

June 13, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

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 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, and Dale Bachmann. Commissioner J.W. McClenny was absent. Chief Dennis Murray and Officers Scott Pollard and Vennie Brock were in attendance. Edna Mount was the only guest.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. There were no comments and the session was closed.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the May minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

The agenda was approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann, seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Lambert reviewed the May financial statements and they were accepted as correct in a unanimous motion by Commissioner Meacombs, which was seconded by Commissioner Hough.

Police Chief Dennis Murray advised the Board that there were 25-30 applications received for the vacant police officer position and that he had reviewed them and written comments on each and turned them in to Mayor Lewis. Police Commissioners Meacombs and Hough will schedule a time to review them next week.

Commissioner Bachmann advised the flow meter at Well #4 has been calibrated and is working fine. Also, the state inspected our wells and minor issues have been resolved and the backwash inspection was completed.

The trailer for hauling the new finishing lawnmower is too small and Commissioner Bachmann requested to purchase a larger trailer. The Board asked Mayor Lewis to get prices and give each Board member a phone call.

Commissioner Meacombs asked about the walking track at the Wellness Park and Mayor Lewis advised that it was finished and that it held up rather well during last night's heavy rainstorm.

In a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously, the following 2008, 2009 and 2010 tax discoveries were added to the town's tax scrolls for:

Martin's Bricklaying: 2008 - \$39.48; 2009 - \$36.23, and 2010 - \$29.21

Commissioner Bachmann moved to write off \$887.27 in 2000 property taxes, which are ten years old and must be written off per G.S.105-378(a). His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Increased gas prices, and the fact that it took three men 1 hour and 40 minutes to cut an abandoned lot last week, led to discussion to amend Chapter 7, Section 6-7-4 of the Weeds & Vegetation Ordinance. Commissioner Meacombs moved to amend the ordinance to increase the fee for cutting grass on abandoned lots from \$100 to \$150 per occurrence. Commissioner Bachmann seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In a motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, the following 2010-2011 budget amendments were approved unanimously:

<b><u>GENERAL FUND:</u></b>		<b><u>INCREASE</u></b>	<b><u>DECREASE</u></b>
<b><u>Governing Body:</u></b>			
10-410-1400	Expense Account	200.00	
10-410-0200	Salaries		200.00
<b><u>Administration:</u></b>			
10-420-0600	Group Insurance	300.00	
10-420-2600	Advertising		300.00
<b><u>Police Dept:</u></b>			
10-510-0200	Salaries	3,850.00	
10-510-0500	FICA	295.00	
10-510-0700	Retirement	260.00	
10-510-0900	401K	205.00	
10-510-2600	Advertising	400.00	
10-510-3100	Auto Supplies	3,250.00	
10-510-0600	Group Insurance		3,200.00
10-510-0901	Other Benefits		800.00
10-390-0100	General Fund Bal. Approp.	4,260.00	
<b><u>Streets &amp; Sidewalks:</u></b>			
10-560-7402	Equipment Purchases	3,000.00	
10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Revenue	3,000.00	
10-560-1301	Street Lights	800.00	
10-560-4500	Contracted Services		800.00
<b><u>Cemetery:</u></b>			
10-640-7402	Equipment Purchases	3,000.00	
10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Revenue	3,000.00	
<b><u>Sanitation:</u></b>			
10-580-1100	Phones & Postage	150.00	
10-580-2600	Advertising		150.00
<b><u>General Fund Non-departmental:</u></b>			
10-660-5801	Bad Debt Expense-San.	25.00	
10-359-0000	Refuse Collection	25.00	

**WATER & SEWER FUND:****INCREASE****DECREASE****Non-departmental:**

30-660-5801	Bad Debt Expense-Water	625.00	
30-370-0000	Water Collections	625.00	
30-660-5802	Bad Debt Expense-Sewer	865.00	
30-375-0000	Sewer Collections	865.00	

**Sewer Operations:**

30-800-0600	Group Insurance	200.00	
30-800-0700	Retirement	100.00	
30-800-0900	401K	50.00	
30-800-3300	Dept. Supplies	1,500.00	
30-800-1600	Maintenance of Equipment		350.00
30-800-2600	Advertising		500.00
30-800-4401	Nitrogen Surcharges	-	<u>1,000.00</u>
	Total Sewer Operations	1,850.00	1,850.00

**Water Operations:**

30-810-0600	Group Insurance	200.00	
30-810-0700	Retirement	50.00	
30-810-0900	401K	25.00	
30-810-3300	Dept. Supplies	3,500.00	
30-810-1300	Utilities	2,000.00	
30-810-1600	Maint. Of Equipment		3,775.00
30-810-4500	Contracted Services	-	<u>2,000.00</u>
	Total Water Operations	5,775.00	5,775.00

**FUND 40-METER REPLACEMENT & WELL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:****Meter Replacement Project:**

40-750-3300	Dept. Supplies	1,760.00	
40-370-9000	Local Match-Transfer from Water	1,760.00	

Commissioner Bachmann moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318-11(a)(5) to discuss contract negotiation and G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss employee performance reviews. Commissioner Meacombs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, the Budget Workshop items were discussed. Mayor Lewis advised that Raleigh will increase their rate for wastewater treatment 2.69%. Mayor Lewis and Commissioner Bachmann also advised that extra costs involved with taking recycle to Raleigh every week versus every other week, that \$12.75 a month is just not enough for three pickups per week for trash, recycle and yard waste. After some discussion, everyone agreed that the town cannot continue to absorb these increases and a 50 cent increase per thousand, we would at least break even and that \$1.00 a month on sanitation is reasonable. Commissioner Meacombs moved to increase the sewer rate from \$13.00 per thousand to \$13.50 per thousand, and increase sanitation \$1.00 per month. This would bring the residential rate from \$12.75 to \$13.75 per month and business from \$20.50 to \$21.50 per month. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Several Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance plan options were discussed with various deductibles and maximum out of pocket amounts. Mayor Lewis advised that there will be about \$2,000 left in the Employee Health Reimbursement Plan, and money will be added to the plan depending on which health plan is chosen. MIT (League of Municipalities) quotes were not enough cost difference to warrant changing. After discussion, the Board asked Mayor Lewis to determine the town's liability for each plan and the amount needed to fund the Employee Reimbursement account and call each Board member and take a poll as to which plan would be incorporated in the Budget to presented at the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve a \$1.00 per hour salary increase for James Liles and a 3% pay increase for Jennifer Lambert. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hold a Public Hearing for the 2011-2012 budget on June 27th at 7:30pm, with a special meeting to follow to adopt the 2011-2012 budget and approve 2010-2011 budget amendments. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

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