truck would then be tooled for the meter reader to use. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the vehicle Hershel is now driving will be sold and the money will be deposited into the PLGIT-General Fund Truck 3647198 account. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the purchased would be made through the Central Westmoreland Council of Government. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the bid price with tax and without delivery costs would be \$23,105.00. The borough will pick up the vehicle. Superintendent Dieffenbach said they added a snowplow prep package to the vehicle so the borough would be able to use it for snow removal if needed. Superintendent Dieffenbach said there is also a trailer brake assembly on it. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the money is in the budget and more money is coming into the account with the sale of beams from the Central Avenue Bridge and other metal around the borough. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the borough purchased a Ford because the GMC's were \$7,000.00 more. Superintendent Dieffenbach said there would

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be an additional \$500.00 charge to have a rhino lining installed in the vehicle. Council Member Scharf asked if the new plow would fit the new vehicle? Superintendent Dieffenbach said it is a standard plow and should fit, however, they would check to see if the plow would attach to the new vehicle. Superintendent Dieffenbach requested permission to sell the old vehicle and deposit the money in the PLGIT 3647198 General Fund Truck account. Council Member Scharf said this could be part of the motion to purchase the new vehicle. Council Member Wheeler made a motion to authorize the purchase of the vehicle, seconded by Council Member Wood, motion carried 6-0.

WATER TAP- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council of a new water tap for Lewis Homes up on Homer Street. Superintendent Dieffenbach said the resident had been billed for the cost.

SNOW REMOVAL- Superintendent Dieffenbach informed the Council that Main Street is designated "no parking" until the snow has been removed. Superintendent Dieffenbach requested Crafton & Waln Streets also be designated "no parking" until snow has been removed on both the East and West side of Main Street. Superintendent Dieffenbach said one vehicle had been parked over a week and the vehicle has since been towed. Council Member Bryant asked if the borough should do signage or print a notice in the newspaper? Council President Hart requested Natalie Kennedy put a notice in the paper and also note residents need to clear the snow from their sidewalks.

WATER METERS - Superintendent Dieffenbach said residents are also responsible for the expense if their water meter freezes and breaks. Superintendent Dieffenbach said one apartment house had three frozen water meters this week, the borough crew replaced the meters and the homeowner will be billed for the expense.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- BANIK WELL- Dan Brought reported the Banik Well is back up and working.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Dan Brought requested a short executive session after the meeting, for a personnel matter.

DEP PERMIT FEE- Council Member Scharf asked if Dan had any information on the \$5000.00 fee from DEP? Council Member Wood said Dan had a handout explaining the fee structure and would give a copy to each member of Council. Dan said the fee is \$5,000.00 per year and the \$500.00 fee will be replaced with a sliding fee based on the size of the municipality.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- RATIFY PAYMENTS OF BILLS 1/12th, 1/18th, and 1/19th- Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion approved 6-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- CONSIDER FEE - Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve a flat \$15.00 fee for faxing, emailing ordinances, sign and fence permits seconded by Council Member Wood motion carried 6-0.

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ENGINEER EXPENSE- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the request to bill the resident the fee for the borough engineer reviewing any storm water or subdivision plan seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS- Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$8,500.00 from the Northwest Investment account 6050432 and \$50,000.00 from the First Heritage General Fund Money Mgr. Account 0265-01, to the General Fund checking account 2306000072 at Northwest, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 6-0.

ADOPT TAX RATE ORDINANCE # 654 TO FIX THE BOROUGH OF WELLSBORO TAX RATE AT 6.33 MILLS- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the tax rate, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 5-1 Council Member Wood voted No.

ADOPT ORDINANCE #655 ESTABLISHING A 3% INCREASE IN WATER RATES- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve a 3% increase in the water rate, seconded by Council Member Bryant motion carried 6-0.

ADOPT ORDINANCE #656 ESTABLISHING A 3% INCREASE IN SEWER RATES- Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve a 3% increase in the sewer rate, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

KECK WELL INTERCONNECTION COSTS- Secretary Keck asked Council to endorse the motion described in the Council packet. Council President Hart said the Wellsboro Municipal Authority had made a motion to proceed with the Keck well development. Council Member Scharf asked who would be responsible for the expense and who will be in charge of the project? Council Member Bryant said the borough has to move forward in finding alternative water sources for the Wellsboro community. Superintendent Dieffenbach said Scott Bray is working on this project. Secretary Keck said we have money in our savings, which would pay for the pump and keep us on the timetable. Council Member Scharf asked if the line of credit for \$500,000.00 could be used to develop the well? Secretary Keck said until the borough receives the paperwork back from DEP we would not know how we could use the money. Council Member Bryant said he asked if we could use the line of credit. Council Member Wood stated we need to get the pump and we need to stay on the time line. Superintendent Dieffenbach said once the borough gets the pump and well online the borough will have six months. Council Member Wood made a motion to proceed with the pump test, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEDATION OF THE LOUX LOT ADDITION- Secretary Keck informed the Council of the plan to add 1.42 acres to the Loux property on Woodland Avenue to create a green space at the back of their property between their property and the 92 acres on the Piaggio property. Secretary Keck said the Planning

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Commission had approved the plan. Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 6-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION OF THE PENN WELLS LODGE EXPANSION- Secretary Keck explained Scott Bray had some concerns and has written a letter expressing these concerns and has received the required documents, however, the Highway Occupancy permit needs to be provided for the driveway. Council Member Sticklin made a motion for approval upon the concerns of the Planning Commission and Scott Bray's issues being addressed and the finalization of the Highway Occupancy permit being provided, seconded by Council Member Bryant motion carried 6-0.

WELLSBORO PLAZA- Secretary Keck informed the Council the Zoning Board gave variance approval for the request to have 9' instead of 10' parking spaces and also to reduce the number of spaces. The Zoning Board agreed with the removal of spaces, if taken from the front of the building on both the West and South sides. This would create a space for an emergency lane and also a 10-minute parking space for loading and unloading of patients. The Fire Chief agreed with the new proposed plan. Council Member Scharf asked if the concern for a pedestrian crossing had been addressed? Council President Hart said that was resolved by removing the parking next to the building. Secretary Keck said the plan is to create boulevards or islands between the parking spaces with landscaping and curbing; this will reduce the number of parking spaces but will help direct the flow of traffic.

TIOGA COUNTY TAX COMMITTEE LETTER- Secretary Keck said Borough Council can re-appoint Council Member Scharf and Council Member Wheeler to serve on the committee or appoint a new member of Council. Council Member Scharf asked to be relieved of this duty, due to he is opposed to Act 32. Secretary Keck said the Borough Council could appoint the Borough Secretary or someone else to serve on the committee. Council President Hart asked when the borough could opt out? Secretary Keck said the borough could opt out in 2012. Council Member Wood made a motion to have Secretary Keck serve as the delegate with Council Member Wheeler as the alternate, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 6-0.

ENERGY COMMITTEE- Secretary Keck said the committee has sent out the bids. Secretary Keck stated one quote came in today and two more should be coming in by the meeting in February. Secretary Keck said Superintendent Dieffenbach had been asked who would be a good person to have as a secondary person for the system and he said one of the borough employee's who has knowledge of the system. The controller system for the boiler will be advertised this week. Secretary Keck anything under \$4000.00 we can get phone quotes, anything 4000.00 to \$10,000.00 needs to be in writing and anything over \$10,000.00 needs to be an advertised bid.

WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE- Kristina Gollwitzer asked if the water/sewer rate increase was only residential or if it was across the board? Council President Hart said the increase was across the board.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:50 p.m. Personnel matter.

ADJOURNED 7:15 p.m.

