

July 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, Derek Bissette, and J.W. McClenny. The only guest attending was Chris McKeel with Bartlett Engineering representing DFB Development/Creech Farms Subdivision.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for a public hearing pertaining to Nash Heath Care System's request to rezone 17.5 acres of property located on Highway 231 North, from Residential Agricultural (RA) to Light Industrial (LI) in order to continue plans for a medical facility. There were no comments and the hearing was closed at 7:32 p.m.

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

Both sets of June minutes were approved in a motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

In a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved with no changes.

The June financial statements were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Bissette, seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board that the town recovered \$14,000 for the fire hydrant struck by Brian Massey on N. Elm Street. Administrator Bissette added that no funds were ever recovered for the incident on East Hanes when Ronald Williams struck a fire hydrant last year with an eighteen wheeler.

Project Updates by Administrator Bissette were as follows:

- (1) New water meters were ordered and will arrive this month.
- (2) Permit was received today for the test well and it should be drilled by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Steve Scruggs with Earthtech will open informal bids on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Raleigh and furnish results.
- (3) State Recycling Grant money has been approved and expect funds by end of July
- (4) Patching completed by NCDOT on 7/8/2009
- (5) Received Certificate of Occupancy for the picnic shelter at the Wellness Park. Nelson Price will put one more coat of paint.

Mayor Lewis asked Commissioner Hough and Robinson to get together with him, look at some streets, and come up with a list of streets to pave using Powell Bill funds.

The Board agreed with the Planning Board's recommendation to approve the final plat for DFB Development and Creech Farms Subdivision. Administrator Bissette read a letter from Debbie McDaniel, President of DFB, requesting the town to take over maintenance of the water, sewer, and streets for the subdivision and add them to the town's system. Commissioner McClenny asked if town personnel had inspected the lines. Bissette advised that Jeff Waddell had inspected the lines, the fire hydrants had been tested, and that the meters would be set for each lot when the lot is sold and the house is built. In a motion made by Commissioner McClenny, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried unanimously, the final plat for DFB Development/Creech Farms Subdivision was approved and the water, sewer, and streets accepted into the town's system. Mayor Lewis thanked Chris McKeel with Bartlett Engineering for attending the meeting.

Administrator Bissette presented a bid (the least expensive of three bids) from U-Line Products for park benches and trash can lids for the Wellness Park for \$5,393. A royal blue color was chosen by the Beautification Committee. The price includes the following items but does not include shipping:

- 4 - dome lids for 55 gallon trash barrels totaling \$328  
(Dale Bachmann will provide barrels)
- 2 - 6 ft. benches with back totaling \$690
- 2 - 6 ft. rectangular picnic tables totaling \$1,190
- 4 - 8 ft. rectangular picnic tables totaling \$2,500
- 1 - 46" round picnic table at \$685

The tables will be bolted down and that there will be enough funds remaining to do landscaping. Commissioner Meacombs moved to purchase the park furniture for \$5,393 plus shipping. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson seconded and it carried unanimously.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner McClenny moved not to renew the Utility Service Wireless Communication Contract. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette presented a request from Officer Steve Glover to be paid for 48 hours of accumulated holiday pay. Officer Joey Webb has also requested to be paid for his accumulated holidays. Bissette explained that it would be less costly to the town to pay holidays as earned at the rate of pay at the time the holiday occurs. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Bissette

moved to pay the accumulated holidays at the pay rate the holiday was earned, and in the future, pay holidays as they are earned. Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner McClenny moved to rezone 17.5 acres of land located on Highway 231 North from RA to LI as requested by Nash Health Care Systems to continue with plans for a medical center. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bisette gave handouts with various new rate structures and requested input from the others. Mayor Lewis and Commissioner Meacombs agreed with Commissioner Bisette that we should change our rate structure to charge a flat fee plus a per gallon rate for usage. Commissioner Bisette suggested that we charge a flat rate of \$8.10 for water and leave the per gallon rate at \$4.00, and charge for only what was used. He suggested a flat rate of \$20.00 for sewer and charge a per gallon charge of \$10.00 and charge for only what was used.

There was some discussion about beginning charging only for the amount of water used and do away with the 2,000 minimum, and how to handle charging for rental property not rented and abandoned property.

Commissioner Bisette asked if they could get an updated spreadsheet summarizing revenue versus expenditures for 2008-2009 including June's final figures and showing the net losses for last year before deciding the new rates.

Commissioner Meacombs added that before any rates could be established, they must first reach a consensus on how the rates will be structured. Commissioner Hough requested that before he made a decision, he would like to know what the rate per gallon would have to be in order to meet expenditures in both water and sewer, leaving the rate structure as it is with the 2,000 gallon minimum. Hough stated that he thought we should just raise the rate per gallon for what is needed to meet the deficit, and thinks it would cost the customer more to go with the flat rate plus the rate per gallon used, which seems to hurting the little man or the lower users.

Commissioner Bisette asked if we could find out how Zebulon and other towns handling billing for rental property and citizens that are not connected to the system, but the service is available to them.

Administrator Bisette stated she would have the requested information ready for the next meeting. Mayor Lewis asked that everyone come to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting ready to make a decision on the water and sewer rates.

Being no further business, Commissioner Hough moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

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