

Painted Post Fracking water deal progresses

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PAINTED POST | A critical step in the ongoing negotiations to sell village water to a Pennsylvania natural gas drilling operation could soon be taken.

Mayor Roz Crozier signed an agreement Monday night that would make Shell Oil Company responsible for all village costs needed to reach an agreement to provide water to the global energy group.

"This is the first important step," Crozier said after the Village Board meeting. "We discussed this with them, but we'll have to wait to see if they sign the agreement. But we need this signed to protect the village."

The village has hired Harris Beach Attorneys At Law to negotiate with Shell Oil.

SEE DEAL | 8A

DEAL

Continued from 2A

Crozier said if Shell officials sign the contract it would likely speed up an eventual agreement.

"I have no idea (how quickly an agreement can be reached)," Crozier said. "But we hope to get it done soon."

The plan to ship the water to Pennsylvania gas drilling operations involves building a water depot at the former Ingersoll-Rand foundry site that would be accessible by rail.

The water would likely be shipped by the

Wellsboro/Corning Railroad.

The village has permission from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to withdraw up to 1 million gallons of water a day from the Painted Post municipal water system.

The railroad company hopes to begin operating at the Painted Post site by August.

Larry Smith, superintendent of the village's Department of Public Works, said the village has enough water to sell to the railroad. The village could make \$2.6 million a year in sales.