

July 14, 2008

The regular scheduled meeting of the Middlesex Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs at 7:30 p.m. and he gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette and J.W. McClenny. Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr. and Commissioner Fred Hough were absent. The guest list is attached and are part of these minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs then opened the floor for the public comment session. There were no comments and the session was closed.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the June minutes as correct. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approve the agenda with no changes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and it carried unanimously.

In a motion made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Bissette, and carried unanimously the June financial statements were approved as correct.

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that all full time and part time applicants hired have been sworn in. Chief Ferrell then gave handouts of quotes for a motor for the 2001 Crown Vic to replace the blown-up motor. Midway's quote included installation and the others did not. After a brief discussion, the Board asked Chief Ferrell to get installation quotes and present prices at the August meeting.

Administrator Bissette stated that the budget amendments presented in the agenda packet were for information purposes only. All amendments were within each department and did not need Board approval.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that she is trying to assist Ricky Quinn with the cost for installation of the sewer lines on Planer Mill Road for his powder coating business. John Gessiman with Carolina Gateways Partnership, Rosemary Dorsey with Nash County Planning, Ricky Quinn, and Administrator Bissette will meet July 15th (tomorrow) at the town hall to discuss availability of funds to assist Mr. Quinn. Commissioner Bissette advised Administrator Bissette that he would get her a name and phone number of someone he has spoken with who will reseed the grass and landscape the sewer line area a lot less expensive

than the quote we had received. This information will be presented at the August meeting.

Administrator Bissette pointed out the letter from the Rural Center which denied our grant application for a well, tower, and booster station because they said we did not prove critical need. Bissette stated she believes if we resubmit that we can prove critical need.

Three options were presented to the Board by Bissette. Option 1: Take the tower and booster pump out of the application and resubmit to the Rural Center for well drilling only; Option #2: Leave the tower and booster pump in the application and ask the Rural Center for less grant money to cover the well portions only, and Option #3: Borrow the entire amount from the USDA at the lower interest rate (a new pot of money at \$2.75% versus 4.5% interest).

If we apply for two wells, no booster pump or tower, and the first well is a good one, we may choose not to drill the second well. On the other hand, the town's engineer feels we should include the tower and booster pump for possible growth. Commissioner Bissette stated that it is hard to ask people to pay for a booster pump and tower if it is not truly needed at this time.

Commissioner Bissette moved to resubmit the grant application including two wells only, no booster pump or tower. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette advised the Board that we must submit a well site with our application. Isaac Lewis has offered to sell the town a two acre tract of land on Stokes Road near 264 Alternate. Commissioners Bissette and McClenny stated that we need to make sure the land is suitable for a tower in the future. Administrator Bissette advised that the land should be surveyed and also must be cleared. Commissioner Bissette said he knows a bushwhacker that did some work for him and he will get his number for Peggy to contact. Also the Board asked Bissette to get Isaac Lewis's permission for the clearing. The Board agreed the survey does not need to be done at this time. Administrator Bissette stated that the grant application is due to the Rural Center by July 30th.

Bissette advised the Board that if the new grant application is denied and the Board wanted to pursue the well project, the town could use the USDA money as a 100% loan.

Commissioner Bissette moved to adopt a resolution authorizing Mayor Lewis to apply for the Rural Center grant on behalf of the town. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and it carried unanimously.

Bissette advised the Board that Dale Bachmann found discrepancies on the property stakes at the property line nearest the town at the Wellness Park area when he was working on the walking track. The Board agreed it should be surveyed to clear any future problems. Commissioner Robinson moved to survey the Wellness Park. Commissioner McClenny seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette reviewed several violations from the Division of Water Quality for our backwash filters at Well #4. Something had to be wrong with the chlorine testing. The town keeps getting penalties and Mike Acquesta agreed with Bissette that something was not being done right. If the amounts of chlorine shown by the tests were in our drinking water everyone would be dead. After repeated calls to the Division of Water Quality, Bissette finally talked with a gentlemen who said he would try his best to help her resolve the problem. The town received two penalties-one for March and April 2008.

