

November 13, 2006

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr., Commissioners Fred Hough, Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette and Basco Lewis. Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. The guest list is attached.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. Ken Murchison asked about Town Administrator Gordon Joyner's condition. Peggy Bissette advised that Gordon's is not doing any better and he should get the results from his milogram this week.

Acting in the capacity of Town Administrator, Peggy Bissette requested to add to the agenda (1) approval to apply for a STAG grant for a new well and an elevated tank, (2) schedule a Public Hearing to discuss inducements for Hanes Company, and (3) schedule a Public Hearing to review recommendations from the Planning Board to amend the zoning ordinances.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt the agenda with the three requested additions. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis turned the floor over to John Anthony with Anthony, Moore, & Tabb, PA, the town's auditor to review the financial statements and audit findings for fiscal year 2005-2006. Anthony gave the town a "clean opinion" and stated that the town is in good financial condition. The General Fund's net assets increased \$6,675 and the Water and Sewer Fund increased \$114, near breakeven. He recommended we bump rates up slightly to stay ahead and avoid any large rate increases at one time. He pointed out we had a very good tax collection rate of 98.58% for real and personal property and Nash County's collection rate of 84.15% for vehicle taxes.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the October financial statements as correct. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and it carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell received a letter from GHSP awarding the grant for the police car. He will begin calling dealerships and is leaning toward a Dodge Charger for \$20,000, versus the Impala in the \$18,000-19,500 range or the Crown Vic for about \$21,000.

Peggy Bissette advised the Board that ABC Roofing's lowest bid of \$5,350 to remove and replace the library roof was let and they will begin work as soon as we get 2-3 consecutive days of good weather.

McClain Masonry's bid of \$614 was the only bid received from several contractors contacted to repair the cemetery columns damaged by the vehicle accident. Commissioner Bissette moved to submit the bid to the insurance company, but to hold off on the actual repair until the Board decided what action to take on the cemetery wall. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

After contacting several companies, McClain Masonry was the sole bid received for replacing the entire cemetery wall. Three estimates were received on repairing the entire existing wall. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to pursue replacing the entire wall, with town employees tearing down the existing wall. Mr. Alton Barnes, a concrete contractor who owns A & F Equipment Company, agreed to dig and pour the footings for the cemetery walls for free in memory of Edna C. and Ollie Liles and Bud and Ina Bissette. Labor and concrete for the footings will be furnished by Mr. Barnes. He also will bring Carnell Harris, a brick mason he highly recommends, to look at the project and give us an estimate for building a new wall. Mr. Barnes agreed to be responsible for the specs. Commissioner Bissette moved to pursue getting specs and prices and to look at different sizes and styles of brick. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Barnes for his generous offer.

Bissette presented three bids for paving the cemetery driveway but the Board agreed to table this issue until the cemetery wall is completed.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept Weaver Asphalt's bid of \$15,000 to widen, build up the shoulders, and repave Manning Street from Finch Avenue to West Hanes. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. This work will be paid from Powell Bill funds.

Bissette reported problems with the welcome signs project. At the Board's request, Gordon Joyner had pursued obtaining the easements. One person has changed their mind. Herring-Sutton, who surveyed the easements and gave us legal descriptions of each, presented a bill for \$2,000. Attorney Liz Fairman advised Bissette that title searches, completing easements, getting signatures and recording would cost about \$500 for each easement, or \$2,000 total. Commissioner Meacombs moved to look at samples of breakaway signs at the December meeting, pay the Herring-Sutton invoice, and table the easements. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approve Chief Ferrell's request to attend a one-day seminar on Death Investigations on December 8th in Greenville at a cost of \$75.00. Commissioner Meacombs seconded and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to appoint Dale Bachmann to the Land Use Plan Committee replacing Bobby Bissette. Commissioner Fred Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Alton and Evelyn Barnes requested the Board to annex approximately 38 acres of property on Stokes Road (across from Larry Liles) and provide water and sewer. Mr. Barnes presented a surveyor's map of the property divided into 38 lots approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre each, which he intends to develop with stick built homes a minimum of 1600-1800 square feet in size. Barnes stated that he will place deed restrictions on lots. Bissette reported that according to NC DENR regulations, we must allow 360 gallons per day for each three bedroom home, so 38 homes would require 13,680 gallons per day of sewer flow. Bissette advised them to present the town with a petition to annex and the town will check with Raleigh regarding the additional sewer flow needed. Commissioner Hough moved to hold a Public Hearing to hear the annexation request prior to the regular scheduled meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> provided the town can add the flow to the system. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

At the request of Officer Tim Kapp who will be returning to the military, Commissioner Bissette moved to cancel the Liability Insurance on the K9 and terminate the Lease Agreement for the K9 effective November 30, 2006. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

After reviewing a request from a cemetery plot owner to landscape and border a cemetery lot, the Board agreed to abide by the current ordinance and deny the request. Reasons cited were problems with the long term upkeep and difficulty cutting the grass.

Commissioner Bissette moved to apply for a STAG grant for a new well water supply and an elevated tank and approved to hire Will Hooker for \$100 to locate possible water supplies. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The grant is a 55% grant with a 45% match.

Commissioner Hough moved to hold Public Hearings prior to the regular scheduled meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> (1) to review a recommendation from the Planning Board to amend the zoning ordinance and (2) to review inducement agreements regarding the Hanes Company. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session under GS 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss matters relating to economic development and GS 143-318.11 (a) (6) for an employee evaluation.

Back in Open Session, and being no further business, Commissioner Hough moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

Mayor Luther Harvey Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette  
Basco Lewis