

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2015

Mayor Lewis called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherry Davis, and J.W. McClenny. Commissioner Ann Lewis was absent. Only six guests attended, in addition to Police Chief Dennis Murray and Utilities Supervisor James Liles.

The June 8 and 29, 2015 minutes were approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner McClenny, which was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Mayor Lewis requested to add a Memorandum of Understanding from NCDOT regarding advance warning signs and pavement markings at passive (no active warning device) after a motion by Commissioner Meacombs, and a second by Commissioner Alford.

Clerk Lambert presented the June financials, reporting that the figures are not the final. Some June payables are still being received in the mail, and these will be posted to the 2014-2015 year expenditures. Also, Anthony & Tabb, P.A. will be making adjusting and depreciation entries. Fiscal year end processing went smooth. We also worked on letters collecting prior year taxes (2011 and prior), and we are continuing to receive payments on these taxes. The June financials were unanimously approved after a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Police Chief Dennis Murray discussed the recent break-ins, adding that two individuals arrested are in jail and they confessed to all the break-ins. Nash County has over thirty charges against the two. Some of the stolen goods were recovered, but not all. Murray thanked the Nash County Sheriff's for their assistance. Mayor Lewis also expressed thanks and added that it was a collective effort.

Public Works Supervisor James Liles reported continued grease problems at sewer lift station pumps. Notices have been distributed door to door and notes have been added on the utility bills for several months. Liles added it has to be several households and the grease accumulates fast. The East Hanes lift station has to be cleaned out about every three weeks.

Cherry Davis reported she found computer chairs on sale for half price at \$50 each and purchased four for the library. They must be assembled.

Clerk Lambert advised the Board of an error in a 2014-2015 Budget Amendment approved on June 29, 2015. One account number and description was incorrect. The

debt expense for sewer was offset by sewer collection revenues, not sewer penalty revenues. Following is the corrected budget amendment:

<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:</u>		<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>Non-Departmental:</u>		
10-660-5801	Bad Debt Expense	265.00
<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES:</u>		
10-345-0000	Local Option Sales Tax	265.00
<u>SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES:</u>		
<u>Non-Departmental:</u>		
30-660-5802	Bad Debt Expense-Sewer	835.00
<u>SEWER REVENUES:</u>		
<u>Sewer Revenues:</u>		
30-375-0000	Sewer Collections	835.00

The response to the NC Local Government Commission's letter dated June 1, 2015 concerning the town's June 30, 2014 audit was reviewed. Their letter, which was presented at the June 8 meeting, conveyed concerns of the town's percentage of General Fund Balance available relative to expenditures and the fact that the Middlesex percentage is lower than units of comparable size across the state. In the letter, Mayor Lewis advised that the Town Board had already taken steps to correct this situation by increasing the 2014 property tax rate \$.02 per \$100 of valuation, increasing the property tax rate for 2015 by \$.05 per \$100 of valuation, reducing many expenditure line items in the 2015-2016 budget and increasing sanitation rates to generate approximately \$16,300 in revenues. The reply also noted that the Sewer Fund repaid the General Fund \$50,000 on May 30, 2015, which was transferred from the General Fund in 2009 to repay water and sewer debt to save in interest. A total of \$127,377 was transferred in 2009 saving \$167,600 in interest. The Sewer Fund will continue to repay the remaining \$77,377 back to the General Fund as funds are available.

As an FYI, a letter was presented from the Nash County Finance Department advising the town's requested appropriation of \$13,500 for 2015-2016 for the Middlesex Library was approved.

Mayor Lewis reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding from NCDOT regarding advance warning signs and pavement markings at passive (no active warning device) railroad crossings. This applies only to the Possum Road crossing. The project will be funded 100% by NC DOT. They will notify the town a few days in advance to schedule Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Alford seconded and the MOU was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the Public Comment Session. Brandie Holt, Robert Johnson, and Becky Strickland addressed the Board regarding various matters.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the motion passed unanimously.


Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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