

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting
Amalga Town Hall
July 13, 2011**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

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

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, Chief Deputy Brad Slateror, Deputy Douglas - Cache County Sheriff Department, Tre Hansen, Milyon Chantry, Mike Rasmussen, Howard and Trisha Kunz, David Lee.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Scott Gittins made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 8, 2011 meeting as written. Rick Fannesbeck seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Cache County Sheriff's Department,

Deputy Douglas from the Cache County Sheriff's Department has been assigned to work with Amalga. Concerns involving the Sheriff's department can be channeled through Deputy Douglas. Mayor Wood asked the sheriff's department provide a booth with some educational information during the July 24th celebration. They will also help direct traffic during the parade.

Mayor Wood has expressed his concern to the deputies about lack of traffic patrol by the department in the town. Revenues from traffic citations processed by the justice court have been down in the past few years. Deputy Slater said that patrol time is allocated to each community based on the property tax contributed to the sheriff's department. Based on the department's allocation method, most of the funds from Amalga are used up by regular calls. This doesn't leave any time for traffic patrol.

Deputy Slater has been revising rates used by the sheriff department to allocate time to communities based on property tax revenues. The department has been charging the town \$46 per hour for law enforcement activities. The department is planning to increase the rate to \$56 per hour. David noted that the reports provided to the town show that the department reports spending 30 to 40 hours per month in Amalga. He asked what these hours are being used for. The deputies said that many calls now require two deputies to respond due to safety concerns for the officers. David was also concerned that the reports show times for traffic patrols that are not when this is a problem in the town. He also asked the deputies to keep in mind that the lack of tickets issued for traffic citations is causing concerns with operations of the justice court.

David will visit the deputy Slater about renewing the town's contract with the department. They can discuss having the town provide additional funds to the sheriff's department to purchase specific services from the department, including traffic patrol. The town can specify the times it needs these services. The town has not been able to get traffic patrol at a specific time in the past.

Eagle Scout Projects

Tre Hansen and Milyon Chantry are working on a joint Eagle Scout project to replace two of the town signs at the entrances to Amalga. They estimate that their project will cost \$355. The council discussed that the signs can't be on the state highway right of way.

David asked them to prepare a final version of their plans. The projects need to be completed before August 19th. Scott Gittins made a motion to approve the project including touching up the existing town signs with cost for materials up to \$400. The motion was seconded by John Clark. All voted in favor of this action.

Planning and Zoning Committee

David postponed action on appointments to the planning and zoning committee until a later meeting.

July 24th Celebration

Howard and Trisha Kunz met with the council to discuss plans for the July 24th celebration. They reported that committees planning various activities were getting things organized and that the celebration would be within the budgeted cost. A copy of the schedule of activities was sent to residents with the last utility bill. The council discussed using a PA system from renegade sports.

Utility Accounts

Scott noted that all account holders with seriously delinquent accounts have made payments during the last month. At last month's meeting, the council had discussed creating a payment plan for residents with past due balances that would require them to pay 20% of their balance each month until it was paid off. The language of an existing contract for payment only requires that the payments be sufficient to pay off the balance within a year. Scott suggested following the language of the existing contract. Those with very large balances may still need to be given additional time to catch up. David thought this would be alright as long as they continue to make regular payments. John Clark made a motion authorizing Scott Gittins to negotiate payment arrangements for the town with utility customers with past due balances. The motion was seconded by Rick Fonesbeck. All voted in favor. Scott will review the current bills to see what collection action needs to be taken.

Council Member Reports

John Clark reported progress by the planning and zoning committee on an annexation policy for the town. State procedures for adopting this policy call for a series of meetings to be held by the town to provide information about the policy to those who would be affected by it. John reviewed the timeline for the meetings involved. John suggested that the town council hold a joint meeting with the planning and zoning committee in September to take action on the proposed annexation policy. Scott Gittins made a motion to change the regularly scheduled town council meeting in September to the first Wednesday of the month so it can meet with the planning and zoning committee. There will be a public hearing that night regarding the annexation policy. This motion was seconded by Rick Fonesbeck and all voted in favor of this action.

John reported on a response from Bruce Jorgensen regarding the town's efforts to prepare a water rights transfer ordinance. John will review Bruce's comments and will discuss this at a future council meeting. This matter will be addressed by the planning and zoning committee and then will be referred to the town council. John sent council members an e-mail with information from Bruce Jorgensen regarding the ordinance. He asked council members to review this information so they will be aware of what is being considered.

Rick Fonesbeck reported that one of the town water pumps needs to be repaired. Rick is also working to repair some water meters in the town. He has received some parts to replace the water meter for Schreiber Foods. He expects to have this installed soon. Rick reported that there are still some electrical problems at the new pump. Rick would like the council to tour the new water facilities at a future council meeting. Rick reviewed plans to modify a waterline near planned road work on Highway 218. This would involve completing a loop in the water line that currently dead ends in this area. This work will need to be planned by the town engineer and bids will be needed before construction can begin. Rick reported that Shane Perkins received an award for being a certified water system operator for 15 years.

Scott Gittins noted that there have been some complaints about biking groups riding through town and causing traffic concerns. Portable restrooms were left in the park for a long time following a recent biking event. David suggested that the town have the council member overseeing the park work with these groups to see that they clean up the park on a timely basis following their events. John Clark thought that if the bikers would follow the laws that relate to bicycles on the roads there would be few complaints about their activities. John also suggested that if the town was a good host for these events, it would create a good image of the town. David suggested that these activities are only in the town for a few hours each year and residents should try not to be upset about the events. The council discussed the need for the sheriff's department to enforce the traffic laws for the riders.

Mayor Wood discussed holding a special council meeting on July 27th. There will be a public hearing to gather input on proposal to adjust compensation for council members and town employees. The council will also hear comments from residents about updated water rates for the town.

David reported that Parson's Construction will be re-doing the chip and seal work on the roads in the south part of town. David had Parsons's prepare a bid to chip and seal the town road from the town hall to the north end of Amalga, near the Olagues. Their bid was about \$90,000. To repave this section of road would cost about \$470,000. David noted that the town may be able to get some road funds from the county next year to help cover this cost. There could be as much as \$250,000 available to the town if it could match the county funds. David suggested waiting until next year to do any substantial road work to see if any funds will be available from the county rather than spend the \$90,000 on chip and seal work this year. Scott Gittins made a motion to table action on this matter. The motion was seconded by Rick and all voted in favor of this action.

David will have the county road department do some more repair work on the town roads this summer.

The council reviewed the town disbursements for July. Scott Gittins made a motion to approve the disbursements. Rick Fannesbeck seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Fannesbeck.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.