

February 14, 2005

The Middlesex Governing Body held its regular meeting in the Conference Room of the town hall. In the absence of a Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem, the Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, and Basco Lewis. Guests were Derek Bissette, Rosemary Dorsey, Michael Marshall, Erzell Lucas, Barbara Bunn, Lu Harvey Lewis, and Vennie Brock.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the resignation of Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Larry Daniel. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to appoint Derek Bissette as Commissioner to fill the seat vacated by Daniel. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to appoint Commissioner Meacombs as Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rosemary Dorsey, Nash County Planner and Chairman of the Down East HOME Consortium, addressed the Board regarding participation in the HOME program to be eligible to receive Home Investment Partnership Act funds (HOME funds) from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Dorsey explained that the Consortium is made up of municipalities in Nash and Edgecombe Counties, with Rocky Mount being the administrator of the program. Monies awarded will be based on population. There are no matching funds and we would be participating until June 30, 2007, at which time we may or may not choose to continue participation. Middlesex would need to appoint a representative to be on the Board and attend meetings once a month. The only paperwork required of Middlesex would be to hand out applications and turn in completed applications to the HOME Board.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Commissioner Hough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the January Financial Statements as correct. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell stated he would like the Board to interview an applicant for a part time police officer in Closed Session. Commissioner Hough asked about recent dog complaints. Chief Ferrell stated his department had written some citations and that seems to be taking care of the problems for now.

Jeff Waddell stated his department has completed painting the parking lines and crosswalks on Hanes and Nash Streets and he is using community service workers to paint the curbs.

Town Administrator Peggy Bissette stated she mailed 40 surveys to businesses requesting their input on switching to one trash pickup per week to avoid a price increase in sanitation. Waste Industries advised us of a \$1.00 per ton price increase for solid waste and fuel costs have risen. Out of 36 responses, only 2 stated they would have a problem with only one pickup per week. They were advised that purchasing an additional trash container would solve the problem. A letter was mailed to all businesses advising that effective February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, trash would be picked up once per week on Mondays. This change will result in a cost savings of \$1,600 in gas prices alone.

Administrator Bissette also mailed a questionnaire to all residences regarding sewer infiltration requesting information regarding the type and age of sewer pipe from the town hookup to their residence. Many replied that lines were old terracotta clay pipe and they would agree for the town to replace lines with grant funds. We are waiting to hear from the Rural Center to give us permission to use the grant funds to eliminate this infiltration before we can proceed.

Harris Perry is looking into the problem drainage ditch along the railroad right-of-way parallel with Finch Avenue which has been flooding Automotive Paint and Parts and will present a quote to correct the problem.

Lu Harvey Lewis, Chairman of the Planning Board, requested the Board to agree to request permission from Nash County to move the ETJ to the full 1 mile jurisdiction in all directions using existing boundary lines and roads nearest the 1 mile mark. Commissioner Hough moved to present this request to Nash County. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to appoint Danny Alford to fill the Planning Board vacancy as a result of the death of David Bartley. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Lewis advised the Board that he had been working with Jeff Waddell to erect Middlesex Planning Jurisdiction signs.

Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt the Resolution of Participation in the Down East HOME Consortium. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to advertise tax liens for the 2004 unpaid property taxes and begin collection proceedings. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the resignation of Police Officer Samuel Drake, Jr. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to make the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) Katie Phillips from \$72.00 to \$24.00
- (2) Tim Stallings from \$216.00 to \$60.00
- (3) Paula Houp from \$192.00 to \$72.00

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Peggy Bissette advised the Board of a dispute regarding water, sewer and sanitation rates of two citizens; one being an in-home business with a beauty shop, and one being a residence with a separate upstairs apartment which had recently been rented. Bissette explained that after researching the ordinances and minutes, it was not very clear on how these types of customers should be billed. After reviewing Bissette's recommendations, Commissioner Hough moved to adopt the following rate policies and add to the town's ordinances:

- (1) A residence with a business on one meter will be charged for water and sewer services based upon the meter reading in accordance with the existing minimum policy, but will be charged a residential and a business trash fee.
- (2) A residence that has two or more separate living quarters with only one meter shall be charged a minimum water and sewer bill for each living quarter and the sanitation shall be charged at residential fee times the number of living quarters.
- (3) Any business that has multiple businesses on one meter shall be charged a fee equal to the minimum bill for water and sewer times the number of businesses on the meter. A sanitation fee will be charged at the business rate times the number of the businesses on the one meter.

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion was carried unanimously.

Peggy Bissette presented the Board with a proposed Personnel Policy with her recommendations to the MAPS Proposal for their review. Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs stated that a date for a workshop will be set at the March regular meeting.

Erzell Lucas complained to the Board that his January utility bill was double the normal amount. Mr. Lucas stated he had no leaks and no leaking commode problems. Peggy Bissette stated that the bill for December was estimated due to the ice storm and was estimated too low, resulting in January's bill being higher. Jeff Waddell rechecked the meter and the reading was correct and will reread again at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs. Jeff stated he could not check the accuracy of the meter because there

was no outside faucet. Meacombs stated if there are no problems detected, there would be no recourse because the water went through the meter.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session to interview Michael Marshall for a part time Police Officer position. Commissioner Hough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to return to Open Session and Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to hire Michael Marshall as part time Police Officer at the part time rate (\$10.00 per hour). Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs  
Commissioners  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette  
Basco Lewis