

# MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER** – Council President M. Gossard called the Regular meeting of December 1, 2008 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:36 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** – Dennis Monn, Beverly Spicer, Michael Gossard, Shannon Strizziere and Rick Lee present. Thomas Lowson and Debra Lee absent.

**MAYOR** – Mayor John Esser present.

**BOROUGH STAFF** – Jeff Evans Solicitor, Maurice Gossert Engineer, Michael Hansen Zoning Officer and Patricia Kocek Borough Secretary.

**INVOCATION** – P. Kocek

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Allison Stains The Record Herald

**ACCEPTANCE OF ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

**November 2008** – R. Lee made a motion to accept the Zoning Officer's Report for November 2008, M. Gossard seconded, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

## BOROUGH OF MONT ALTO

### ZONING OFFICERS REPORT TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Michael Hansen  
for Accredited Services, Inc.  
Zoning Officer

Report Period: November 2008

#### LAND USE PERMITS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Project Address</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Comments</u>
11/28/2008	Borough of Mont Alto 3 North Main Street		Permit # 08-47 Pavilion Extension
11/20/2008	Dennis & Janette Koons 310 Penn Street		Permit # 08-48 New Pole Barn

#### DEMOLITION PERMITS

NONE

#### SUBDIVISION REVIEWS

NONE

Land Use Permits Issued This Month	2	Demolition Permits Issued This Month	0
Land Use Permits Denied This Month	0	Demolition Permits Denied This Month	0
Land Use Permits Issued To Date	48	Demolition Permits Issued To Date	3
Subdivision Reviews This Month	0		
Subdivision Reviews Year To Date	1		

#### **Building Code Officials Report November 2008 and Complaint Log**

M. Hansen very briefly reviewed several items on the Report with the members of Council. M. Hansen will streamline the Complaint Log. Council President will receive the complete Report listing all items for the year and the Council members will receive a Report with only the new items listed.

**Fence 414 South Main Street and Fire Hydrant corner of Beech & Park Streets** – A new letter will be sent to the owner of 414 South Main Street. The owner will have 60 days to remove the fence and 30 days to file an appeal.

The problem with the fire hydrant at the corner of Beech and Park Streets has been corrected.

**Service entrance inspection** – The question was asked if R. Wolf of G. W. Electric, Inc. installs a service entrance does it have to be inspected. M. Hansen said it has to be inspected, exceptions cannot be made.

**Deeds/Rights of ways** – M. Gossard said he has been shown several deeds for properties going up Park Street that have alleys going from Park Street to Lowry Lane. A lot of the deeds mention those alleys as reference points for their properties and they are called alleys, but on the

Borough maps there are not any alleys. Continued discussion about the various options open to the property owners if they want to take possession of the alleys.

**Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc. Report** - For your information.

**Accredited Services Report** – For your information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**November 3, 2008**

Page 2 Paragraph 2 **“D. Monn made a motion to approve the Electric Budget”** change to “D. Monn made a motion to approve the Budget”.

D. Monn made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 3, 2008 as amended, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT**

**October 31, 2008** – D. Monn made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report of October 31, 2008, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

The November 30, 2008 Treasurer’s Report was not available for review.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 474 TRANSFER OF FUNDS NOVEMBER 2008** – D. Monn made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 474, Transfer of Funds for November 2008, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Adopt 2009 Budget** – D. Monn made a motion to adopt the 2009 Budget, M. Gossard seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, Council President M. Gossard called for a Roll Call Vote.

Dennis Monn	Yes	Michael Gossard	Yes
Beverly Spicer	Yes	Shannon Strizziere	Yes
Rick Lee	Yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adopt Ordinance No. 475 – Fixing the Tax Rate for 2009** – R. Lee made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 475 Fixing the Tax Rate for 2009, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion,

Council President M. Gossard called for a Roll Call Vote.

Dennis Monn	Yes	Michael Gossard	Yes
Beverly Spicer	Yes	Shannon Strizziere	Yes
Rick Lee	Yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

**VACANCIES** – None

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

**Recreation Fees for developers** – Nothing at this time.

**Ordinance #35 “An Ordinance regulating Hawking, Peddling . . . . . and do an update to other Ordinances** – M. Gossard told Council that a committee will be formed after the first of the year to look at the Ordinances and Resolutions.

**Fence 414 South Main Street and Fire Hydrant corner of Beech & Park Streets** – Covered previously.

**Adopt Resolution 476 “...To reimburse the Tax Collector...”** – D. Monn made a motion to adopt Resolution 476, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Adopt Resolution 477 “Whereas Penn Dot and the Borough...” and sign Penn Dot Agreement to authorize electronic access to Penn Dot systems** – J. Evans explained this is needed for P. Strite and P. Kocek to have access so P. Strite can file the Liquid Fuels Reports electronically.

