

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2014

Mayor Lewis called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:30 pm and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherry Davis, Ann Lewis, and J.W. McClenny. Approximately seven guests attended.

Commissioner McClenny moved to approve the August meeting minutes as presented by Clerk Lambert. Commissioner Davis seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Lewis requested to add two items to the agenda under New Business: Item c. Discuss disposal of the 2003 Crown Vic police car; and Item d. Change Auxiliary Officer Johanzeb Magsi to a paid Reserve Police Officer. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the agenda with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and the vote was unanimous.

Clerk Lambert presented the August financial statements, which were approved unanimously after a motion by Commissioner Alford and a second by Commissioner McClenny.

Police Chief Dennis Murray advised the recently purchased 2004 Crown Victoria has the lettering already on and the lights should be installed next week.

In old business, Mayor Lewis advised the Board we ran into a problem with the insurance carrier with regard to bonding the Administrative Assistant position. The League of Municipalities underwriter recommended we increase the General Liability Blanket Bond from the current \$10,000 to \$50,000. This is a simpler solution and costs less; also, all employees are covered, not just the one position.

As Mayor Lewis advised the Board at the August meeting, it appears highly unlikely the town will be eligible to receive CDBG funding for sewer lift station repairs. Therefore, he and Commissioner McClenny met with Southern Bank officials regarding borrowing the funds to complete the worst lift stations. Southern Bank approved the town for up to \$150,000 for at 1.8% interest for five years, or up to ten years.

Mayor Lewis recommended to continue to fix the worst stations, get those completed and get back to the Board in October with a final figure and borrow that amount. Russell Underwood's company has completed some of the repairs already, and he will be coming tomorrow, September 10, to evaluate the lift stations and pumps that are in dire need of replacing and/or repairing and give us a concrete price. Lewis also recommended the town borrow the money for fifty four (54) months, make an annual payment for four (4) years, and pay the loan off by the end of the term. By the end of the term, the town will already have the reserve funds in place to make the final NC DENR loan payment on the sewer line to Zebulon

in 2017-18, and the town will have no other debt, so the funds should be available to pay this new loan off in April 2019.

Commissioner McClenny noted the town may not need entire \$150,000 for which the town was approved for, but the bank officials recommended to go ahead and get approval for the higher amount. Mayor Lewis noted the town has CD's in the bank that could pay for the lift stations repairs. Even though the CD's in the bank are drawing little interest, Lewis added, he feels it is in the best interest of the town not to deplete these reserves and keep them for emergencies. Commissioner McClenny moved to move forward to get a price from Russell Underwood to complete the needed lift station work and to come back to the Board in October and decide the amount to borrow. Commissioner Alford seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Police Chief Dennis Murray submitted a Checking Station Policy for adoption by the Board. He explained that the department has been following state regulations, but attorneys are advising him to adopt a policy because some of the court cases were being thrown out due to lack of a written policy in place. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the checking station policy as presented. Commissioner Alford seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Chief Murray also submitted a Soft Body Armor Policy for adoption. He informed the Board that his department has been approved for a grant for up to \$1,600, but must have a written policy in place to before receiving the funds. Commissioner Alford moved to approve the Soft Body Armor Policy as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board the 2003 Crown Victoria is surplus property and he requested direction from the Board as to its disposal. The lettering must be removed if it is sold and it will need painting. Mayor Lewis said that it is worth between \$2,500-\$3,000 based on internet advertising of similar vehicles for sale. Chief Murray stated another option would be to keep it and use it for parts for the other 2003 Crown Vic. Commissioner Meacombs recommended it be sold "as is" and put the money in the bank. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Meacombs moved to sell the 2003 Crown Vic "as is" after the letters have been removed, and put the funds in the bank. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Murray requested the Board to change Officer Johanzeb Magsi from an unpaid Auxiliary Officer to a paid Reserve Officer. He added that he has five Reserve Officers, but most have a full time job and is having a hard time when he needs them to work. He also advised that "Zeb's" training is complete at this time but will need to re-qualify for firearms in December. Mayor Lewis recommended to discuss this matter further in closed session.

Mayor Lewis moved to open the floor for Public Comment. Citizens Edna Mount and Robert Johnson addressed the Board about various topics of interest to them.

Commissioner McClenny pointed out that some out of town guests who had not been to Middlesex in over six years were visiting the town's cemetery recently and remarked to his wife how well-kept it is and said the appearance was much nicer than several others they had visited. Mayor Lewis stated that one of the area funeral homes complimented him about the town's cemetery stating it was one of the best-kept in the area. They both thanked the Utility Department personnel, stating it takes a lot of time and hard work to keep it looking nice.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as authorized by G.S.143-318.11(1)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. The Board went into Closed Session after a second by Commissioner McClenny.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to change Johanzeb Magsi from an unpaid Auxiliary Police Officer to a paid Reserve Officer at the regular part time rate of \$11.00 per hour effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alford and passed by a unanimous vote.

With no further business, Commissioner McClenny moved to adjourn.



Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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