

August 11, 2008

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

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

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the July minutes with no changes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette requested to add two items to New Business: Item d. Quinn Powder Coating Sewer Line Project, and Item e. Authorization to let informal bids for the park shelter at the Wellness Park. Commissioner Hough moved to approve the agenda including the two requested additions. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and it carried unanimously.

In a motion made by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner McClenny, and carried unanimously, the July financial statements were approved as correct.

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that all full time and part time applicants are now on staff with the exception of Chris Elsey, who injured his knee chasing a suspect with an outstanding warrant. Chief Ferrell obtained a 150KW generator free of charge from Law Enforcement Support Services and the only cost to the town will be the maintenance.

Chief Ferrell reviewed motor and installation quotes for the 2001 Crown Vic with the blown-up motor. Commissioner Hough questioned the need for five police vehicles and stated that he understood that the Board voted to pursue the purchase of another vehicle and use the 2001 Crown Vic for parts. Commissioner Meacombs stated that the Caprice driven by Chief Ferrell has over 100,000 miles and is just day to day. After a brief discussion, regarding camera equipment and laptops in the cars, the Board agreed that the fifth car would not be equipped with camera equipment and a laptop. Commissioner Bissette moved to fix the 2001 Crown Vic, purchase the motor from Jackson Auto Salvage for \$800, and after verifying the price for any extra parts and accessories, have Bill Lamm to install the motor for \$400-\$500 for labor only. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette asked about the status of the chlorine violations and penalties for the backwash water at Well #4 on East Finch Avenue. Administrator Bissette advised that the problem from the beginning was a chemical in the sand used in the filters was interfering with the testing of chlorine, giving false positive results. The town engineer agrees this is correct and Microbac Testing promised to write a letter of explanation to the Division of Water Quality. They will make a ruling on the penalties.

The current round of Rural Center grants, for which the town applied for funding for a well, will be awarded on December 10. Administrator Bissette requested direction from the Board in the event the town's application is denied. She recommended that we should proceed with USDA loan money at 2.75% interest, because the town needs to be prepared for growth and future monies will not be available for 2.75%. The Board agreed and advised Bissette to proceed to have the lot on Stokes Road cleared and checked for water and also approach Nash County about the site the dowsers found on school property. Also, Administrator Bissette will contact the bushwacker and get a price. Commissioner Bissette stated he thought it would run around \$500.

Administrator Bissette informed the Board that the survey of two lines for the Wellness Park indicates that William Ward's propane tank and dog pen were on the town's property and asked the Board how they wished to proceed. Mayor Lewis asked Bissette to contact Mr. Ward and have them moved.

Administrator Bissette stated that DFB Development's permit from NC DENR to construct the underground sewer line on Selma Road has been reviewed and is ready to move forward.

Levi and Belinda Evans presented quotes as requested by the Town Board at the July meeting to remodel the building to be vacated due to Dale Boyles' lease termination effective August 31, 2008. Commissioner Bissette stated that he feels if the building needs to be fixed that the town should bear 100% of the cost involved. He also advised that since the July 14th meeting, he changed his mind about the town using the building next to the town hall and feels the town should not lose a business. The majority of the Board advised that they also had changed their mind since the July 14th meeting.

Dale Boyles then asked permission to address the Board regarding her lease termination. Mayor Lewis granted permission. The agenda was not amended to add this item of business since it relates to the topic of discussion.

Mrs. Boyles stated that she felt she had not been treated fairly when she advised Administrator Bissette she was closing her shop due to financial reasons. She also stated she wants to be reimbursed for what she has invested in the consignment shop if she cannot sell her business to Jose Rodriquez, who agreed to buy her business and lease the building. She advised the Board that she has been a good citizen and always paid all her rent and utilities on time, and she patronized many of the town businesses. She would like to see the shop remain as a clothing store to serve all the people who depend on the store.

Administrator Bissette commented that she requested Mrs. Boyles not to speak to anyone about the availability of the building because the town may have a need for the building. She also asked the Board why they would want to purchase more land, a building and pay to remodel for town hall space when the town already owns the building next door and also how did they change their position from last month when they all agreed that if the town was ever going to expand the town hall, that this is the perfect time and would be the very cheapest option. The Board answered that they had given the matter more consideration since the July meeting and just did not want to loose a business in town.

Commissioner Hough stated he is still in favor of using the space for the town hall and is not in favor of paying a lot of money to buy a new place and fix it when the town already owns the building next door, and that Board was in agreement at the July meeting and decided to proceed in this direction.

Commissioner Meacombs stated that the Board must reach a conclusion or hold a special meeting. Mrs. Boyles interjected saying she would like an answer before the meeting was over so she would know what to do since August 31st is only a couple of weeks away. Jose Rodriquez advised the Board that he would pay \$275 per month to lease the building. Commissioner McClenny moved to accept Dale Boyles lease termination effective August 31, 2008 and to lease the building to Jose Rodriquez for \$275 per month. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette requested approval for LOGICS Software Company to write a program to pull all the taxpayer account numbers together under one tax record. This is a result of Nash County changing software programs and changing the taxpayer account numbers for the last three years. The estimated cost will be \$1700 or \$567 each for Middlesex, Bailey, and Spring Hope who have agreed to share the cost. Commissioner McClenny moved to have LOGICS Software write and install a program requested. Commissioner Bissette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

David Jordan advised Clerk Lambert that Mayor Lewis told him he could get a sewer adjustment for water used in July to irrigate a newly cleared lot owned by Rodger's Lodge. Since this was not allowed by the town ordinance, Administrator Bissette brought his request to the Board as requested by Mr. Jordan. Mayor Lewis stated that he did not tell Mr. Jordan he could get an adjustment but to go talk to the town hall employees. After a brief discussion, the Board was in agreement that the ordinance needs to be amended and asked Administrator Bissette to change the wording and present a proposed amendment at the September meeting. Commissioner Bissette moved to allow the adjustment requested by Rodgers Lodge. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Barbara Allen requested the town cut down a tree in the right of way in front of her house at 10323 S. Elm Street. After a brief discussion, Commissioner McClenny moved to have Administrator Bissette get estimates and have the tree taken down. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to get bids to construct the park shelter at the Wellness Park. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Quinn Powder Coating sewer line bids came in a \$96,000, \$77,000 and \$55,000. Administrator Bissette advised the Board that Mr. Quinn could not afford this. Also, Eaton Corporation's entire line of crepe myrtle trees would have to be removed to install this line and large trees are in the way for a possible right of way further into Eaton's property. Due to all these factors, Bissette asked the Board if they would be willing to allow Mr. Quinn to put in a septic tank because his business uses no water in its processing and serves only one restroom. A possible grant application would require more engineering services, environmental assessments, a lot of time, work and expense involved just to service one bathroom. The Board agreed that if they allow a septic tank, that it should be put in writing that if another business were placed on Planer Mill that would need a sewer line, that he would have to tie in and bear the proportionate cost of the line at that time. Commissioner Robinson moved to allow Quinn Powder Coating Company to install a septic tank provided he is willing to bear the cost to tie in at a later date and bear all the engineering costs. Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

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