

**MONT ALTO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**  
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**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman David Monn called the Special meeting of December 19, 2007 of the Mont Alto Municipal Authority to order at 2:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - David Monn, Tommy Gilbert and Gary Eigenbrode present. Sidney Miller and Staat Stymiest absent.

**MONT ALTO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY STAFF** - Maurice Gossert and Eric Hall Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc. and Patricia A. Kocek Recording Secretary

**INVOCATION** - P. Kocek

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Gavin McCullough Foxcroft Equipment & Service Co., Inc.  
Roger Nowell Antrim Township  
Larson Wenger Antrim Township  
Charles Goetz Antrim Township  
Dennis Monn Mont Alto Borough  
Thomas Lowson Mont Alto Borough  
Gary Calimer, Jr. Maintenance Supervisor  
Willis Hess Backup Operator W/S

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

Chairman D. Monn stated that this meeting was called in order to meet with all those involved in the operation of the water system to clarify some issues, problems and misunderstandings involving the water system.

**WATER**

**Well #1**

1. Is electronic signal to Well House our only problem?
2. Will expenditure for new antenna solve the problem?
3. When will it be installed and working?

G. McCullough explained the use of the antennas. At this time there may have been some additional growth of trees, especially pines which would interfere with the direct line of sight. G. McCullough tried to adjust the antanneas but that did not correct the problem.

G. McCullough provided a quote for higher antennas to try to correct the problem. MAMA approved this expenditure at the December meeting. G.

McCullough won't know until they are installed whether or not this will correct the problem. The antennae are on order and should probably be installed by mid-January.

Previously G. McCullough installed a relay control in the SCADA System so that it will try to reset itself once by powering down and bringing it back up and if it does it again there is a call made by the system.

**In stream flow meter** - This meter has been sent to Oklahoma for repairs. G. McCullough thinks this piece of equipment is still under warranty.

**Land Line** - Dennis Monn asked if a land line could be used to control the SCADA System.

G. McCullough said that was considered when the system was originally installed but it was less costly to use the radio signals. There would also be a big cost to change to land lines at this time and he is not sure the land lines could handle the system.

G. McCullough feels trying the new antennae is the least costly way to try to fix the problem. Another option, if the antennae does not work would be to put in a tower. Discussion.

C. Goetz suggested using a repeater unit on the tank. G. McCullough said that this has been tried but the mountain blocks it.

T. Lowson pointed out that because of the complexity of the SCADA System the land lines would probably not be able to handle it, but would have to have fiber optics.

#### 4. How many overtime hours has this problem caused for Antrim Township in the last three (3) months?

Chairman D. Monn asked for some clarification on how the alarms are handled, does Antrim Township have to come to Mont Alto every time there is an alarm or can some of them be handled remotely.

R. Nowell, without pulling the records, thinks there may have been two or three times they have actually come over. The majority of the time they can get online, on the phone and reset Well #1. The biggest problem with Well #1 is that when we get a signal loss and it doesn't reset itself we have to come over, unplug it, and let it reset itself and then plug it back in. 90%+ of the calls we receive have been taken care of over the phone. Some of the calls can be handled when Antrim comes in to do the daily work. The physical trips are billed but not the calls.

L. Wenger told the members that from 11:00 p.m. on they may receive a half of dozen or more alarms which disturbs their sleep.

Chairman D. Monn said that is why we want to eliminate the problem and cut down on overtime pay.

C. Goetz suggested that Antrim Township document all calls so when problems occur they can be tracked. Discussion.

Chairman D. Monn requested that Antrim Township supply the Authority with a monthly log of the alarms which will be put on file. Chairman D. Monn will watch the report to trace problems.

Antrim Township will also provide a more detailed invoice to the Mont Alto Municipal Authority.

On Sunday Roger had to come over three (3) times because of the ice storm. This was an exception because of the severe damage to the lines. Discussion.

#### 5. Any other problems? Power blips Well #1

G. McCullough understands that there have been power blips that have tripped Well #1. He explained that there is a special relay that monitors the two phase power coming in and it will trip for either a loss of phase or low voltage.

If this happens it will shut down Well #1 to protect the motor.

