

October 12, 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, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette, and Fred Hough. Commissioner J.W. McClenny was absent. Police Chief Ferrell was present and Dale Bachmann was the only guest.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comment. Administrator Peggy Bissette advised the Board that Constance Corbett told her she cannot chair the Christmas in Middlesex event this year due to illness in her family. Constance has called several people and Leigh Deans and Cherrye Lane Davis were the only two people that are willing to help. Peggy added that the town employees spend a lot of time assisting each year and that several businesses did not participate with donations and drawings for giveaways due to the economy. Mayor Lewis requested Peggy to call the two volunteers and ask if they would be willing to chair the event and get back to the Board at the November meeting. Mayor Lewis then closed the session.

The September minutes were approved in a motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Bissette, and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the agenda with no changes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

In a motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, and carried unanimously, the September financial statements were accepted as correct.

Chief Ferrell asked the Board to reconsider hiring the fifth police officer if the Board wanted to continue 24-hour coverage. He had a situation where one officer was sick and one was on vacation and he could not get any part time officers to work, adding that he could not work 24 hours. He added that out of all the part time officers, there were only two that he could get to fill in when needed. Ferrell also requested that he be paid overtime for hours worked over his 80 hour schedule. At the present, he is classified as an exempt employee and is paid a straight salary. Mayor Lewis told Ferrell the Board would discuss both matters later and let him know.

The transmission in the 2001 Crown Vic will not change properly and the battery also is not charging properly. Leith Ford could not give a quote without tearing down the transmission. According to a another repair person, the problem with the transmission could be with the battery since the computer tells

the transmission when to change. The Board agreed that the battery needs to be fixed first, and see if the transmission problem still exists. Ferrell also advised that a tire was replaced on the 2003 Crown Vic that was flat due to low pressure, which happened while it was sitting at Heritage Bank.

The blue recycling carts and brochures have been distributed. Refrigerator magnets will be ordered as soon as quotes are received. Once this is complete, Bissette will file for grant reimbursement. Waste Industries will not bring a large dumpster for recyclables because they said it would not be worth their time. Recyclables will be taken to Sonoco in Raleigh.

Green trash carts have been received and are awaiting the brochure to be distributed. There were a few questions to the Board before the brochure can be sent to the printer.

Current town policy is to charge churches the residential trash rate. However, some churches have a lot of dinners, some weekly, and have more than one can of trash on regular basis. After a brief discussion about churches, businesses, and residences needing more than one trash cart, everyone was in agreement not to charge for extra carts needed, but anyone needing an additional trash cart would be charged \$20.50, which is the current business rate. Also, the Board stated that the Utility Director, Jeff Waddell, will determine if someone should be issued a second or additional cart, not the customer.

If a trash or recycle cart is damaged, misplaced, or stolen, there will be a charge for a replacement, since the town will have to buy the second cart. The Board decided that the customer will be charged for the cart at the town's current cost.

The Board also decided that vacant residences where the owner has requested that the water and sewer services be left on, but have no trash pickup will not have a trash or recycle cart distributed nor will they be charged for sanitation services just because the service is available, which is the current policy.

Administrator Bissette stated the energy audit report should be received in about two more weeks and she can then continue the grant application process for the Energy Conservation Grant.

Matrix Health and Safety performed an inspection of the town hall building and accessed the moisture problems on Friday, October 9th and Administrator Bissette requested this matter be tabled until she received their report.

At this time a total of 37 meters have been replaced with the digital drive by meters. The reader and the software were received last week and are ready for the training on October 20 and 21st. We have received training from Logics on how to download the reading file. Logics will be available on October 20th for computer training and Chris Tripp, CT Technology, will be on site for hardware and system setup, if needed, by the Badger Meter training representative. Administrator Bissette requested to hire James Sutton, a former utility department employee who worked with Envirolink for many years, to help install the meters. Commissioner Meacombs moved to hire James Sutton part time at a pay rate of \$10 per hour to install meters until all meters are installed. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Future Graphics, a printing company in Zebulon, has purchased the Fawn Industries building and should be up and running in a couple of months. They will transfer all employees at the present time and are not hiring now, but are hoping to hire additional people as growth permits.

Only two applications for the Town Administrator position have been received since the last meeting. One person has a planning background with no municipal experience, and one person had three years experience as a City Administrator. Mayor Lewis will review this application and get back to the Board.

Peggy Bissette advised the Board that she would like for November 12th to be her last day, but she will work through November 26th if the Board desired. Mayor Lewis asked about ongoing projects, Bissette added that she would be willing to work an occasional day or two on projects, if needed.

The contracts for the Well Construction Project have been transferred to O'Brien and Gere Engineering from AECOM Earthtech. Engineer Michael Acquesta has the contracts and drilling can begin as soon as he is notified that Letco, Inc., dba N. W. Poole Well Drilling has purchased the performance bonds requested by the town.

Updated scheduled ethics training for elected officials class locations and dates were presented, along with a copy of House Bill 1452 outlining the requirement. The town must adopt a code of ethics and The School of Government is creating a template for use by local governments.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the requested 2009-2010 budget amendment, as follows, which covers the purchase of 450 green 96 gallon trash carts approved and not included in the original budget, and not covered by the recycle grant:

<u>GENERAL FUND:</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>Sanitation Dept. Expenditures:</u>	
10-580-7400 Capital Outlay	\$25,000
<u>General Fund Revenues:</u>	
10-390-0100 Gen. Fund Balance Approp.	\$25,000

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to release \$2.46 in 2008 taxes billed to Naomi Rodriguez which was also billed to Provocon Food Mart. Commissioner Bisette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis requested a Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter in the police department. Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session.

Back in Open Session, there was no action taken on Chief Ferrell's request to hire a fifth police officer.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bisette moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Derek Bisette