

Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2013

Mayor Lewis called the special meeting to order at 8:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to hold the first 2012-2013 Budget Workshop.

Members present were Commissioners Meacombs, Alford, Davis, Bachmann and McClenny. Guests were Eric Holt, citizen, and Amanda Clark, reporter for The Nashville Graphic.

Mayor Lewis asked everyone to refer to the list of questions, which members should begin thinking about before we begin the 2013-2014 budget.

Commissioner Bachmann asked how long the list of questions had been available. Mayor Lewis advised "Jennifer finished the list late yesterday afternoon". Commissioner Bachmann said he didn't like not having time to review materials. He added that Envirolink increased their rates 2% and he did not get a copy of the letter. Clerk Lambert advised that a copy was placed on his clipboard.

Mayor Lewis explained that this was just a preliminary session to review questions to begin thinking about before we could start the budget process, which is the same procedure we follow each year.

Commissioner Bachmann stood up and said he was having no part of this way of operating business and left the workshop. Mayor Lewis excused himself briefly to speak to Commissioner Bachmann, but he returned to the meeting without Commissioner Bachmann.

Mayor Lewis proceeded to review the current property tax rate (\$.50 per \$100 of value) and according to estimates received from Nash County, we should budget approximately \$204,140 for property and \$24,600 for vehicles at the current \$.50 per \$100 rate.

We have not received information on Property/Liability or Worker's Compensation insurance premiums at this time.

Election costs estimated at \$1,750 for the November 2013 election.

Sanitation rates have remained unchanged since July 1, 2011 and are about the lowest in Nash County. The town paid \$22,309 for 450 green garbage carts and these reserves have not been replaced in order to have funds to purchase new carts, when needed. Also, Waste Industries increased their rate 3.5% January 1, 2013, and may increase again in January 2014.

Board salaries and employee reviews not already completed must be incorporated into the new budget.

MIT has advised there are no increases for dental, vision, short term disability and basic life. We have received no information from BCBS regarding health insurance.

Nash County has requested \$3,384 for assistance with parks and recreation salaries for scheduling of athletics programs.

West Hanes park shelters are in bad shape and graffiti cannot be removed. Mayor Lewis suggested the best route may be to demolish the wood shelters and replace with a carport type metal shelter on concrete, which would cost about \$15,500. He also mentioned that at the public park meeting next week he will ask if there is any interest in a volunteer community watch type program to try to stop some of the vandalism at Hanes Park.

Mayor Lewis will meet with Commissioner Alford, come up with a list of Powell Bill streets to be paved, and put together a request for quotes.

The town has requested a \$16,000 contribution from Nash County for the library, but we have not received a reply. The current contribution is \$13,230.

Jennifer will research costs involved with archiving public records with the NC Department of Cultural Resources. She also researched the cost of four-drawer lateral fireproof file cabinets needed in town hall and found the least expensive to be \$3,450 with \$180 delivery fee. The Police Department has also requested a fireproof cabinet. We will check for used cabinets.

The Logics Software and server upgrade budgeted at \$15,000 in the current year has not been scheduled by Logics. They have rewritten/upgraded programs twice, and twice we have submitted purchase orders. As long as we pay our annual maintenance, they will have to support the existing programs. The \$15,000 can be carried over to 2013-2014; however, the upgrades will more than likely be over \$15,000.

Logics has not increased annual maintenance costs in two years, so it will most likely increase for 2013-2014. The current cost is \$9,926, split evenly between administration, water, and sewer.

Annual software maintenance for the Police Department software will increase \$43 to \$4,302.

The water tower maintenance contract will be reviewed and new quotes investigated. A letter of intent must be sent before April 1 if we are considering terminating our contract with Utility Services. The current contract at \$8,308.05 remains the same for 2013-2014, but calls for an increase the following year.

EnviroLink fees will increase 2% for 2013-2014. Raleigh wastewater treatment rates increased 15% July 1, 2012, but the town did not increase its' rates. The July 1, 2013 rate is not announced until June.

We currently have no water debt and one sewer debt remains-the Zebulon Sewer Loan. However, we need take into consideration we must set aside reserves to replace the CD's totaling \$115,000 we closed to pay off two loans. Mayor Lewis stated that logically, we cannot continue to absorb these Raleigh increases. Rates have been kept down by cost savings.

Mayor Lewis asked if anyone had other questions/comments. Other items mentioned were:

- (1) the video camera and the 800mhz portable radio for the police department budgeted for 2012-2013 has been requested to be carried over to 2013-2014.
- (2) Effective with the July 30, 2013 bill, water and sewer will be billed to the gallon
- (3) The flowmeter upgrade will be completed before June 30, 2013.
- (4) We now have an inventory of rebuilt sewer pumps in all three sizes and are on the shelf when needed.
- (5) Commissioner McClenny would like the Board to establish a price the town is willing to offer to purchase the land behind Section C of the cemetery (which will square off the cemetery), adding that we should have someone give the town an appraisal.
- (6) Ditch work needs to be completed for washed out areas in Cedar Run subdivision.
- (7) Commissioner Davis requested that the low shoulders on S. Walnut Street be investigated.
- (8) Mayor Lewis recommended that we take a look at sidewalk renovation.
- (9) As housing grows, we need to take a look at a trash truck. One-day pickup will not suffice. Commissioner Meacombs added that several years ago the town compared pricing on in house vs. contracted pickup. The costs were about the same. Meacombs also stated Middlesex is one of the few towns that does not contract these services. He believes town pickup is more efficient and citizens like the personalized service.
- (10) Mayor Lewis recommended we replace the tractor.

- (11) Bill Bass, Nash County DOT, will advise how much more money the town will be eligible for if all streets are added to Powell Bill except Nash and Finch.

At the April 8th regular meeting, another budget workshop will be scheduled.

With no further questions or comments, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Danny Alford
Cherrye Davis
J.W. McClenny