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City considers selling water

News of Painted Post plan has Corning officials interested

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CORNING | The City of Corning may also go into the business of selling water to natural gas companies operating in Pennsylvania.

City officials are intrigued by how much neighboring Painted Post could profit if the go-ahead is given to build a water depot in the village

that would send large amounts of water over the state line by rail. The water is then used for hydrofracking – the process used to break underground shale and capture natural gas.

Mayor Rich Negri said Thursday that city officials are currently searching for companies

interested in transporting city water to fracking operations. The new revenue would help the city mitigate rising costs and taxes during difficult financial times.



NEGRI

"It's certainly something we're interested in," Negri said. "That's for sure. It would be a great benefit to the city."

Councilman Hilda Lando, D-3, asked at the council's budget workshop Thursday night how much excess water the city has and how it would be transported.



RYCKMAN

City Manager Mark Ryckman said he will soon share details with the council but declined to further comment on

the subject when contacted Friday.

One of the city's primary water wells is located on the Southside behind Wegmans, near the railroad tracks.

Painted Post is considering a proposal to build a water depot to transport up to 1 million gallons of water a day for fracking opera-

tions. The village could receive up to \$2.5 million a year in water sales.

The Wellsboro/Corning Railroad plans to open a water depot at the former Ingersoll-Rand foundry site in September to ship the water.

A water district in the Town of Erwin currently supplies up to 400,000 gallons a day by truck to

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the natural gas drilling companies.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission has said neither water project would overtax the aquifer. The com-

mission is authorized to grant permits for water use in much of the Southern Tier.

The water is mixed with chemicals to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation.

The process is legal in Pennsylvania, but not yet approved in New York.