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Page 2A

Marcellus Shale 9/12/11
**City in talks
to sell water
for drilling**

BY JEFFERY SMITH
jsmith@the-leader.com

CORNING | The city continues to discuss selling water for use in Pennsylvania natural gas drilling operations.

City Manager Mark Ryckman said the city is in private discussions with natural gas companies, but offered few details on the negotiations.

Energy companies need additional water for the hydrofracking operations in the Marcellus Shale.

Mayor Rich Negri said he is hopeful a deal will be reached, and views it as a potential method to raise funds to replace miles of aging cast iron water and sewer pipe throughout the city.

"We can all go home and

pray the water deal goes through," said Councilman Hilda Lando, D-3.

Steve Panton, city director of water distribution services, said on average, city customers use about 1.35 million gallons of water a day. The city's five water wells can provide up to 6 million gallons daily.

"In 1985, the city's daily use was about 4.5 million gallons daily," Panton said.

The drop was primarily driven by an increase in city water rates and a consistent decline in the city's industrial base.

If an agreement is reached between the city and a gas drilling operation, the Susquehanna

SEE SELL | 5A

SELL

Continued from 2A

River Basin Commission would set the amount of water the city could withdraw to sell daily.

How the water would be transferred and from what city location has not been discussed, Lando said.

The town of Erwin currently makes about \$500,000 annually by sell-

ing water to Pennsylvania gas drilling fields.

Painted Post Village officials are currently trying to reach an agreement to sell a million gallons a day to Shell Oil. Profits are expected to be about \$2.5 million annually.

The water would be shipped by train if the agreement can be reached. 9/12/11

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