

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting
Amalga Town Hall
May 11, 20101**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

Council Members: John Clark, Rick Fannesbeck, Paul Hansen,

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, Kunz, Howard Kunz, Steve Krebs – Questar Gas, Dennis Barker-Amalga/Newton Justice Court Judge.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

David Wood reviewed minutes from the April 13, 2011 council meeting. Rick Fannesbeck made a motion to approve minutes from that council meeting. The motion was seconded by John Clark and all voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comments

Steve Krebs from Questar Gas met with the council to answer any questions related to gas service to the community. The 50 year term of Amalga's franchise agreement with Questar Gas will expire this summer. Questar has prepared a proposal to renew the franchise agreement with the town. Mayor Wood will review the proposal with the town council and town attorney. The council discussed the town's new road encroachment ordinance with Steve Krebs. This ordinance will apply to excavation work related to natural gas service in the town.

Judge Dennis Barker offered to answer any questions from council members about the town justice court. The state legislature has mandated salary adjustments for judges in the state. Based on these rules, Judge Barker's salary needs to be at least \$850 per month. The Newton City Council has been unwilling to increase the wage paid to the Judge. They have considered disbanding their justice court in part due to the new salary requirements. Judge Barker estimated monthly costs for the court to be about \$1,500, including the court clerk's wages and attorney fees. The county attorney is considering creating a county wide justice court system. Communities could use this system instead of having their own court.

July 24th Celebration

Howard Kunz met with the council to review plans for the July 24th celebration. Howard reported that some of the planning committees met in April to prepare for the celebration. He reviewed some donations from local businesses for the celebration. Howard said that the schedule of activities will be similar to last year's schedule. Howard noted that there will be some rented activities again this year, such as a climbing wall, but there will be more games this year that will not have to be rented to save on costs for the celebration.

Justice Court

David reviewed a letter from Bruce Jorgensen, the town's attorney, regarding the town's justice court. The inter-local agreement with Newton for the justice court will need to be renewed this year. Newton would like to modify the agreement so that Amalga shares more of the operating costs for the court if revenue from Amalga's citations continues to decline. The town council must decide if it would be willing to make additional payments to Newton to continue to use their justice court. David suggested that the town consider an agreement for a limited time period to see what the cost to the town would be. Mayor Wood will meet with the mayor of Newton to discuss how to proceed with the current justice court. Paul suggested that David encourage Newton to continue to have a justice court and see if something between the towns can be worked out.

Bruce Jorgensen’s letter addresses the proposed county justice court. The town would receive half of the net revenue from citations processed by the proposed county justice court. Other options may include joining the Clarkston justice court if an agreement with Newton cannot be reached.

The town council will review this again next month.

Adjustment to Water Rates

The town council continued its discussion from the April meeting about increasing water rates for town water system users. The council had discussed raising the base rate to \$15 per month from the current base rate of \$10 per month.

John Clark asked what the town’s justification was for increasing the rates. Rick Fannesbeck noted that the town will have significant costs for improvements being made to the water system and will need additional funds to cover these costs. Paul Hansen suggested that Rick prepare a list of these costs that could be presented to residents to help explain the need for the rate increase. John Clark agreed that town residents will want to know about specific costs that the town needs additional funds for.

Rick noted several water system projects that are ongoing that will need to be funded by the town. These include additional work on the town wells, drain boxes for each well, and installation of air valves.

Rick Fannesbeck made a motion to adopt new rates for the water system. The rate schedule for monthly water use would be as follows:

Water use from (Gallons)	Water use up to (Gallons)	Rate
0	25,000	\$15.00
25,001	500,000	\$.50 per 1,000 gallons
500,001	1,000,000	\$.75 per 1,000 gallons
1,000,001	2,000,000	\$1.00 per 1000 gallons
2,000,001	10,000,000	\$1.25 per 1000 gallons
Over 10,000,000		\$1.50 per 1000 gallons

The water rates are being increased to cover the increased cost of improving and operating the system including repair and replacement of some fire hydrants, and the completion of the interconnect system with Trenton. Paul Hansen seconded Rick’s motion. All council members voted in favor of increasing the town water rates.

Business Licenses

John Clark reviewed letters to town residents who have had a business license in the past or who are operating a business in the town. There have been about ten individuals who have returned their application to renew their business license. John thought that the town’s efforts to enforce the business license requirement should be reactive. John thought that licenses should only be needed if business owners request a license or if neighbors make a request that the town regulate the business. Licensing and zoning approval are necessary to allow the town to regulate business operating in areas zoned for residential use.

The council discussed issuing business licenses to Schreiber Foods and the Walco Farm Store. John will get business license application to David to take to these businesses.

Budget

The council reviewed the town budgets through the end of April. All departments are within the original budgeted amounts. The council will consider a budget for the next year during June's council meeting.

Council Member Reports

John Clark reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee did not meet last month because several members of the committee were unavailable. Clayton Showell has resigned from the committee because he didn't have time to attend the meetings. Alan Noble was felt that others on the committee may need to be replaced because of conflicts that don't allow them to attend the meetings. John will talk with Alan about staffing the committee.

Paul Hansen reported that Amalga did not receive any RAPZ tax funding from the county this year. Paul has contacted someone about trimming some of the old trees in the town park. Two of the trees are completely dead and will be removed. Others will be trimmed. This will be done when the ground dries out. Work on the trees will cost about \$3,500. Paul discussed replacing some swing seats at the park. David Wood has talked to the new plant manager of Schreiber Foods about helping to fund some benches and other improvements on the walkway in the park. He suggested about \$3,000 for these items. Paul noted that the Easter Egg hunt was under budget.

Rick Foncesbeck reported that Rodney Paige has an unpaid balance on his utility account and has moved out of town. He suggested this be turned over to small claims court. His balance is \$340. Rick will work on getting a current address for Rodney Paige. There are several others who are getting behind on their utility accounts. Lee Ann sent shut off notices to some accounts recently. Rick will call those with large past due balances to bring these accounts current. Otherwise water service will be shut off.

Rick reviewed progress on the Trenton connection project. There are some wiring problems at the reservoir. There are also some issues with the connection to the well. Craig Rasmussen is working on electrical settings for the new pump so it will work correctly. The deadline for finishing work on the project is the end of May. There was a problem with the shut off valve for a line from the wells. This turned off water to Schreiber Foods on Saturday. This part of the system isn't set up properly and still needs to be adjusted. Rick noted that there had been several leaks repaired. He also noted that Shane will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the town.

Scott Gittins has expressed an interest in filling the vacant position on the town council. He would be over the utility billing. His wife Michelle is currently the town treasurer. The council did not feel that this would cause a conflict because their duties are not directly related. David will talk with Scott and this will be on the agenda for next month.

David Wood reported that UDOT will relocate the intersection of Highway 218 and the road to Schreiber Foods plant this summer. The new roadway will be routed through thru land owned by Devonna Rindlisbacher. UDOT will then dead-end both ends of the current road to the plant that connect to Highway 218. They may also do some work at the intersection of Highway 218 and 2400 West.

The council reviewed the town disbursements for May. Paul Hansen made a motion to approve the disbursements. John Clark seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Clark. The motion was seconded by David and all voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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