

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting  
Amalga Town Hall  
June 8, 2010**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

Council Members: Rick Fannesbeck, Paul Hansen, Scott Gittins, (John Clark absent)

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, Trisha Kunz

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

The council reviewed minutes from the May 11 and May 25 council meetings. Scott Gittins made a motion to accept the minutes from these meetings. Rick Fannesbeck seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**July 24<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Trisha Kunz met with the council to discuss plans for the July 24<sup>th</sup> celebration. Brent & Debbie Munk are in charge of the meal on Friday evening of the celebration. They are planning to prepare the meal for about the \$500 that was budgeted for this. The Noyes have chosen a live band to perform on Friday evening. Trisha presented the council with a list of businesses who have donated to the celebration. They are planning to have a bingo game with prizes this year. There will be youth games and children's games going on at the same time as bingo. They have arranged for a PA system for the celebration. The Young Men in the Amalga Ward are planning to prepare the lunch meal as a fundraiser. Rick will contact Craig Petersen to see how this is coming. The Sheriff's department is coming out with some educational materials and will help with the parade.

**Budgets**

A public hearing was held to review a few proposed adjustments to the current year budget and the proposed budgets for the next fiscal year. Following the hearing and council discussion, Paul Hansen made a motion to accept the adjusted budget for the 2010-2011 year. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Paul made a motion to approve the proposed budgets for the 2011-2012 year. Scott seconded the motion and all voted in favor of this action.

**Utility Accounts**

Scott noted that two utility accounts with past due balances had made payments on their accounts. Scott noted that these utility customers need to make regular payments to get caught up on their balances. Scott would like to prepare a signed payment contract between the town and the account holder requiring regular payments to pay down their balance. Scott will contact those with balances to get a signed contract in place. Paul will get a copy of the contract that has been used in the past to Scott. The contract will state that the full account balance will be due if they fail to meet the conditions of the contract. The amount of the required monthly payment will vary depending on the past due balance. Scott felt that the payments should be large enough to catch up the outstanding balance within a year.

David noted that the bank now charges the town \$28 for returned checks. This charge needs to be billed to the person whose check was returned. The council discussed including a notice in the next billing that a returned check fee will be added to the utility account if the customer's check is returned by the bank.

Robert Chambers had a water leak that ran during the winter and he would like the town to write off some of the overage from the leak. He has had the leak fixed. Council discussed if the town should make adjustments in the case of leaks. The council noted that he doesn't have a float on

his watering trough and this may be partly responsible for his high water use. The council was not in favor of making an adjustment for him. Scott felt that unless there was a major leak from a burst pipe, he didn't feel that there should be an adjustment. Scott will tell Bob that the town will not make an adjustment to his bill. His bill is about \$300 for 10 months. Water meters were not read during the last winter and so no overage was billed for that period. This was billed recently and has caused some utility bills to be higher than usual. The council was concerned about missing the meter reading and waiting for several months to catch up the billing for water use. The council would like to see that the meter readings are done regularly to avoid these types of problems.

Rick reported that Dustin Bingham thought that the town water may have made him sick. He has indicated that if the water made him ill, he will hold the town responsible for the consequences of his illness. Rick offered to pay their water bill. Scott advised Rick to use caution when suggesting that problems are caused by the town water system. Mayor Wood cautioned council members about suggesting town liability without knowing all the facts.

### **Council Member Reports**

Paul Hansen will order two new flags for the town hall and park. He has planted two new trees in the park. He also planted some flowers and bushes in the park. Paul paid for these and will need to be reimbursed. He talked about billing these directly to the town so that no sales tax is charged on the purchases. Paul reported that one of the sinks is leaking in the restrooms and a door needs to be repaired.

The council discussed a recent problem with a skeet shooting party held at the town park by the Amalga Ward Elders Quorum. They didn't reserve the park and someone else with a reservation was having a birthday party at the park. There was some concern about the two activities at the park at the same time. The council discussed how much of the park was reserved if someone pays to rent it. The council felt that the entire park is reserved for a group when they pay the rental fee. There have been some conflicts when ward groups use the park when another group has already paid to rent the park. The council felt that all groups should be required to pay if they want to reserve the park. Paul will discuss this with the Humphreys and have them call him for clarification if they have questions. Scott thought that the council needed to create a policy that covers the park use and addresses these types of questions. David suggested sending a flyer to town residents about the policy for using the park. He suggested putting this in the newsletter that is distributed to the town.

Paul will work on improving the baseball field and he is planning to get new bases for it. Paul reported that there are people using the new walkway in the park.

Rick Foncesbeck reported that the generator for the water pump needs some maintenance. He will contact Clayton Showell about this. Contractors are working to get the telemetry system for the water completed by the end of the week. There will be some training for those who will be operating the system. Rick noted that the water meter for Schreiber Foods is not working correctly. The water use measured by the new computer system does not agree with the readings at the meter. Some parts will need to be changed to get it to work properly.

Also, there are some problems with the new pump that was installed in the new water well. Someone is coming to make some adjustments to get it running properly.

Rick noted that there are several meters that need to be repaired. Rick and Scott will meet with the meter readers to be sure that their work is done properly.

Mayor Wood reported that the wage for Judge Barker doesn't need to be as high as previously suggested. Newton has proposed sharing some of the increase with Amalga. This would cost the town about \$25 per month. Paul and David felt that there are advantages to having a local court. David thought that having the local small claims court provides a benefit to the town. Judge Barker will retire in about three years. The inter-local agreement with Newton for operating the court will need to be renewed soon. Rick made a motion to help offset the increase in Judge Barker's salary by providing an additional \$25 per month to the court. Paul seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor of this action. David will contact Newton's Mayor.

Cache County has asked if the town would like a town booth for the fair. The council discussed putting a notice in the newsletter to see if anyone was interested in helping with this. The council discussed setting a budget for this project to control the costs.

The council reviewed the town disbursements for June. Paul Hansen made a motion to approve the disbursements. Rick Fønnesbeck seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Hansen. The motion was seconded by Scott Gittins and all voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.