

## MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman David Monn called the special meeting of the Mont Alto Municipal Authority to order at 1:30 p.m. on October 27, 2009.

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

**MONT ALTO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY STAFF** – Patti Strite, Treasurer; Larson Wenger, Maintenance Supervisor; and Timothy Misner, Solicitor.

**INVOCATION** – Staat Stymiest

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Dennis Monn – Mont Alto Borough Council

**WATER BUDGET**

It was determined that an average round figure for monthly collections is around \$ 28,600 and the projected yearly income for 2010 is set at \$ 350,000 to include a guesstimate of the income from the Apex properties. It was determined that this will be about a 2.8% increase in revenue and around a 2% increase in expenses for 2010. Budget expenses line by line seem to be reasonable. Wages have been increased by a 3% COLA, but this actual number will be set to correspond to the federal government rate.

Willis Hess is still on retainer for water/sewer until the end of 2009. It has been discussed with him and he is agreeable to ending this function for the borough beginning in 2010. His fee has been deleted from the 2010 budget figures. Staff member Todd Sharrah has obtained the first part of his water license, so he will now serve as the back-up to Larson Wenger as Water Treatment Plant Operator. Wages for the new water operator were discussed.

Debt principle on the loan was added on at the end of the budget to show how that payment will affect the 2010 budget. Patti reminded everyone that she has been able to pay from excess collections each month an extra \$ 10,000 on the water loan since April 09. The water fund is functioning very efficiently at present.

There is concern that we will not have enough work during the winter months for the number of employees we have. That is something that will need to be looked at closely.

**SEWER BUDGET**

**Wish List Items**

Larson had a recommendation to put approximately \$ 5,000 a year in both the water and sewer budgets Capital Reserve for future purchase of a radio read system that will read meters. These systems cost \$ 70-80,000. This purchase would also be split with the Borough Electric Fund.

Second was for a cutting edge for the skid loader-\$ 400 each for water, sewer and also General Fund.

John Deere commercial grade lawn mower could cut mowing time in ½. Cost of this mower would be approximately \$ 10,000 but would be split by the General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund.

John Deere Gator for use around town.

Some discussion arose as to whether or not you can set up a fund such as a savings for long term purchases. It was determined that you can set up a fund, as long as the fund has a specific purpose – i.e. equipment purchases, etc. Money for the purchase of the new county radio system for our vehicles is already included in the Water and Sewer budgets for 2010.

Average collections were \$ 28,300 in 2009 for sewer. There is a 4.5% increase in revenue. The Sewer budget is very hard to calculate due to the projects in process, the unknown interest rates and when debt payments will begin on the project.

Dennis Monn stated that he needed to leave the meeting, but that he wanted to inform the Authority that Quincy Township officials had approached him in reference to attending the next scheduled Authority Meeting which would be November 9<sup>th</sup>. Dennis will inform Quincy to come to the meeting with a plan in place as to what they want the Authority to provide them in terms of water. He will inform them that they will be addressed at the beginning of the meeting at 6:30 p.m. A conference call will be scheduled at 7:30 with Mr. Gordon Walker to discuss the sewer loan rates, so Quincy will need to wrap up their discussions by 7:00 p.m.. Dennis Monn left the meeting.

Patti informed the Authority that the insurance rates had dropped under the new plan, but that a letter just received informed us that the rates for 2010 will increase 25%. Those figures will be adjusted back up on the 2010 budget.

It was decided that the budget will be finalized after the next regularly scheduled meeting after we talk with Gordon Walker and get a better idea of interest rates.

## **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Larson informed the Authority his concerns about the new Sludge Tank Pump. The new pump is 3.8 hp and the old pump is 7.5 hp. The 3.8 hp pump is indeed the correct hp pump. Since the existing pump still functions, and there is a new spare pump in storage, Larson recommends that we let the existing 7.5 pump in the Tank and keep the 3.8 hp to be used on the plant project. This would mean a contract change, but would save on installation and then only purchasing a second pump for the plant project. The Authority agrees with this suggestion and Larson will inform Scott of the contract change.

There is an issue with a clogged storm drain and culvert off Anthony Highway by Columbia Gas and near the Sewer Plant. Penn Dot has asked if they can redirect that water to our Sewer Plant property on the upper side. The water will run under 997 and into the field through a stone bedding and on into the stream. Penn Dot will be responsible for all of the costs. The Authority agrees to this work to be done by Penn Dot.

Returning to the budget items, it will be determined at our next regular meeting whether to add a line item for funding of future equipment purchases. In order of Larson's wish list, the blade for the skid loader would be first, followed by the lawnmower and then the gator. It was suggested that the Authority would fund the blade and the mower this year.

Some discussion ensued in reference to Quincy Township's presentation to the Authority at our next scheduled meeting of November 9<sup>th</sup>. We need to make sure that any money expended to get water to Quincy Township would need to be paid by them and no money would come out of the Authority's funds. It was suggested that this could be accomplished by way of Quincy Township setting up an escrow account that we would draw our expenses from.

Sid Miller made a motion to adjourn the special meeting of the Mont Alto Municipal Authority at 3:17 p.m..  
Staat Stymiest seconded, so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Mont Alto  
Municipal Authority for their  
approval on December 14, 2009

Patti A. Strite  
Mont Alto Municipal Authority  
Recording Secretary