

May 04, 1998

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on May 04, 1998 in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Naomi Powell, Isaac Lewis and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Isaac Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously. The clerk then read the Financial Statements for the month of April and they were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Fred Hough, seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette welcomed Jim Alred, representing the T.Dale Holland firm of Wilmington. Mr. Alred stated that he wanted to let the board know that the deadline for Community Development Applications was October 1998 and that he felt that Middlesex had enough homes in need of repair to apply for a scattered site grant this year and that would repair approximately 11-12 homes. The maximum grant would be \$350,000.00 with an additional \$50,000.00 if there were water and sewer needs for those homes. The state requires a 5% local match.

Mayor Bissette thanked Mr. Alred for attending the meeting and stated that the board would discuss it and let him know if they were interested in applying.

Chief Brock reported to the Board on the activities of the police department, stating that he had been to Raleigh today to pick up the new police vehicle. He requested of the board that the department be allowed to keep the Mustang and have three (3) cars on line. He stated that he would like to keep the new car as an unmarked car.

Commissioner Hough raised the question of whether the town needed three (3) police cars. Mayor Bissette asked the Police Commission to get estimates on the insurance, supplies and upkeep of the cars for the previous year as well as an estimated value of the Mustang if it were to be sold and present those figures back to the board at its next meeting for a determination on keeping the three cars.

Utility Supervisor, Sanford Wilson stated that he had attended a three day class on the Wastewater Collection System and that the town was going to have to spend several thousand dollars to keep in compliance with the rules and regulations being set forth. He stated that Middlesex would have to purchase trench boxes if they continued to open water and sewer lines. The cheapest box he could find would cost approximately \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Powell moved to contribute \$441.33 to the Nash County Arts Council, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

The board discussed Mr. James Lee's application for janitorial work and did not feel comfortable hiring him after learning of the criminal background.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to amend the 1997-98 budget as follows:

(a) General Fund Revenues
Cops Award from zero to \$5,478.00
Fund Balance from zero to 23,000.00

(b) General Fund Expenditures
Police Department
Capital Outlay from zero to \$23,000.00
Salaries from \$89,522.00 to 95,000.00

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

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to accept Jake Wrights resignation from the Planning Board, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to appoint David Bartley to the Planning Board, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that Wells Bulldozing Services said that they would be here within the month to do the work on Pine Street and Jones Street, but that he could not give a price, since he was doing the work on an hourly basis. Commissioner Isaac Lewis stated that we should get prices from E.C. Pace Company on the projects.

Mayor Bissette stated that he wanted the board to consider revising its personnel policy. He felt that Middlesex should take steps to outline hiring policies, such as immediate family members, and employees being on the governing body. The board asked the clerk to get the attorney's opinion of the legality of it.

Mayor Bissette pointed out a couple of things he felt were wrong in the pay scale that the board adopted at its last meeting, saying that the town clerk's starting salary was set too high and the starting salary for the Laborer I was also too high.

Commissioner Hough stated that the pay scale he presented to the board was not intended for any employees but the police department and he moved to rescind his motion of April 22, 1998 to adopt the Salary Range Pay Scale for all employees, his motion to rescind was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough stated that he felt that it would be a good idea to begin interviewing each employee on a yearly basis for the purposes of salary increases.

Commissioner Powell moved to set a date of June 01, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. for the 1998-99 Budget Hearing, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

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

Peggy Bissette
Peggy Bissette
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette *BRB*
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs *Hm*
Fred Hough *FH*
Naomi Powell *NP*
Isaac Lewis *IL*
Bascoe Lewis *BL*