

April 30, 2007

The Middlesex Governing Body met in Special Session for the purpose of a budget workshop. Mayor Lewis called the workshop to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Basco Lewis, Derek Bissette, Luke Robinson, and Fred Hough were present. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent.

Mayor Lewis turned the workshop over to Town Administrator Gordon Joyner. Joyner reviewed all the changes incorporated from the April 2, 2007 budget workshop.

Joyner asked the Board to clarify the increases for the price of cemetery plots for out of town persons. The Board agreed that we should increase out of town purchases \$150 also, the same increase as in town purchases.

After a brief discussion regarding the \$34,000 in the budget for a dump truck, the Board asked Joyner to price a new truck through state contract. Commissioner Lewis found a 2006 F-450 diesel, but the Board agreed it was too small. Commissioner Robinson stated that he owns a F-550 and the Board agreed we needed the large truck. Once Joyner gets a quote, the Board will decide whether to put in the 2007-2008 budget or amend the current year budget and purchase a truck in this fiscal year.

The Board agreed to approve the Centennial Committee's request for \$10,000 for the Centennial Program and to remove \$11,000 for Hanes Company inducements which will not affect us until 2009.

Joyner recommended we purchase the computer hardware for the upgrade versus leasing after a comparison of the costs and the fact that we have had minimal hardware maintenance costs for the past several years. The purchase price for a remote server and three new workstations is \$9,419 versus \$15,748 for lease agreement for three years for the same equipment. The Board agreed it was more cost effective to purchase. The total upgrade for hardware purchases and Logics Windows Software Upgrades totals \$19,500 and the Board agreed to leave the entire amount in the budget.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed not to increase property taxes, even though the General Fund Balance Appropriation to balance the budget submitted is \$359,480, which does not include the \$72,000 for the Powell Bill Fund Balance Appropriation.

Joyner recommended to increase the water rates by \$.50 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons for in town users and \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons for out of town users. After reviewing the operational costs and comparisons of revenues versus expenditures for the current year, the Board agreed to increase the water rate as recommended.

After reviewing the expenditures compared to revenues for the current year for sewer services, the Board agreed to increase the sewer rates by \$.75 per 1,000 gallons, increasing

the rate for in town users to \$13.00 per 1,000 gallons and \$26.00 per 1,000 gallons for out of town users. The Board also agreed that the need to increase the water and sewer rates outweighs the need to increase sanitation rates, so they reversed their decision from the April 2, 2007 budget workshop to increase sanitation rates by \$1.00 per user. The Board feels they should not increase the rates for all three services at the same time.

All Board members agreed to leave the Powel Bill budget at \$103,000 for paving projects as submitted.

Mayor Lewis pointed out that he and the Town Engineer, Michael Acquesta, met with the Raleigh officials last week to discuss the sewer contract, and that he requested 20,000 gallons of extra flow above the 60,000 additional gallons stated in the contract at \$7.00 per gallon. Dale Crisp stated that it would be available, but there was a question as to when it would be available. Crisp believed that the flow would be available immediately, but Kenneth Waldroup did not agree so they will review and give us an answer in the next few days. Mayor Lewis stated that the \$300,000 in sewer grant money will be used to purchase flow and must be expended before June 30, 2007 and not carried into the next fiscal year.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board that he asked Joyner to get prices on a new lawnmower for the Public Works Department to be added to the 2007-08 budget. He is waiting for quotes.

The Board agreed to expend \$1700-\$1800 to buy a laser printer and printer format upgrades for water and sewer bills and tax bills in the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Lewis proposed to grade the hills at the cemetery and not rebuild the retainer walls. The Board agreed the walls would look nicer. Mayor Lewis is working with Alton Barnes to get specs so we can see if \$30,000 in the budget is a reasonable figure and to leave the \$30,000 in the budget for now.

The Board agreed that the town should recognize Mr. Bill Lewis for the volunteer work he does at the cemetery. Joyner will coordinate and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

With no further business, Mayor Lewis adjourned the workshop.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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