

August 18, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met in special session in the conference room of the town hall on August 18, 2003 for (1) a presentation by the Nash County Planning Department and the Wooten Company regarding county wide water for Southern Nash County, (2) review Hazard Mitigation Plan strategies for the next five years, (3) review a model town cable ordinance proposed by Nash County, and (4) approve the final plans for the sewer rehabilitation project. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Larry Daniel and Bascoe Lewis. Commissioner Fred Hough was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Bissette welcomed our guests County Manager Bob Murphy, Nash County Director of Development Patsy King, Robbie Davis, Nash County Planning, Nash County Commissioners Tommy May, Billy Morgan, Vance Brooks, Engineer with the Wooten Company, Michael Acquesta with Pierson and Whitman Engineers and Vennie Brock.

Mayor Bissette stated that with the probable development of Southern Nash County in the near future, we need the proper infrastructure to handle this growth. Mr. Murphy added that Nash County has a strong interest in this area and it has emerged as a top priority for development, but the support of the municipalities is critical to the planning of a county wide water system. Mr. Murphy then recognized Vance Brooks.

Mr. Brooks then gave a presentation outlining the most favorable option for a county wide water system. Middlesex, Bailey and Spring Hope would purchase bulk water supplied by the county with lines from either Rocky Mount or Wilson. The municipal and rural customers (meters) total approximately 4,541. The proposed debt service to get the lines in place would total \$24.8 million, with an annual cost of \$1,373,962 amounting to \$25.21 per month per initial customer. Most likely the \$24.8M would come by the way of a 40% grant from the Rural Center, with a 38-year loan at 4½ % broken down into three phases. Nash County operating and maintenance costs would add \$427,684 annually, or \$7.85 (\$1.55/gallons) monthly cost per customer.

The operating and maintenance expense of the towns would add another \$155,600 annually or \$2.82 per month (these figures are 20% lower than present expenses assuming the towns would abandon their wells). Bulk water purchases of 754,000 gallons a day for municipal and rural customers add \$575,189 annually or \$10.56 per month per customer. Taking all these figures into consideration, the total average bill would be \$2,530,435 annually or \$46.44 per month per customer for water. After you deduct the debt service reduction for the USDA Rural Center grant \$549,585 annually or (\$10.09) per month, the total system cost at average retail would be \$1,980,850 or \$36.35 per month per customer.

Mr. Wooten estimated that by year 2010, the average monthly bill would go down to \$31.63. As we grow, more customers would mean decreased monthly bills. Mayor Bissette asked about price increases for the bulk rate water. Rocky Mount historically increases its prices yearly at 2 ½%-3%. Asked how many gallons Middlesex would need to purchase, Mr. Wooten replied 73,000 per day for approximately 1800 customers (including rural).

Mr. Murphy stated that before Nash County can proceed, they need a commitment from the municipalities. He also stated that at a later date, there is a possibility the water capacity might not be available.

Most everyone seemed concerned about how we would go about convincing the citizens. Mr. Murphy stated that we must have a dependable long term supply of quality water to accommodate growth and future economic development that our current system cannot supply. Mayor Bissette thanked everyone and advised that our board would consider the proposal and discuss again at our next regular meeting September 8th, 2003.

Mayor Bissette introduced Michael Acquesta with Pierson and Whitman Engineers. Mr. Acquesta stated that the final plans and maps for the sewer I & I project had been reviewed with Jeff Waddell, Utilities Director and the Rural Center needs the final approval of the town board before continuing. Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the final plans and drawings for the Middlesex Sewer Rehabilitation Project as submitted by Pierson and Whitman. Commissioner Daniel seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

The Clerk reviewed the proposed strategies for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Robinson moved to accept these strategies. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and it carried unanimously.

After a brief discussion about the proposed cable ordinance, Commissioner Daniel moved to approved the ordinance. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Luke Robinson
Larry Daniel
Bascoe Lewis

