

April 13, 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 arrived at 8:10 p.m. Joe Shattuck, a candidate being interviewed for a part time police officer's position was the only guest.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comment. There was no input so Mayor Lewis closed the session.

Commissioner Hough requested a correction be made to the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 minutes changing a statement regarding Commissioner Robinson's opinion on salary increases from he would "go along with the majority" to the position of "no raises". The minutes were approved with the amended wording in a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Requested amendments to the agenda: Under New Business, add Item (c) Resolution on spending of stimulus funds only on American products and services, Item (d) Approval of Engineering Contract for new well and new meters project, and Item (e) Discuss grass cutting and damages to markers at cemetery. Commissioner Hough moved to approve the amended agenda as requested. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

In a motion made by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner Hough, the March financial statements were approved unanimously as presented.

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that he had submitted the town's COPS grant application.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that Utilities Director Jeff Waddell and Dale Bachmann identified some sewer problem areas and the repairmen have been notified. When repaired, this should reduce sewer influx and infiltration.

The picnic shelter at the new wellness park is complete and the water lines are installed, but there was a problem with the sewer line. Of the total 210 feet, 160 feet would be above ground, resulting in extra cost for pillars. Nash

County gave Administrator Bissette approval to place a 250 gallon holding tank and pump to keep the sewer below ground. At a cost of \$2800 for the tank, to be installed by town employees, this option will be the most cost efficient. Since this tank was not engineered, this cost will not be reimbursed by grant funds.

Commissioner Meacombs asked about the walking track and Administrator Bissette stated that she would be obtaining bids in the next couple of weeks.

The site for the new well, dowsed by Mr. Will Hooker, and located in the new wellness park, did not meet state guidelines for the 100 foot right of way from Hwy 231 South. Mr. Hooker assured Administrator Bissette that if we move back 10 feet to the required distance, that we would still hit the vein of water, and Bissette said the state would approve the site.

ACC Roofing came and inspected the leaking roof at The Next Level Salon and advised that he would repair the problem areas at no cost as we have one year left on our warranty for repairs. However, he stated that all the foam roofing on the town buildings needs to be taken off and completely replaced. He also told Administrator Bissette that he would give the town a good price on the job.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that there were 180 applicants ahead of us applying for federal stimulus money and only 20 will be funded, so it looks like Middlesex probably will not get any stimulus funds.

The next budget meeting was set for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 during the regular meeting. A closed session meeting was scheduled for the Mayor and Commissioners only on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room at the town hall to discuss employee performance evaluations.

Mayor Lewis called attention to the estimated tax values sent from Nash County after the revaluation, which will increase our tax revenue about \$27,810 or about 13% above the 2008 scroll.

Administrator Bissette requested the Board to set a policy regarding the opening of closed session minutes. According to the Open Meetings Law, closed session minutes should be open to public inspection as soon as the public inspection no longer frustrates the purpose of the closed session. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Robinson moved to have the Clerk and Town Administrator open closed session minutes using their judgment, and when in doubt, seek the advice of the town attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously.

There were several changes to the Engineering Agreement for the new well and meter project after Administrator Bissette reviewed several of the items with Earthtech (AECOM), the town's engineering firm. The following items were deleted bringing the total engineering costs in the agreement to \$24, 575, down \$14,750 from the original \$39, 325:

Task 1 - \$2,000 for Project Management

Task 2 - \$4,550 for Property Work

Task 7 - \$8,200 for Grant Administration

Administrator Bissette advised that all engineering fees would be reimbursed with grant funds and that the \$13,700 in Construction Observation for time and mileage was estimated and could be less, but \$13,700 was the maximum that could be charged. Mayor Lewis asked Commissioner Meacombs his opinion based on his dealings with engineers and he stated that the figures didn't look out of line. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the contract with Earthtech (AECOM) for engineering services for the new well and meter project as amended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

After reviewing a resolution on spending federal stimulus funds only on American products and services submitted by the Alliance for American Manufacturing, the Board took no action.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding problems at the town cemetery. Complaints were received because the grass was not cut at the cemetery for the Easter holiday, and there are broken, chipped, and scratched grave markers, and some loose bricks in the cemetery wall. Administrator Bissette spoke to Jeff Waddell and he stated the cemetery was cut March 31<sup>st</sup> and didn't think it would need cutting. Linwood Smith and Shawn Pond are in charge of cutting the cemetery. Jeff advised that some of the grave markers had been chipped for a long time, but he has talked to the employees about not getting close to the markers with the mower. He will make sure the weed eating is completed first and then the mowing. Administrator Bissette told Jeff to be sure the employees take their time and stay away from the grave markers. Commissioner McClenny added that they are running too fast and not in control of the mower. Mayor Lewis added that they were cutting grass on Thursday in the road right of ways instead of cutting the cemetery and they should always make sure the grass is cut before the holidays. Administrator Bissette stated she would address the situation further to ensure this was done in the future.

Commissioner Bissette also asked if dirt could be brought in to backfill the cemetery wall, which is unsafe, and would also like for the Board to check into working on reseeding the grass at the cemetery in the fall since it is mostly

weeds. Administrator Bissette said she would ask Jeff to haul dirt to backfill the wall.

Administrator Bissette then reviewed the Town Code of Ordinances which includes additions and changes she proposed, as well as some additions and changes Liz Fairman, the town attorney, proposed. The entire ordinance has been reviewed by Liz. Bissette will make the requested changes as instructed by the Board and present the final draft at the May meeting.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved to hire Joe Shattuck as a part time police officer. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette  
J.W. McClenny