

March 04, 1996

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on March 4, 1996 in the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bisette, Commissioners Bascoe Lewis, Naomi Powell, Isaac Lewis, Fred Hough and Jimmy Meacombs. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

Mayor Bisette welcomed guest Debina Strickland and her mother Virginia Strickland, and Faye and Jimmy Griffen.

Ms. Debina Strickland, who is handicapped wanted to know if progress had been made on the construction of wheelchair ramps. Mayor Bisette informed her that S.T. Wooten Company had been contacted and were supposed to get in touch with the town after the winter season is over.

Mr. & Mrs. Griffen were concerned about a ditch behind their property. They stated that heavy rains would flood the rear yard and was causing water damage to the foundations of their property.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that he wanted to tile that ditch but it was on the right of way to Norfolk Southern Railway and would have to be approved by them. He stated that he had tried to get in touch with them but would try again.

The clerk presented the Minutes of the previous meetings and the Financial Statements for the month of February and Commissioner Powell moved to accept them as correct, Powell's motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and was carried unanimously.

Chief Brock was present with a report on the activities of the police department for the month of February.

Sanford Wilson, Utility Director, presented to the board for review, contracts with Emory Wilson Associates for yearly maintenance on the four lift stations at a cost of \$550.00 per lift station. The board choose not to enter into the contracts at this time.

Wilson then stated that notices should be posted in the cemetery informing people that all arrangements will be taken from the graves twice a year and to list the times they will taken. A growing problem exists because people are taking the arrangements off and discarding them in the fields nearby. Mayor Bisette suggested that this issue be tabled until the April meeting.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis informed the board that several sites had been looked at by a State Official that might serve as potential sites for a well and that he hoped to get another well dug and into operation this year.

Commissioner Powell informed the board that a librarian had been hired for the library.

Commissioner Hough stated that the painting had been done at the Community Building where the window air conditioner had been taken out.

The Board reviewed a letter from Attorney Liz Fairman, who had signed a contract to do the legal work on the Zebulon Sewer Line Project in the amount of \$3,000.00. The letter stated that she was not aware of the many easements and right-of-ways that had to be done and they alone would take care of the amount she put into the contract and she asked the board to consider her request to increase the amount by \$4,000.00.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved that at the present time to let the contract stand as was originally agreed upon and at the completion of the project, the board would review final costs

to see how they relate to services rendered and make decisions at that time, Lewis's motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Bissette informed the board that RECD stated that the Town could use their grant money and borrow the remaining \$1,200,000.00 from the State Revolving Loan Fund. She said that the Local Government Commission had approved the State Office to amortize the principal and interest on a yearly basis and that the payback to the State would be \$81,706.57 per year and the interest rate was 2.7% with a twenty year payback. RECD's interest would have been no lower than 4% and the payback would have been forty years at \$69,000.00 per year. Clerk Bissette stated that the difference between the two figures could be drawn from the General Fund, Local Sales Tax Revenue. The Board felt that this was by far the best route for Middlesex.

Commissioner Hough stated that Ray Deans had repaired the window in the police office and the leaking roof was repaired but the roofer stated that the entire building was in bad need of being covered, that places on top were showing wear down to the felt. He had a quote from Rudy's Roofing for \$4500.00 to cover the entire building and the \$750.00 repair bill would be subtracted if they decided to go the entire building.

Commissioner Hough also had prices for heat/air; wiring; floor covering and painting. The total was approximately \$24,000.00 and he wanted to know how much the board wanted done at this time.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to do all the necessary repairs and to bring it up to date as far as the budget amount would allow, Lewis's motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and the motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed a letter from Nash County Tax Collector releasing Knits Unlimited, Middlesex, N.C. from \$250,000.00 in

tax valuation and also a letter from the clerk showing that she had garnished wages on a Mary Lois Williams in the amount of \$117.34 and discovered that Ms. Williams lived out of town and was due the money paid back to her.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to take the \$250,000.00 in tax value for Knits Unlimited off the 1995 tax scroll and also refund \$117.34 to Mary Lois Williams, his motion was seconded Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Powell moved to adjust the water bill of J.H. Wright from \$46.10 to \$32.00 due to a written request detailing a leak, ~~Lewis's~~ ^{Powell's} motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss purchasing options on parcels of land to be used for a well site, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried. At this point, Mayor Bisette asked the press and guest to be excused.

The Minutes of the Executive Session will be marked with the date of March 04, 1996 and not made public until the final transactions are complete.

Mayor Bisette declared the Executive Session closed and the Council went back into open session.

Mayor Bisette reported to the Board that he had met with Rhonda Jordan of Rhonda's Auction House and she was unhappy at the boards decision to charge her rent for half the month of January. She stated that even though the repairs were made to the floor in two weeks, she needed time to get her fixtures in place.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to rescind the motion made in February to charge her \$75.00, his motion was seconded by

Commissioner Powell and Mayor Bisette asked if there was any discussion on the issue.

Commissioner Meacombs asked if Ms. Jordan had ever been told that she would not have to pay rent during January? Mayor Bisette said that she was told that she would not have to pay rent while the repairs were being made and no one knew how long it would take to do the repairs.

Mayor Bisette called for a vote on Commissioner Isaac Lewis's motion to rescind the \$75.00, the motion was defeated by 3 to 2 with Commissioners Hough, Powell, and Bascoe Lewis voting no and Commissioners Isaac Lewis and Meacombs voting yes.

Mayor Bisette stated Pastor Earl Price had approached him about putting a double wide mobile home on the lot belonging to Middlesex Pentecostal Church. The clerk stated that he had already talked to her and she had explained that Nash County's Building Code would not allow manufactured homes to be used for places of assembly.

Being no further business, Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bisette
Peggy Bisette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bisette *NRB*
Commissioners
Jimmy Meacombs *JM*
Fred Hough *FH*
Isaac Lewis *IL*
Naomi Powell *NRP*
Bascoe Lewis *WBL*