

ROCKET-COURIER

Published in Wyalusing, PA - On Line Since 1997 - In Print Since 1887

2018-08-09 / Front Page

Update Given on Natural Gas Coming to Wyalusing COMMISSIONERS HOLDING MEETING AT FIREMEN'S CELEBRATION TODAY

—BY CAIN CHAMBERLIN—

A representative from Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC provided an update on the pipeline grant application that is expected to finally bring natural gas energy to Wyalusing Borough in 2019.

Julie Lewis, a business analyst for the company, attended the Wyalusing Borough Council meeting on Monday evening to talk about the project that Leatherstocking Gas is "already committed" to making happen.

"Ideally, we would start in the spring of 2019, but that's not a hard date," said Lewis.

She said the Wyalusing project would first bring natural gas from a pipeline near Cargill Meat Solutions along Route 706 in Wyalusing Township to the borough's Main Street and downtown business district.

"Where we go from there is really going to be based on demand," she told council. "We have about 76 applications on file for this area, but not very many are actually in the borough itself. A lot of them seem to be west of here, so I'm not sure how far we'll go in that direction.



Julie Lewis

Ideally, what we would like to do is come down through the borough and have it close to the school."

Lewis said her company has been in talks with the Wyalusing Area School District about the project as well as some businesses in Wyalusing Township.

Lewis said her company would like to get easements from residents along Route 706 to Wyalusing and install the pipeline in the private right-of-way.

"It takes longer, but it's much more cost effective," she said.

She said going beneath the state-owned sidewalks and right-of-way involved redoing the sidewalk in a way that is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant, which is highly expensive.

Councilman Josh Kilmer asked Lewis what her company needs from the borough in order to move the project forward in a timely fashion.

"Keep publicizing it," she said. "We'll be marketing aggressively probably starting in the fall, so within the next couple of months."

Council also agreed to put Leatherstocking's natural gas applications on the borough website for residents to utilize. Lewis said applications are also available on her company's website at www.leatherstockinggas.com.

While Leatherstocking is already committed to coming to the borough, Lewis said "the bigger, the better" when it comes to the number of local applicants who wish to convert their homes and properties to natural gas as it provides more incentive for the company to begin.

Natural gas is said to be one of the most cost-effective home heating fuels available in today's market, according to various energy sources.

Lewis said the Leatherstocking Gas Company is in the process of "petitioning the [Public Utilities Commission] for on-bill financing."

"We're working with a company called Grand HVAC Leasing," she said of the full-service company from Brantford, Canada. "As more applications come in and people compare whether they want to set up for natural gas; if financing or money is an issue, this company will actually lease the equipment to you. If the PUC approves it, you would send one bill on their behalf and people could sign up for whatever gas appliances they choose."

She said Grand HVAC also allows the lessee to use local contractors to install the equipment.

Lewis noted that Leatherstocking Gas Company has applied for a grant through the Pipeline Investment Program, which they hope to obtain in October.

"That program was created to help bring natural gas to underserved communities like yourself," she told council members.

Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC is a joint venture between Corning Natural Gas Corporation and Mirabito Holdings, Inc. and is a gas distribution company, regulated by the Public Service Commission.

Commissioners Holding

Meeting at Firemen's

Celebration Today

The Bradford County Board of Commissioners will be hosting their regular meeting at the Wyalusing Firemen's Celebration at Borough Park today, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m.

The meeting will not only highlight the ongoing event, but borough maintenance worker and code enforcement officer Dale Grover said council will also pitch its idea for a new playground to the commissioners, hoping the county will contribute some Act 13 funding for park improvements.

Grover said he and Councilman Gary Rouse met with a representative from GameTime, a commercial playground equipment company, at the park recently to go over the specifications.

Based on the pricing for the equipment, installation, building materials, fill, and initial site work, the project could cost well over \$50,000.

In March, council opted to budget its own funding and solicit donations from the community in order to purchase playground equipment suitable for preschool-age children. Council has stated that the current park playground is intended for grade school-aged children, but most of the kids that age are at the park to participate in sports while the preschool age children need an appropriate place to play.

Council agreed to table the playground project until after the commissioners' meeting today and the Finance Committee's budget preparation meeting scheduled for Monday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

Other Business

—An agreement with JJ Carpenter Tree Service of Friendsville was made for trimming overgrown trees along Pleasant Street, High Street, and School Lane. Grover said he was told the work would cost approximately \$1,000. Council approved the agreement with the stipulation it "was not to exceed \$1,500."

—Council approved a resolution that would allow the Wyalusing Valley Museum to place signage within the borough for promoting the annual Wyalusing Valley Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 15. The borough recently had to approve a similar resolution for the Wyalusing Valley Volunteer Fire Department to put up signage for this week's Firemen's Celebration. These resolutions are now required by PennDOT, due to signage being located in the state's right-of-way.

—Councilman George Anderson requested that the borough send another letter to Harrisburg opposing the state's proposed \$25 per capita fee for PA State Police coverage. The borough has sent a letter in the past but Anderson said the state is ramping up the effort again. Councilman Kilmer said if the fee were implemented, it would cost the borough approximately \$14,000 per year. Council agreed to revise its letter from last year and send it to Harrisburg.

The next Wyalusing Borough Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 4 (due to Labor Day) at 7 p.m. at Wyalusing Borough Hall.

[Return to top](#)