

March 9, 2009

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, and Derek Bissette. Commissioner J.W. McClenny was absent. Guests present were Vennie Brock and Melissa Fields.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comment. Melissa Fields addressed the Board regarding the brown water situation when the inside of the tower was cleaned a couple of weeks ago. She stated that she ruined a load of clothes and she and her son got sick, she thinks was possibly from the water. She stated that anytime work is being done on the water tower that the citizens should be notified. Mrs. Fields also stated that the ladies in the town hall should be courteous to callers, that citizens deserve respect when calling with a complaint. Being no further public comment, the session was closed.

The February minutes were approved without change in a motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

No amendments to the agenda were requested and Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the agenda as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

In a motion made by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Bissette, the February financial statements were approved unanimously as presented.

Due to the NC Wildlife Commission's advising Administrator Bissette that the town has no jurisdiction regarding bow hunting in the extraterritorial jurisdiction, a motion was made by Commissioner Hough to rescind a March 10, 2008 motion allowing bow hunting in the ETJ. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs advised that the picnic shelter at the new wellness park will most likely be finished by the end of this week. There is a beige primer coat, which Meacombs said looks fine and Nelson Price was asking if the town wanted a different color. The Board was in agreement that the beige color is fine for the second coat.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that she, along with Clerk Lambert, attended a meeting at the Rural Center earlier today with Rural Center and USDA officials, Engineers Michael Acquesta and Reid Campbell, to review the new well project. Reid Campbell advised that the project had been cut back from the original well, elevated tank, booster pump due to economic downturn and a development west of town that has stopped, and also there was critical need due to two VOC (volatile chemical) violations in the last year at Well #4 on Finch Avenue. The town's amended plan is to dig one well, and depending on the capacity and water quality, dig a second well if needed, and also replace all meters with digital radio read meters, using town employees to install the meters. USDA official Dennis DeLong advised that if the town would be using their loan funds, which was federal money, they would require a cost analysis comparing the cost of getting the VOC's out of Well #4 on Finch Avenue by a method known as "airstripping" versus the cost of digging the new well. DeLong stated that once they saw the cost comparison, the town could use USDA funds at 2.75% interest and pay it off early if we would like, or use town funds, depending on the town's financial situation. The next step would be to see which way the town wanted to go with the financing, and then proceed with an amended Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to pursue digging one well, possibly two, depending on capacity and quality of the first well, and the replace the water meters using the town's funds and not use the USDA money. This motion was passed at the February 19th Special Meeting, when the Board voted to apply for economic stimulus money, which could be used for the 35% match for the grant funds as required by the Rural Center and not borrow any money at this time.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that NC Division of Water Quality came and investigated the dechlorination process at Well #4 backwash station and ruled that we did not have to install the dechlorination pump as they had previously required.

The Board was reminded to submit any budget requests for items to be included the 2009-2010 budget before the March 19th workshop. Mayor Lewis reminded Administrator Bissette to order the leaf collection system discussed earlier and pay half before June 30 and budget the second half next fiscal year.

Administrator Bissette presented information on a recycling grant which she applied for and the town has been awarded. The state has passed legislation that prohibits hard plastic bottles from landfills, and fluorescent light tubes. Administrator Bissette recommended that we accept \$25,000 in grant money to purchase 400 roll carts for plastic, cans, and recyclable papers and an automatic lift arm to be installed on the back of the trash truck that allows automatic pick up

and dumping of the carts. The town's part would be approximately \$5,000. Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the grant funds for the recycling project. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bisette and carried unanimously.

Levi Evans asked that the roof on the building he rents from the town be repaired due to leaking when we had snow. Utility Director Jeff Waddell investigated and it looks as if several places of foam insulation had blistered and burst and he took pictures of the problem areas. Administrator Bisette has a call into the company that repaired the roof in 2000.

Administrator Bisette advised the Board that none of the office staff had been rude to Mrs. Fields when she called regarding the brown water situation. Mayor Lewis advised Mrs. Fields that all citizens would be notified in the future when work was being done on the tower.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

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