

January 09, 2006

The Middlesex Governing Body held its regular scheduled meeting in the Conference Room at the town hall. Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Derek Bissette, Luke Robinson, Fred Hough, and Harold Meacombs. Commissioner Basco Lewis was absent.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis welcomed the guests (guest list attached and made a part of this set of minutes) and opened the floor for the public comment session. Deonia Eatmon and Hattie Thompson congratulated the Mayor on his election and thanked the Board for the work completed on South Elm Street on the ditches and water lines. She stated Elm Street has potholes and needs paving work.

Administrator Gordon Joyner requested to add to the agenda a sewer adjustment for Betty Hinnant and to add Public Works new hire discussion to the Closed Session. Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the agenda including these two additions. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Scotty Wilkins with Utility Services Company reviewed the water tower maintenance contract, the addendum changing the original contract date from March 2003 to July 2005, and Invoice #136990 for \$6743.00 due for services rendered. Mr. Wilkins reviewed the complete history of our contract, the painting of the inside of the tower, and all the water pressure problems experienced with the project and the remedies. He requested we move forward and approve the addendum to the contract and remit payment for Invoice #136990. He also brought to the Board's attention that there was a contractual cap of 5% price increase every four years. Mayor Lewis thanked him for his time and help explaining the sequence of events.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the December Financial Statements as presented by the Clerk. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette stated that the sidewalk repair project seemed to be going well and he has had a lot of compliments from citizens. The project will be completed after two driveways at Stallings Brothers are finished.

After a brief discussion regarding outsourcing of solid waste pickup, Administrator Joyner requested that this topic be tabled until the 2006-2007 budget workshop. This topic led to a discussion of manpower in the Utility Department and how the salary and benefits expense would have to be shifted to other departments if we outsource.

Commissioner Bissette asked if the town employees had begun the digging up of sewer laterals to pinpoint the inflow problem to be identified for the use of Rural Center grant funds. Administrator Joyner stated that Jeff would begin digging this week.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept Awe Home Repair's bid of \$1,675 to replace the wooden doors and frames with steel doors and frames at the park restrooms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner requested that the bulk item and household waste fee be tabled until we begin work on our upcoming budget.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approve and mail the revised Zoning Code Enforcement Letter to all in-town citizens. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

The IRS travel reimbursement rate dropped from 48.5 cents to 44.5 cents effective January 1, 2006.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the addendum to the Utility Services Company contract and to pay Invoice #136990 in the amount of \$6743.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept Harold Meacombs' resignation from the Board of Adjustments. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to appoint Dale Bachmann to the Board of Adjustments, replacing Harold Meacombs. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to amend the 2005-2006 budget as follows:

Account#	Description	Amount		
		Decrease	Increase	
10-331-0000	Town Contribution to Library	(4,000.00)	-	
10-310-0100	Prior Year Tax penalties	-	305.00	this rounds out the 4000.00 dec.
10-359-0000	Refuse Collections	-	3,195.00	this balances the sanitation bud.
10-330-0000	Nash County Library Cont.	-	500.00	Nash County increased cont.
		(4,000.00)	4,000.00	
10-490-3300	Zoning Dept Supplies		1,000.00	this covers camera to take pictures of zoning issues
10-490-4000	Zoning Planning Services	(1,000.00)		

10-560-5700	Street & Sidewalks , misc	1,000.00	this covers the cutting of trees
10-560-3300	Street & Sidewalks, dept supplies	(1,000.00)	to repair sidewalks
10-580-3300	Sanitation, dept supplies	1,000.00	this covers materials to build
10-580-4500	Sanitation, cont services	(1,000.00)	a new leaf box
10-390-0100	Gen Fund Bal Approp.	(4,000.00)	this off-sets the reduction below
10-660-1400	Non-Dept, Library Cont	(4,000.00)	Library is Dept of Town

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner recommended to pay \$1,242.00 unused vacation hours that were transferred to sick leave effective December 31, 2005 due to the town's policy. Due to being short staffed, the employees were not able to take off the time. The Board requested Joyner to present a revision to the personnel policy at the February Board Meeting.

Mayor Lewis recommended that we have about 15 members for the Land Use Planning Committee, stating that these members could be made up of current Planning Board members, Board of Adjustment members, business leaders, and citizens. He will present names for appointment at the February meeting and would appreciate everyone's input.

Administrator Joyner presented a revised Lease Agreement for town-owned buildings. The new agreement limits the increase in rent to 5% each year, as well as adding the following clauses as recommended by the town attorney: an abandonment clause, a clause requiring the tenant to be responsible for attorney fees as a result of lease default, and a clause for the town to seek remedy regarding any indebtedness of the tenant to the town. Commissioner Bissette moved to adopt the revised Lease Agreement. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ava Boyles submitted a proposed agreement to rent the former consignment shop for \$150 per month and \$150 security deposit. She requested the Board's permission to complete repairs and upgrades at her expense, provided the rent would stay the same that Helen Manning was paying. Helen Manning told the Board that the building needed a lot of work and was not worth more than \$150 in its present condition. After some discussion regarding the town upgrading the building and requesting more rent, Commissioner Bissette moved to authorize Gordon Joyner to negotiate the rent and repairs with Ms. Boyle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) Donnell Howard from \$216.00 to \$36.00
- (2) Michelle Kennedy from \$84.00 to 48.00
- (3) Betty Hinnant from \$204.00 to \$72.00

Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11 (a) (6) to review possible job applicants for the Assistant Utility Director and Librarian.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved to give Gordon Joyner the authority to hire a Librarian within the minimum to maximum pay scale set forth in the personnel policy and to hire Johnnie Steele as full time Assistant Utility Director at \$10.50 per hour contingent on his background investigation results.

Library Board Chairperson Cherrye Davis requested permission for Nash County to hold GED classes at the Library after normal library hours. The Board was in agreement as long as these people are covered by the town's liability insurance coverage. The Board requested this be investigated before final approval.

Rachel Wade, who lives on North Nash Street, has been paying for sewer services based on her monthly usage since June 1, 1997, when the lines were installed and her husband paid for the connection. She advised us last week that she is not connected to the sewer system, and therefore should have been paying only a minimum sewer bill. Since July 1, 2001, when we installed our current computer software, we have overcharged her \$921.00. The Board was in agreement that Gordon and Jennifer should come up with a reasonable average and figure how much she has overpaid since June 1, 1997 and report back to the Board the total amount of the refund to which Ms. Wade is entitled.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bissette moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette