

April 07, 1997

The members of the Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on Monday, April 7, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bisette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Naomi Powell, Isaac Lewis, and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

Mayor Bisette welcomed guests Denise Medlin, a student who was present to observe a town council meeting in action; Patsy King from Region L Council of Governments, and citizens Alvin Brantley and Edna Mount.

Ms. King was present to discuss the Solid Waste Management Plan that Region L would be completing for Nash and Edgecombe counties. She stated that the cost would be absorbed by the counties but all municipalities could be included, and it was mandatory by the State of North Carolina that each municipality have a Solid Waste Management Plan implemented before July 1, 1997.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to participate in the plan and to appoint Peggy Bisette to attend the meetings being held at the Region L Council of Governments in Rocky Mount during the next two months. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Fred Hough and carried unanimously.

Alvin Brantley addressed the board and asked that they consider appointing Edna Mount to the seat vacated when Jimmy Meacombs resigned from the board.

Ms. Mount then spoke and stated that she was interested in the position and also complained about the speed limit not being enforced on Nash Street in the business district, stating that she was almost hit by a speeding car when crossing the street.

Commissioner Powell moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statements for the month of March to be correct. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

After discussion of how to dispose of the surplus property belonging to the town, Mayor Bisette appointed Commissioner Bascoe Lewis as the representative to make the decisions on the sale of surplus property.

The clerk was instructed to make signs advertising the sale of the 1967 truck that has been taken out of use, with an asking price of \$500.00.

Utility Supervisor Wilson stated that the trees had been cut in the park and they would now try to remove the concrete block that was covered with dirt.

Commissioner Powell asked on behalf of the Powell Clinic Board of Directors that the town help remove three trees from the clinic property. The board instructed Wilson to help with the problem.

Wilson then stated that he had been picking up large items from the yards of citizens and storing them at the sewer plant but had been told by state officials that he could not continue this practice and therefore there was a problem of what to do with those items until they could get a truck load to take to the landfill. The clerk had looked into the rental of a dumpster from BFI and the rent would be \$85.00 per month and \$95.00 each time it was emptied.

The board asked the clerk to check with the Nash County Board of Commissioners to see if the town could use the mound system on Stony Hill Church Road.

Chief Brock reported on the activities of the police department for the previous month and informed the board that he had an applicant for interview for police work. He also reported that he wanted to promote Patrick Ridgway to Sergeant and asked that he be given a \$1,000.00 per year increase in pay.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to accept Brock's recommendation to promote Ridgway to Sergeant. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to increase Ridgway's salary by \$1,000.00 per year due to his promotion. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

The board members reviewed playground equipment to be ordered; however, Commissioner Powell, who is in charge of the park, stated that she needed more time to study the comparisons of the two companies offering the bids.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to amend the budget as follows in order to allow for installation of the equipment:

Revenues: General Fund Taxes from \$143,000.00 to \$145,000.00
Expenditures: Parks from \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00

Lewis's motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough stated that the wall at the cemetery had been painted and looked good; and, that all the broken windows in the Community Building had been replaced, with one new one being broken over the weekend. The clerk was instructed to call Wilson Glass and have it repaired. Commissioner Hough then stated that the scout leader had asked permission for the group to plant flowers around the building as a troop project. The board agreed to this request.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to enter into Executive Session to interview William Heath Jessup as a prospect for police personnel. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

After the close of the interview, Commissioner Lewis moved to enter back into open session.

Once in open session, Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to hire Jessup contingent upon the passage of a required drug test and psychological evaluation, at a salary of \$17,658.00 and all appropriate benefits on a ninety (90) day probationary period. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bisette informed the board that Champion International Corporation had agreed to sell the sites for the lift stations at a fee of \$1200.00 for both rather than having to go through the condemnation process.

Mayor Bisette stated that he felt the town's computer system was not sufficient to run the data that would be required to do the bookkeeping for the Zebulon Sewer Line Project.

When questioned about upgrading the present system, Clerk Bissette stated that she preferred to put the money into a second computer due to the fact that at the end of the month when water bills were due to go out and financial reports were to be done, two units would be more resourceful.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to purchase a unit for \$2500.00. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adjust the water bills of Henry Manning from \$93.00 to \$67.65 and Anita Peace from \$464.75 to \$255.50. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adopt the attached resolution to participate in the National Flood Insurance Plan. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously.

A date of April 17, 1997, was set for the hearing on the ordinance for the Flood Plan Program and a budget workshop to follow.

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

Peggy Bissette
Peggy Bissette
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette *DRB*

Commissioners

Fred Hough *FH*

Naomi Powell *NP*

Isaac Lewis *IL*

Bascoe Lewis *WBL*