

Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2012

The Middlesex Governing Body met in Special Session for a Budget Workshop to begin discussing and reviewing information pertaining to the 2012-2013 budget. Mayor Lewis called the workshop to order at 7:30pm. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Dale Bachmann, and J.W. McClenny. Police Chief Dennis Murray and Officer Crystal Daughtry were present. There were no guests.

Mayor Lewis turned the workshop over to Clerk Lambert to review the materials. Current salaries and hours for all employees, full and part time, along with benefits, and date and amount of last increase was presented. All employees have been reviewed except Chief Murray, Jennifer Lambert, Crystal Daughtry and Jeff Waddell, which are on the July 1 schedule. Percentages of each employees salary charged to the various departments will be reviewed for accuracy, as they may change from year to year. New retirement rates will not be received until April, and a quote from MIT for health insurance was received. The dental insurance premium will increase \$1 per month per person, while life and vision will not change. We are waiting for the Blue Cross quote.

Clerk Lambert advised the Board that the current Personnel Policy, which states that only full time employees are eligible for benefits in Article VI, Section 5, is in direct conflict with the Local Government Retirement Systems 1,000 hours membership requirement. Lambert asked the Board to read the materials from LGRS, Section 5 of the personnel policy, review the hours of the part time employees, and to reach a conclusion as to how this matter will be resolved.

Lambert pointed out that the estimated property tax values from Nash County of \$47,342,000, are down for the upcoming tax year by \$6,000 in tax dollars at the current \$.55 tax rate. The audited tax figures for last year were presented along with property tax rate history indicating no increase in the rate since 1992. The last revaluation was 2009. Lambert emphasized that the General Fund Balance decreased last fiscal year by \$174,751, with \$83,000 used for Powell Bill paving, leaving a net decrease of \$91,651 in the General Fund balance.

Current sanitation rates indicates revenues exceed expenditures by \$14,000 so far this fiscal year. Community building revenues over expenditures show a \$3,500 gain this year and the cemetery year to date indicates expenditures exceed revenues of \$400. Mayor Lewis noted that no salaries and benefits are charged to the cemetery or parks and recreation departments.



Year to date revenues versus expenditures for all funds, in addition to last fiscal year's performance was in the packet for review. Also, all debt service schedules were presented, and Lambert confirmed we have CD reserves in place totaling \$173,000 and need \$25,000 more. The \$12,000 CD for the USDA sewer loan is restricted and must remain open until paid in full. Lambert also reviewed the current bank balances by fund.

In the Administration Department, a capital expenditure of \$11,736 for the Logics Eagle Utilities Software Upgrade and the required hardware was approved at the March regular meeting. Commissioner Bachmann added that we should include extra money for unexpected costs, which are not unusual for a computer upgrade. Lambert will confirm with Logics that this server upgrade will also handle the Financial Upgrade, which has not been released at this time. Lambert added that the HP printer is about eight years old, but working fine. Commissioner McClenny requested Lambert to check the number of copies printed and life span of the printer.

Commissioner Bachmann noted the possibility that lift stations may be tied in for Middlesex Corporate Park and the Southern Seeds lift station needs a generator due to problems during heavy rains. Mayor Lewis advised he will check surplus property for a generator, and added that we need a generator for the Police Department and town shop.

Attached is a copy of Chief Murray's budget requests and are a part of these minutes. Murray request a laptop for one police car, an 800mhz portable radio, a camcorder for interview, a generator for the PD, and to add a fifth police officer. A metal detector was deleted from the list because we have one in the town shop. Mayor Lewis added that the generator could be shared with the town shop. Murray also requested extra money in the budget for training and uniforms, because the current year budget had to be amended. He also expressed that he would like to get a new patrol vehicle and would like to check with GHSP for grant funds. Mayor Lewis added that before the Board would consider a fifth officer, he would like to see a schedule and asked Murray to present one at the next meeting.

Chief Murray also presented a quote from Middlesex Motor for \$1394.31 to repair and paint several large places on the top, hood, and trunk where the paint has popped off on the 2006 Crown Vic we purchased this year. Mayor Lewis commented he would obtain another quote.

Mayor Lewis expressed that he felt the water rates should be fine with the addition of the Pencco plant coming on board. He also commented that two new houses have just been built, and he has received three recent inquires regarding Creech Farms Subdivision.



Commissioner Bachmann predicted the sanitation rates would be fine as long as the truck continues without problems. He also added that the wet well seal is leaking at the Creech Farms Subdivision lift station and would have to be repaired if there is any development.

Clerk Lambert advised the Board that Raleigh has increased their sewer treatment rates 2% every year, and has requested input from Raleigh for next year for treatment, impact, and nitrogen fee rates. Mayor Lewis added that if Raleigh increases, Middlesex must increase, because we cannot absorb the difference. Bachmann stated that we absorbed the increase for three consecutive years and had to increase rates substantially at one time. Clerk Lambert commented that we depleted all reserves for debt service payments during that time and we had to rebuild the reserves.

The Utility Service contract for the water tower will remain the same price as last year at \$8308.15. Commissioner Bachmann asked Lambert to check on the expiration date of the contract, as we may get quotes from other companies.

Commissioner Bachmann asked that the library be painted on the inside and possibly get some furniture from the old Powell Clinic building.

Mayor Lewis added that the \$5,000 in the current budget would be used to replace the windows in the community and would have \$1,200 left for cabinets.

Commissioner Alford moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss an economic development request which would effect the upcoming budget.

Back in Open Session, everyone agreed to place budget discussions on the agenda for the April 9, 2012 meeting. With no further business, Commissioner Bachmann moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

Mayor Lu Harvey Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Danny Alford  
Cherrye Davis  
Dale Bachmann  
J.W. McClenny