D. Monn made a motion to adopt Resolution 477, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Council President M. Gossard signed the Penn Dot Agreement.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**December 1, 2008** – The December 1, 2008 report was provided to Council in their packets on November 26, 2008.

Mayor J. Esser briefly reviewed the December 1, 2008 Mayor's Report with the members of Council. (COPY ON FILE)

**Penn State University Parking** – Council and Mayor Esser discussed the parking issues on University Drive. They also discussed doing a traffic study so that No Parking signs could be erected or painting the curbs. The Street Committee will pursue this matter.

**Problems at the Mont Alto Recreation Area** – D. Monn reported that Chad Miller Maintenance Employee knows the names of some of the persons causing the damage. J. Evans will send letters when C. Miller provides the names.

S. Strizziere pointed out that charges can be filed against the family and the child. S. Strizziere would like to discuss this issue at the Executive Session.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Dennis Koons Land Development/Subdivision Plan** – M. Gossert provided his comments on the review of the Dennis Koons Land Development/Subdivision Plan.

M. Gossert explained to Council what D. Koons is planning to do with this piece of property and the concerns the Borough will have to address. M. Gossert, S. Strizziere and D. Monn met with D. Koons and discussed the items that need to be changed on the Plan.

Relocating the Water Haulers Shed and the electric pole will be at the expense of D. Koons with the Borough providing the materials.

D. Koons will be coming back in January or February with the corrected plans. Council will continue the review at that time.

J. Evans will provide the approximate dates the Land Swap was done so P. Kocek can do research to make sure D. Koons agreed to paying to relocate the above items.

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

**Antrim Township Water Agreement** – The Agreement has not been received. J. Evans will contact John Lisko Solicitor for Antrim Township to find out the status of the Agreement.

**Thanksgiving Day water break** – D. Monn reported that there was a water break at Beech Street. The maintenance crew had a hard time getting the system shut down because the valves weren't holding. Council Vice President D. Monn commended the maintenance crew on the great job they did in a difficult situation and P. Kocek for her work in the office.

**Exercise water valves** – M. Gossert suggested that the Borough begin a program to exercise and replace bad valves. D. Monn said that in the spring they will put a push on this program.

**Student Housing** – M. Hansen reported that the Water and Sewer Tap Fees have been paid for this Project.

### **Engineer's Report (continued)**

**Mont Alto Borough Boundaries** – Council Vice President would like to see the Borough surveyed so that the boundaries can be determined.

M. Gossert will provide a cost estimate to do a survey. M. Hansen will provide information from Quincy Township on their boundaries at the Koons property. Discussion.

### **STREET COMMITTEE**

**Joint road maintenance with Quincy Township** – Nothing at this time.

### **PROPERTY & SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

**Backhoe** - D. Monn reported that the backhoe is repaired and has been returned to the Borough.

### **Glessner's Alarm and Communications**

**Alarms (fire & intrusion)/Card Access System** – Council Vice President D. Monn told Council that he will review this information with the Property & Supply Committee. D. Monn will contact Glessner's and ask for new quotes.

## **ELECTRIC COMMITTEE**

**Electric Service Entrance MAVFD** - Council Vice President D. Monn told Council that this Project has been completed.

**Generator Mont Alto Volunteer Fire Department** – D. Monn asked Council how they wanted to handle the purchase of the generator. Does the Borough want the MAVFD to purchase the generator and then the three municipalities (Mont Alto, Guilford and Quincy) reimburse the Fire Department? D. Monn had verbal confirmation that the other two communities would participate in the purchase of the generator.

D. Monn informed Council that he has obtained three (3) quotes for the generator. The quotes were varied and some did not provide the type of generator that is needed.

M. Hansen left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

J. Evans will send letters to the other two municipalities and have them confirm their commitment to this Project (to pay 1/3 of the cost) for the generator for the Mass Care Center.

P. Kocek to provide a copy of the letter that D. Monn sent to Guilford Township and Quincy Township asking for their support of the Project.

**Downes Associates PJM** – J. Evans reported that PJM wants to bill the Borough weekly instead of on a monthly basis. J. Evans reported on the steps he has taken to keep this from happening. He is doing additional research. J. Evans will use the FERC attorney if necessary to resolve this issue.

D. Monn said that paying weekly would cost the Borough \$20.00 per week and would also interfere with the Sweeps interest that is received from the bank.

D. Monn will discuss this matter with Steve Hirsch from Downes when they are discussing the Purchased Power Adjustment.

J. Evans will do more research in the Borough Code and report back to Council with his findings. Discussion.

Discussion on a Borough Charter and whether or not the Borough has a Charter. J. Evans told the members that there is a cumbersome process to become a Home Rule Municipality.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Larson Wenger Effective date Complete motion made at the November 3, 2008 meeting** – At the November 3, 2008 the following motion was made but not completed.

