

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting
Amalga Town Hall
September 7, 2011**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

Council Members: John Clark, Paul Hansen, Rick Fonnesebeck, Scott Gittins

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, Howard Kunz, Dave Lee, Vic & Nancy Bingham, LuDean Hansen, Tad Bingham, Alan Noble, Craig Rasmussen.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Scott Gittins made a motion to accept minutes from the July 13 and July 27 council meetings. The motion was seconded by John Clark and all voted in favor.

Public Comments

Howard Kunz reviewed the past July 24th celebration with the council. He felt that it went well. It was within the budget set by the council. The council complimented the Kunz' for their efforts to plan and carry out the celebration. Howard thanked the members of their committees who helped plan the various activities. Howard suggested making some changes in the timing of activities on the evening of the fireworks so there would be less free time before the fireworks. Howard reported that Brad and Jean Mather will be in charge of planning next year's celebration. Mathers will still need to find co-chairs for next year.

Public Hearing

David opened a public hearing for the town annexation plan. The plan sets out a long term plan for land that could be annexed into the town. These are areas where annexation petitions would be accepted. The town is not encouraging annexation, but this is a plan to deal with any petitions for annexation the town may receive. The town is not obligated to accept all petitions. Those that would put burden on the town can be denied. Vic and Nancy Bingham have expressed interest in being annexed into the town to be able to vote in the town. This would also transfer property value and the tax revenue into the town. Property must have a contiguous boundary with the town in order to qualify for annexation. The ordinance will not permit annexation to create areas considered islands or peninsulas. Alan Noble noted that the town council has the final authority to approve or reject annexation petitions. It is under no obligation to accept petitions.

This plan was approved by the planning and zoning committee following the process set out by the state. The document conforms with state law regarding annexation. Requirements of law must be followed in order for the annexation petitions to be legally accepted. The town can consider the fiscal impacts to the town of the proposed annexation.

David made a motion to close public hearing. John Clark seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Town Annexation Plan

The council discussed adopting the annexation plan that was recommended by the planning and zoning committee. Paul Hansen made a motion that the council adopt the annexation plan. This motion was seconded by Rick Fonneseck. All council members voted in favor of this action.

Vic Bingham asked about the process to submit an annexation petition to the town. John will research the procedures for making application for annexation.

League of Cities and Towns Convention

The council discussed the upcoming League of Cities and Towns convention. All town council members are planning to attend the convention. This will be Wednesday, September 14th to Friday, September 16th.

Water System Improvements

Craig Rasmussen discussed progress on the water system improvements. He noted that artesian water pressure in the town well has increased by about one foot. Craig discussed the water meters installed for Schreiber Foods. There are two meters for their line, one to measure large volumes and one for small flows. The cost for the unit that reads the pulses from these meters was \$1,400. This is fairly accurate, but it does miss some of the electrical pulses when the water flow is low in the pipeline to the Schreiber Foods plant. This may cause the reading to be lower than their actual use by a small amount. Craig estimated that it could amount to 1,000 gallons per week or 4,000 to 5,000 gallons per month. Another device called a totalizer could be added to the system later if this becomes a problem. For now, the total water use can be reconciled annually with the meters in the vault (physical meter of the water flow that is accurate) and any difference billed to Schreibers. Scott suggested waiting for a year to see if there is a large correction needed to their water bill. If so this additional component could be added at that time.

There is still an electrical problem with the pump in the new well. Craig has been trying to get Rocky Mountain Power back out to address this problem. Also, the town council will need to decide on how much access to give to Schreibers in order for them to monitor the water level in the reservoir.

Craig noted another issue with the new system. There is no meter to gauge total water use by the town. This information can be determined indirectly from other information but there is no direct way to get this reading. Solving this problem would involve installing a meter on the outlet side of the town water pumps. This could cost up to \$8,000.

Craig reviewed the status of the water line project near Shane Perkins home. He has recommended installing 730 feet of water line to form a loop there between two dead end lines. Plans for this improvement are out to contractors and he expected bids to be in by September 12th. He estimated the cost of this project to be about \$29,000. The council can then decide whether or not to pursue this project. Costs for the project have increased because UDOT will be expanding the highway in this area and they will require additional compaction and gravel fill to ensure that the trench doesn't settle under the new roadway.

Business License

David indicated that the person who has the pop vending machine will come to next month's council meeting to apply for a business license. The council discussed increasing the license fee. This will be considered at next month's council meeting along with other items on the town fee schedule that need to be updated. The council also discussed sending a letter in December to ask businesses to renew their business license.

Past-Due Utility Accounts

There are currently 15 utility accounts with past due balances. Some balances are up to about \$900. Scott asked for council approval to send out 10 day shut off letters to delinquent accounts. Scott made a motion to add language to these letters stating that the utility customers have 10 business days following the mailing of the letter to contact the town to arrange for payment of the balance or sign a payment contract. If no response is received within this time period, the town will deliver a 48 hour shut off notice to the account holder. The water service will then be shut off if there is no response. This motion was seconded by Paul and all voted in favor of this action.

Council Member Reports

John Clark discussed having the town formalize its policy of not allowing its culinary water to be sold outside of the town boundaries. John would like the town to address this issue at the next council meeting.

Paul reported that he has been working on the flower beds and trees at the town hall and park. The park lawn mower is broken and arrangements are being made to get it repaired.

Rick Foncesbeck discussed electronic access to the water system. Rick doesn't need the laptop computer that came with the system. He will put this in the office for someone to use if needed. John will contact Josh to work on the town web site. Rick noted that the water connection to the town hall has been repaired. Rick discussed work to clean up the town well site. He hired two individuals to clean up the weeds at the site. This area will require periodic upkeep in the future.

Scott Gittins submitted a bill for the Eagle Scout project of Tre Hansen and Milyon Chantry. This was for work on the town signs. The cost for this was about \$390. David suggested that the scouts try to see if companies will donate some of the materials for these projects in the future.

David noted that the Little Red Riding Hood biking club made a contribution to the town of \$500 following their event this summer. The council felt that as groups like this have a good experience in the town it will create goodwill for the community.

David reported that some residents have inquired about having the town keep cars from parking at the park at night. John asked what problems are being caused by this. Scott thought that there could be vandalism if people come to the park after dark. John didn't see that there was currently a problem. David suggested installing signs prohibiting parking at the park after 10:00 pm. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

The council reviewed town disbursements for August and September. Scott made a motion to approve the disbursements. John seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by John. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.