

March 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 Luke Robinson, and Basco Lewis, Fred Hough, and Harold Meacombs. Commissioner Derek Bissette was absent. There were six 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 Lewis seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. Mr. Cephus Ray addressed the Board stating that this area needed a recreation and/or senior center and that he had spoken to Nash County Commissioner Billy Morgan and to Chairman Mayo. Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Ray the existence of the Southern Nash Youth Athletic Association and the ball field at Middlesex Elementary which is a part of the program and that Middlesex had contributed to this project. Mr. Ray stated he was aware of the program and if the Board had any interest in a senior center or other recreation programs to feel free to call him for his involvement.

Mr. Jerry Perry also approached the Board regarding the placing of a mobile home, which is seven years old, in his mobile home park on Old Middlesex Road located in the town's ETJ. The town's ordinance does not allow a mobile home to be placed in a mobile home zone which is older than five years from the date of the manufacturers seal. Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Perry that he would need to go back to the Planning Board, due to the fact that the ordinance was originally recommended to the Town Board by the Planning Board. Administrator Joyner advised the Board he would coordinate a Planning Board meeting for Mr. Perry to hear his request for an exception to the ordinance.

Administrator Joyner requested the Board to add to the agenda the approval for payment of David Hinton Construction's invoice for the concrete pads at the park. Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the agenda with one addition recommended by Joyner. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Chief Ferrell advise the Board that he was entering into a contract with the Rocky Mount Boys and Girls Club to use at-risk youth, to help Jeff Waddell's department clean up and landscape the ramp areas where 231 North crosses 264 Bypass. The contract states that the town is under no liability and the workers are insured by the Boys and Girls Club and are their responsibility.

Mats were purchased for the exercise room upstairs at the Police Department with Wellness Grant Funds in the amount of \$400 that were awarded the town.

Bulletproof vests currently being used by the Police Department will be replaced at 100% by American Body Armor at the recommendation of the Department of Justice, with no cost to the town. The vests are rated for five years. Our current vests are made of zylon, a material that is no longer acceptable.

Administrator Joyner updated the Board on several projects as follows:

(1) the town's website is up and running and is being updated with new links and information as time allows;

(2) recommendation to set up a Centennial Committee to begin discussing a 2008 Centennial Celebration; (Commissioner Meacombs pointed out that Centennial Banners sponsored by businesses were an option).

(3) recommendation to consider a Community Improvement Committee, which would aid in reaching a long range strategic plan for the town, which would be an aid in applying for grants;

(4) begin thinking about the town's facilities and buildings, for example, the public works shop and storage is in dire need of improvement. There are currently poor working conditions;

(5) begin landscaping projects with the assistance of NC DOT (eight sights have been identified for possible landscaping to improve the appearance of the town). DOT will fund the landscaping at the 231 North and 264 Bypass ramps and town personnel will do the clean up. Tentative plans include planting holly trees recommended by Charles Wood, Wood Plant Farm, at vacant lots on main street and at the town's entrance in each direction of 264 Alternate . These trees will be approximate \$75-\$100 each , (five to be placed to the right of Manning Brothers, five to be placed between the town hall and the Wade Thompson building, and three between the consignment shop and the insurance agency for a total estimated cost of \$1,300. He noted that Constance Corbett had agreed to head up and oversee a committee for the purpose of beautification of the town. Commissioner Hough moved to proceed with planting the best choice of trees at a cost of \$1,300. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(6) To give the town a better appearance, request to purchase three welcome signs for the main entrances into town. Information and costs will be presented at a later date. DOT will provide some directional signs and the town would have to furnish some signs, but they must be DOT approved. Signs for the town hall, public works building, and library need to be replaced and the total cost would be \$382.42 plus tax. A lighted sign is recommended at the police department, which estimates ranged from \$1934 to \$3566. Pictures will be presented at the next regular Board meeting. A distinctive color should be used for all town signage and we need to be thinking about the color scheme.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to purchase three two sided signs for the town hall, public works building and the library to replace the old signs at a cost of \$382.42 plus tax. His motion was approved by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner recommended to purchase new metal picnic tables for the park and waste receptacles for main street. We would need approximately eight tables at \$1,000 each. The tables were put on hold until the budget workshop.

Waste receptacles would be about \$350 each and Joyner requested to purchase five now at a total cost of \$1750 plus tax. Commissioner Robinson moved to purchase five waste receptacles at a cost of \$1750 plus tax. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it was carried unanimously.

As requested by the Board last month, Administrator Joyner reported Rachel Wade's total refund was \$1213.48, which was \$1195.55 plus 1½% interest, for the overcharge on sewer since 2000 due to the fact she is not connected to the system.

After a brief discussion on the proposal to change the vacation accumulation policy, Commissioner Meacombs moved to change Section 8. Vacation Leave: Maximum Accumulation as proposed as follows: "Vacation Leave may be accumulated without any applicable maximum until December 31 of each year. However, if the employee departs from service, payment for accumulated vacation leave shall not exceed, based on years of service, the equivalent of one years accumulation. Effective the last payroll in the calendar year, any employee with more than the allowed accumulated leave shall have the excess removed. The excess amount removed shall be converted to sick leave and added to the employee's sick leave balance. Employees are not eligible to receive pay for excess vacation time not taken." His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve David Hinton's invoice including the overage of \$400. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The overage was due to an extra 10 feet, resulting from the two different pad sizes which was an oversight on our original bid sheet.

Commissioner Hough moved to adopt the record retention policy from the Division of Archives as presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell requested the Board's approval to apply for a fully equipped vehicle and speed trailer totaling about \$50,000 (\$40,000 for the vehicle and \$10,000 for the speed trailer). The grant is a 75% grant with a 25% match. The town will have to pay the entire amount and be reimbursed. The net cost to the town would be \$12,500. Commissioner Hough moved to apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the sewer adjustment for Elsie Boone from \$72.00 to \$24.00. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318-11(a) (6) to discuss recommended promotions in the Police Department.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to elevate Steve Glover to the rank of Sergeant with an increase of \$2,000 bringing his annual salary to \$28,700 and to elevate Dennis Murray to the rank of Corporal with an increase of \$2,113, bringing his annual salary to \$26,500. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

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