“D. Lee made a motion to set the effective date for Larson Wenger, Labor Grade 10, at the beginning of the next pay period, S. Strizziere seconded, “

The following motion was made to correct the motion from November 3, 2008.

S. Strizziere made a motion to set the effective date for Larson Wenger, Labor Grade 10, as November 8, 2008, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Step Increases** – J. Evans reported that there were several step increases that were given to employees but were not brought before Council for action to be taken.

Discussion on whether or not step increases have to be called out for approval by Council and for inclusion in the Minutes. B. Spicer said that previously after evaluations this had to be brought to Council for their approval.

L. Wenger’s wages are provided for in the motion because the Wage Scale is attached to his job description.

J. Evans feels a vote has always been taken previously when wages have been increased. Since Council does all of the hiring and firing, the Personnel Committee is to make the recommendation, and when tax payer money is being spent, it is probably a good idea to bring it to Council for a vote.

P. Kocek to provide a list for the next meeting of the Step Increases that have not been brought before Council for approval.

**Ham or Turkey for employees for Christmas** – D. Monn suggested giving the employees a \$50.00 bonus instead of a Ham or Turkey for Christmas since the Mont Alto Municipal Authority gives the employees this amount. Discussion. D. Monn brought this up because the MAMA is giving more to the employees than the Borough provides. This will be discussed at the Executive Session.

**Request from Borough Secretary** – To be discussed at the Executive Session.

**Cell Phone** – D. Monn was instructed to turn in his Borough cell phone since he is no longer an employee of the Borough.

**SANITATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE** - Nothing  
**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Recreation Grant**

**Approve payment of invoices** – Nothing

**Veteran's Day Service** – B. Spicer reported that there were approximately 75 people in attendance and the event went very well. There was a very nice letter written to the Public Opinion about the Veteran's Day Service.

**REPORT ON COG (COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT) ISSUES** – D. Monn attended the COG and there was a presentation by the PA Recreation and Parks Supervisor concerning the PA Greenway and Conservation Partnership.

Susan Dutko also discussed the County GSI Mapping system. Progress is being made on the mapping system but it is going slow.

She also reported that they will begin to move into the new 911 Center after the first of the year. The new center will operate simultaneously with the existing center for a period of time until all of the bugs are worked out of the new system. There is a possibility that the existing 911 Center could be a backup for the new Center.

Josh Snyder from Senator Specter's office attended and told the members that they are impressed with the Franklin County COG and their forward thinking in obtaining funds for the County radios.

**VISION 2015** – The next meeting will be held in January 2009.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NIMS Certification** – Nothing new at this time.

**Public Gathering/Festival Ordinance** – M. Gossard told the members that the fee schedule needs to be looked at before this Ordinance can be finalized. M. Gossard will provide information for the fee schedule.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Thank you letter from the Mont Alto Cemetery Association** – For your information.

**Pennsylvania Borough News Subscription Renewal** – Approval has to be given to renew the subscription. R. Lee told P. Kocek to remove himself or D. Lee from the list because they can share a subscription.

D. Monn made a motion to approve the renewal of the Pennsylvania Borough News Magazine at \$10.00 per subscription, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Review/Approve 2009 Meeting Dates** – B. Spicer made a motion to the approve 2009 Meeting Dates, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Review/Approve 2009 Employee Holidays** – D. Monn made a motion to approve the Employee Holiday list for 2009, M. Gossard seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Franklin County Emergency Service Alliance** – D. Monn reported that the Franklin County Emergency Service Alliance currently has a balance of \$2,469.00 in their treasury and there aren't any expenses coming up so they will not be making an assessment against each municipality for the year 2009.

**Radios** - The fire departments received a \$1 million grant but were asking for 1.7 million. They will need to obtain .7 million by other means. No money has been received for municipalities or police departments. They are still working on this.

**Training Operations Officer at the Department of Emergency Services** - Craig Myers is the training officer for this department.

**Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Police** – Dave Jamison and Jason Cohen are going to work on a Mutual Aid Agreement for the whole county instead of the individual ones that the Borough signed previously.

**Franklin County Law Enforcement Group** – This group is reorganizing. The point of contact is Chief of Police for Greencastle John Phillipy.

**STREET COMMITTEE (continued)**

**Street painting** – M. Gossard suggests waiting until spring to look at University Drive and possibly painting the curbs.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council President M. Gossard called for an Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Council President M. Gossard called the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2008 back to order at 8:41 p.m.

S. Strizziere made a motion to purchase a Ham or Turkey for the Borough employees, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Adjournment** – R. Lee made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of December 1, 2008 at 8:43 p.m., S.Strizziere seconded, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on  
December 1, 2008.

*Patricia A. Kocek*

Patricia A. Kocek  
Borough Secretary

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Michael Gossard President

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Dennis Monn Vice President

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Debra Lee President Pro Tem