Because of the frequent problem G. McCullough installed a delay and reset so that if it does trip out on power, after two minutes of the power being good again it will try to reset the well. If it has not reset the well, within 5 minutes you will get an alarm call. Discussion. The calls seem to have diminished.

Discussion on using a generator but G. McCullough doesn't feel the generator could be used for this type of problem.

Discussion on the layout of the electric lines that serve the Borough of Mont Alto and South Mountain line.

Chairman D. Monn summarized the discussion on Well #1.

1. Some of the power problems are resolved
2. Working on the signal problem by installing a new antennae - the MAMA to be advised on the progress of this project

G. Calimer, Jr. asked if he could take care of any of the resets instead of R. Nowell or L. Wenger coming down.

R. Nowell said that he would not feel comfortable with that happening because it is his (Roger Nowell) license and he is the certified operator.

#### **WATER**

#### **Well #3**

1. Do we have a turbidity problem?

R. Nowell said based on the wells he worked with in the past he wouldn't necessarily call it a problem but the turbidity is higher than he likes to see it. However it has only been on line a short time and is still clearing up.

## 2. Do we have an instrument problem?

R. Nowell explained that there was an issue with the brand new turbidity meter and an issue with the cuvette which the water flows through as it measures the turbidity. This problem has been resolved, but there was a brief turbidity problem that was not related to this.

A sample was taken to Chambersburg and this proved the accuracy of the turbidity meter. R. Nowell reported that at one time you could see particles in the water.

R. Nowell explained the steps he took to clear up the turbidity at Well #3. A lengthy discussion followed on the permitted level of turbidity in the water and related issues as they pertain to Well #1 and Well #3.

Discussion about the check valve for Well #1. R. Nowell questioned whether or not there is a functioning check foot valve down in Well #3. He said he does not get water right away and wonders if a check valve may be in place.

G. Eigenbrode asked if the turbidity problem is increasing or decreasing.

M. Gossert and R. Nowell feel the turbidity is going to get less and less.

R. Nowell said there is a concern but he pointed out that it is only a problem if the readings go over 5. This has happened and the well did shut down.

## 4. What percentage of these alarms cause Antrim to come to Mont Alto?

## 5. How many overtime hours has this problem caused?

R. Nowell explained that they can reset the turbidity alarm as many times as they feel like doing it without coming to Mont Alto.

R. Nowell said in reference to the turbidity, you just need more time and data.

In summation of the turbidity problem, nothing will be changed at this time.

Chairman D. Monn discussed overtime hours, alarms hours, weekend hours etc. C. Goetz told D. Monn that the more detailed invoice that will be provided by Antrim Township will help the Authority to track the money spent for operation of the Water Plant.

## 6. Any other problems Well #3?

Discussed the electric and phone problems that occurred because of the ice storm on Sunday December 16, 2007.

Discussion about changing to cellular service for operating the SCADA system. During the ice storm some cellular servers were down also. Discussed alternate solutions.

**Calling Structure** - General discussion about who Antrim Township should call when there are operating problems. Antrim Township should contact the MAMA before contacting the engineers. That way there isn't any cost involved. Antrim Township doesn't want to cause unnecessary expenses.

In addition to placing the Daily Report in the file and sending it to G. Calimer, P. Kocek was instructed to provide the report to Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc. by email. This way Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc. will be aware if there are problems.

**Check valves** - M. Gossert reminded the Authority again that the check valves that are in the lawn at Well #3 should be put into a 5 or 6 foot manhole. The line was put in when the bridge was out and the check valve was installed underground instead of in a pit as it was supposed to be.

Put on the Agenda for the January 2008 meeting.

**Propane** - Dennis Monn asked the Authority how they wanted to handle refilling the propane tanks?

Chairman D. Monn said to just have them filled on the regular cycle.

G. Calimer, Jr. told the members of the Authority that they own the tanks, so you can shop around for prices.

Chairman D. Monn thanked everyone for coming and wished them a Merry Christmas.

**Adjournment** - G. Eigenbrode made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of December 19, 2007 of the Mont Alto Municipal Authority, T. Gilbert seconded, so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Mont Alto  
Municipal Authority for their  
approval on January 14, 2007

Patricia A. Kocek  
Mont Alto Municipal Authority  
Recording Secretary