

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2014

Council President Joan S. Hart called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending were Mayor John E. Wheeler, Councilors Joan S. Hart, Michael J. Wood, John M. Sticklin, Rudolf K. Scharf, Jennifer Mase Updyke, and Kevin J. Connelly, Borough Manager Daniel K. Strausser, Chief of Police James R. Bodine, Secretary/Treasurer Susan L. Keck.

VISITORS- Janet Strausser, Natalie Kennedy Ryan Oswald from the Wellsboro Gazette, Julie VanNess, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and James Daugherty.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 10, 2014 Council Meeting were approved by motion of Councilor Sticklin, seconded by Councilor Connelly, and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Service Awards were presented to Councilor Rudy Scharf, Councilor John Sticklin, former Mayor James Daugherty, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Keck.

Manager Strausser presented an award to the Publisher of the Wellsboro Gazette. This award was for the best Newsletter for Boroughs under 5000 in population and had been presented to Mr. Strausser at the PSAB Conference in early April.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Scharf made a motion to appoint Derek Williams to the Parking Authority. This motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

Councilor Scharf made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried unanimously.

Councilor Scharf made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report for February 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilor Mase Updyke and carried unanimously.

WCDD held the first public meeting on the multi municipal comprehensive plan and everyone was pleased with the turnout. There will be additional public workshops in June.

The \$152,482.21 CD at First Heritage came due. This was a combination of \$36,801.88 in Accumulated Sick Leave Funds, \$22,051.70 in Garbage Truck Savings, \$90,757.00 in Sewer Jet Vac savings, and \$2,871.63 in accumulated interest. Council approved putting \$90,757.00 into the Sewer Rainy Day account under Jet Vac Savings, and combining the remaining \$61,725.21 and interest of \$2,871.63 into a CD with \$150,000.00 from the General Fund Money Manager Account. The CD will be held at First Heritage for 36 months at .9% interest. Councilor Wood

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made a motion accepting the financing scenario, Councilor Scharf seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Scharf thanked the Finance Committee for their diligence.

Safety, Police, Fire, Protective Inspections, Codes, EMA

Councilor Connelly made a motion to accept Douglas Burd's resignation as police officer with his last day of work being May 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried unanimously.

Councilor Connelly made a motion to approve the revised Civil Service Rules. Our Civil Service Commission is recommending approval of these revisions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Scharf and carried unanimously.

Councilor Connelly made a motion to authorize the Civil Service Commission to establish and submit an eligibility list to council after all testing is done. The motion was seconded by Councilor Scharf and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT Specs for the new Tahoe have arrived.

Police Report- April 26th will be a Tioga County Drug Take Back at 9 sites in the County. The focus will be on prescription medicine, although vitamins can also be taken back.

Public Works, Solid Waste, Highways, Parking, Water, Sewer

Bids for Greenwood Street: We are currently waiting for PennDot to release the remaining funding for this project.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Martin's Landscaping Service to redo the landscaping in the Pearl Street and Water Street parking lots at a cost of \$8,340.00. This will be paid from the General Rainy Day Parking Revenue Account. This is money from the parking meters in these parking lots. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Wood made a motion to ratify applying to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a grant in the amount of \$2,350,000. (This amount includes the estimated NRCS costs for planning, design, and construction. More accurate costs for construction will be determined as the plan and design are completed). Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Wood made a motion to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Commonwealth Financing Authority for a Flood Mitigation grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be used in the construction upgrades at Hamilton Lake. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Councilor Connelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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The Riberolle Street Bridge is closed due to structural failure. We are working on a repair that will allow us to reopen this bridge for passenger vehicles only. We will be having another Street Committee meeting in the near future.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to accept Yost Strodoski Mears (YSM) of York, PA proposal of \$47,750 to prepare the Woodland Park Master Plan. Funds for this are from the General Rainy Day Recreation Capital Reserve Account \$23,875 and a \$23,875 grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Councilor Scharf seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to ratify applying to the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund for a \$250,000 grant to construct a "green" parking lot at the Charleston Recreation area. This construction would involve storm water retention areas. Councilor Connelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We have received a grant from the Area on Aging Agency in the amount of \$4,999.45 to replace the furnace and A/C units at the Community Center on Queen Street.

Little League opening day parade is April 26th @ 10 AM.

We would like to thank Wellsboro Electric Company for cutting down 26 dead and dangerous trees at Charleston ball fields. This was done at no cost to the borough.

Twenty one trees are to be planted this week by the Shade Tree Commission. Arbor Day Celebration will be held April 25, at 1:00 p.m..

We would like to thank Steve Hoover of the Department of Forestry and the other members of the Department of Forestry for cutting dead and dangerous trees out in the woods of Woodland Park. This was done at no cost to the borough. If anyone would like to remove the trees for fire wood they should contact the borough office.

The Nessmuk Lake rehabilitation being done by the Fish and Boat Commission is progressing on schedule.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

No decision on contract arbitration. The Borough Manager was asked to get ahold of the Solicitor and Neutral arbitrator to try to move along the decision.

We have received a Workers Comp Insurance dividend of \$30,638.47 and Property and Liability Insurance dividend of \$18,663.06.


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Other Business

Hawbaker's East Avenue paving project: The contractor wants to pave at night. The consensus of the Council was a unanimous no.

Haven: requested putting ribbons on the fountain wrought iron fence to bring awareness to Sexual Assault month. This cause is worthy, however Council want the fountain and fence to be unadorned, as they are used as backdrop for many pictures.

Adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by 
Susan L. Keck