

February 13, 2006

The Middlesex Governing Body held its regular scheduled meeting in the conference room of 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, and Basco Lewis. Commissioner Fred Hough and Harold Meacombs were absent. There were eleven guests present and the guest list is attached and made a part of these minutes.

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

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. Merceda Brantley stated that she was here to speak to the Board about cutting down a tree at her house, which is already on the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the agenda with no changes. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Michael Acquesta, town engineer (Earth Tech), reviewed sewer flow equalization basin charts for the past two years. These charts show the excursion of wastewater flow above the 80% value of the permitted flow (190,000 gpd). Dr. Acquesta explained how an equalization basin could address the problem of exceeding the contracted flow, showing the storage of flow needed at an 80% point (158,000 gpd) and at a 90% point (171,000 gpd). His recommendation is a 500,000 gallon basin, which is between 80- 90% point. A ballpark cost figure is \$650,000.

Zebulon is scheduled to connect to Raleigh's sewer system within the next twelve months. They will most likely expand their existing sewer plant and add another distribution point. Zebulon has initial plans to build a 1½ million gallon basin. It will be possible for Middlesex, in conjunction with Zebulon, to add 500,000 gallons, making the total basin a two million gallon basin. The cost to Middlesex would be \$450,000 versus \$650,000. After talking with Zebulon and Raleigh, Dr. Acquesta said both were in favor of this idea. He warned that new language must be added to our contract stating Middlesex's portion of the flow in the basin. In answer to the Mayor and Commissioner Bissette's questions, Dr. Acquesta said we could use existing grant funds and we could prepay if we chose to do so. Also, if Zebulon's hookup to Raleigh is delayed until 2007 or later, Middlesex would have to make a commitment to Zebulon because the product design of the basin would have to be completed within the year.

Administrator Gordon Joyner and Dr. Acquesta stated that information on additional manhole repairs and problem sewer laterals has been sent to the Rural Center and we are waiting for permission to use grant funds and begin these sewer project additions.

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

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that he received written permission from the property owner to proceed with clearing the loitering problem on the vacant lot on Cope Avenue, which was the source of several citizen complaints discussed at the January meeting.

Commissioner Bissette asked the status of his request to place someone second in command in the Police Department. Chief Ferrell stated that he had designated a person, and will submit a proposal to Administrator Joyner to be presented at the March meeting.

The Board was in agreement that the town should refund Rachel Wade for sewer overcharges since July 1, 1998, plus interest. Ms. Wade is not connected to the town's sewer system and should have been billed only a minimum bill. Ms. Wade brought this to the town's attention in January. Jeff Waddell verified she is not connected. Commissioner Bissette moved to pay Ms. Wade the \$1195.55 plus interest at a fair rate to be determined by Administrator Joyner and report the total amount paid to the Board at the March meeting. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis recommended Constance Corbett, Bobby Bissette, Gordon Joyner, and the six Planning Board members consisting of Lu Harvey Lewis, Danny Alford, Tim Denton, Rodney Hough, Luke Robinson, and Bill Durham to serve as the Middlesex Land Use Plan Committee. Commissioner Bissette moved to approve the appointments as recommended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and it carried unanimously. Mayor Lewis asked Administrator Joyner to contact the N.C. Division of Community Assistance and set a meeting for March.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept Hinton Construction Company's bid of \$2700 to install concrete pad floors for the two park picnic table shelters. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The proposal to change the policy for the maximum accumulation for vacation was tabled until March to get input from all commissioners.

The proposal for changes to the Water and Sewer Ordinance were tabled until all commissioners could be present to give input.

At the recommendation of Administrator Joyner, Commissioner Robinson moved to hire Robert Stamper as part time Librarian at a salary of \$8.50 per hour retroactive to January 25, 2006.

After background investigations did not check out on the candidate for the Assistant Utility Director, Administrator Joyner requested the Board to hire Joseph Sherrick as full time Assistant Utility Director at an annual salary of \$21,840 retroactive to January 13, 2006. Commissioner Bissette moved to hire Mr. Sherrick as recommended. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Administrator Joyner for a town logo design competition. An announcement to encourage citizen participation will be posted at town hall, Heritage Bank, and several retail businesses in Middlesex. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Bissette moved to proceed with the logo competition with a deadline of June 1, with a \$200 prize to the first place winner and \$100 prize to second place winner. The logo is to be placed on town letterhead, signage, vehicles, and the Board reserves the right not to choose entries or pay the prize money if they feel no suitable entries were received. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Computer Central located in Wilson has proposed a web page for \$199 initial setup cost and \$30 per month for access. After a brief discussion about a picture for the web page, Commissioner Bissette moved to get the website up and running without a picture and possibly add the logo later. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner requested approval to pay a \$2,050 overrun for the sidewalk project. This overrun represents 2½ extra driveways (\$1650), curb repairs and a few extra sidewalk repairs (\$400). Commissioner Bissette moved to approve payment of an additional \$2,050 to Hinton Construction. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner reported to the Board that outsourcing solid waste would be a net additional cost of \$30,800. After a brief discussion pointing out how the town could benefit of using our Utility Staff to complete projects and perform preventative maintenance, the matter was tabled until the Budget Workshops.

Sixteen notices were mailed to property owners of abandoned structures. Of the sixteen, seven did not respond. Also, Kevin Brown did not show for a hearing that was scheduled for last month for his abandoned property on Claude Lewis Road in the ETJ. The Board was in agreement that Gordon should proceed to the next step with Mr. Brown. Commissioner Robinson moved to schedule hearings on the seven property owners that did not respond to the letters. Commissioner Bissette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Merceda Brantley requested that the town share half the expense of cutting down a tree at her house on South Walnut Street. The tree is half on town property and half on Ms. Brantley's property. After discussing the bids presented, Commissioner Bissette moved to approve Reliable Tree Service's bid of \$700 to cut the tree and grind the stump with the town paying \$350.00 and Ms. Brantley paying \$350.00. Commissioner

Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Utility Department will clean up and remove the tree.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt a Cable Franchise Resolution requiring the cable franchisee to pay the town a franchise fee of 5% of the gross annual revenues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bisette and it carried unanimously. The Resolution, R2006-981 is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Bisette moved to approve the following 2005-2006 Budget Amendment for the Utility Services Water Town Maintenance Contract approved at the January meeting:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase</u>
30-810-4400	Water Tower Contract	\$6743.00
30-370-9000	Contingency Fund Appro.	\$6743.00

Commissioner Robinson moved to advertise 2005 delinquent property taxes which are liens on real property. Commissioner Bisette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Board agreed to hold a 2006-2007 Budget Workshop on March 20th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the town hall.

Proposals for painting the exterior of the Public Works Shop were presented. Commissioner Lewis would like to contact a fourth party to place a bid. However, Commissioner Bisette moved to authorized Administrator Joyner to hire the lowest bid which is qualified to work for the town. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bisette moved to approve retroactively the payment of Jeff Waddell for 5 ½ hours of comp time paid on January 12, 2006 to avoid exceeding the 240 maximum hours allowable by law. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) Stan Overman from \$216.00 to \$36.00
- (2) James Finch from \$120.00 to \$24.00
- (3) Hair Care Center from \$156.00 to \$24.00
- (4) Reba Hamilton from \$72.00 to \$48.00
- (5) Willie Pearce from \$336.00 to \$24.00

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bisette moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.10 (4) to discuss possible economic development issues.

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Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved to authorize Administrator Joyner to commit 35,000 gallons per day of sewer flow to Nash County to be phased in over a period of time. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bissette moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Luke Robinson
Derek Bissette
Basco Lewis