The town's lab, Microbac, has been out to the test site and observed Jeff Waddell collect and test the samples. They stated he should be using distilled water to test the sample. Microbac tested the same day and coincidentally got the same results as Jeff's test. Therefore, it seems Microbac is also testing incorrectly. On July 15th, Jeff, Microbac and a lab from Raleigh will all split a sample and compare the results. Bissette will report their findings at the August meeting. Microbac stands that they have been testing correctly. Microbac believes the manganese is giving the false positives on the chlorine readings and the town's engineer agrees that this could be possible. Mr. Pridgen, a supervisor with Microbac, is willing to write a letter to the state to this effect, but it may not help with the penalties.

Bissette advised that at the end of June the backwash tests are in compliance. This is partly due to David Ellis, the town's ORC, working on the problem.

Bissette also advised the Board that we received a penalty of \$740 for a report not being filed on time. Waddell advised Bissette that he had mailed the report on time. Bissette checked the reporting records for the past two years and he had been late only one time. Bissette asked the state to dismiss the penalty and to pay only \$100 in enforcement costs. The gentleman with the Division of Water Quality indicated that he would agree to do this.

The Division of Water Quality also cited the town for overages on BOD's and TSS for \$600. DWQ told Bissette they would put a hold on penalties until the situation is resolved.

In late April or early May 2008, Bisette wrote to the state requesting an increase in the backwash flow to avoid overages and penalties for excess flow and to date she has not received an answer.

Dale Boyles, owner of Second Choice Consignment Shop, notified the town by letter that effective August 31, 2008, she is terminating the lease agreement for the building at 10220 S. Nash Street due mainly to economic reasons.

Boyles approached Administrator Bisette stating she had a chance to sell her belongings to Jose Rodriguez, part owner of Middlesex Grocery. Administrator Bisette advised that the town may have a need for the building and to hold off talking to anyone until she could speak to the Board and she would get back to her. Then Jose Hernandez came to see Bisette expressing a desire to lease the building, buying Dale out, and putting in a 99 cent store “to cater to his culture”. Bisette told him the same thing she advised Dale—that they town may have a need for the building, but it was the Board’s decision, and she would get back to him.

Administrator Bisette recommended to the Board that if the town hall would ever have the opportunity to expand, that is would be the best time and the cheapest way. Bisette asked Levi and Belinda Evans if they would consider moving their salon/barber shop to the building next door occupied by Second Choice Consignment so the town hall could expand. Bisette stressed to the Evans’ that there was no pressure on them whatsoever to move—it was totally their decision. The Evans’ are willing to move in order to help the town and confirmed that Bisette told them it was entirely up to them and there was no pressure on them to move. They are requesting an estimated \$3800 to get the new location up to the standard of their current shop, and an additional \$1,000 in materials and \$1,000 in labor they have invested in the current building. This would total \$5800. Mr. Evans stated that he has concerns because the plumbing will have to be moved to the opposite wall, with some plumbing going through the floor and also they will have only one bathroom versus two in the current location. They feel that even though the town will have to go in and fix the building to suit the town’s needs, that they should be compensated because they are willing to be displaced to help the town. Mrs. Evans expressed concerns about the future and if the town would need that building also in the years to come.

The Commissioners were in agreement that this would be the opportune time to expand the town hall, and the cheapest way, and Commissioner Meacombs stated that we have discussed way to expand several times in previous years, but never did pursue expansion for one reason or another.

Commissioner Bissette and McClenny had concerns about the estimates, stating that redoing the plumbing in the floor may run into extra costs and redoing an old structure has hidden costs most of the time. They requested that Mr. Evans review his estimates again before the August meeting and, in the meantime, the Commissioners will look at the remodeling they have completed at their current location.

Action Audits sent an invoice and letter requesting a \$500 contribution to fight legislation which will stop municipalities from establishing their own broadband networks. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no action on the request.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs
Commissioners
Luke Robinson
Derek Bissette
J.W. McClenny