

October 11, 1999

On Monday Night, October 11, 1999 the Middlesex Governing Body met in a regular scheduled meeting in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Naomi Powell and Bascoe Lewis. Commissioner Isaac Lewis was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the invocation was given by Commissioner Powell.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct in a motion made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

The clerk presented the Financial Statements for the month of September and they were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

John Anthony, CPA of Anthony, Tabb and Moore CPA Firm was present to review the town's annual audit for the fiscal year 1998-99. Mr. Anthony stated that Middlesex had done a fine job of keeping within its budget and had more than \$1,000,000.00 in surplus funds at this time and that each fund was operating without transactions from other funds and this was as they should be. The tax collection rate was 97.5, which he said was excellent. He went through the report and explained it to the board members. Mayor Bissette asked him how Middlesex compared to the other towns that his firm audited to which Anthony replied, excellent.

Ms. Minnie Kale was present to complain of a dog that her neighbor allowed to get out of his pen often, she stated that he had a Rottweiler that chased a pedestrian onto the top of a car trying to get to him to bite him recently. Mayor Bissette asked Chief Brock to look into and handle the situation.

Bill Durham of Ivey's Security was present to discuss the dialer systems for the lift stations that the town owns. The State has stated that by July 1, 2000 all lift stations must be equipped with an automatic dialer or checked daily. Durham stated that it would be better to install wireless cellular communications at each station, and the initial start up cost on that type project would be \$8161.00 for seven lift stations, and a yearly maintenance fee of \$384.00 for Central Station Monitoring and cell phone charges at \$1071.00 per year.

Mayor Bisette stated that he would like to wait until Commissioner Isaac Lewis, who serves as the Water and Sewer Commissioner could be present to vote on the issue, so no action was taken on it.

Chief Brock gave a report on the activities of the police department for the previous month.

Utility Director, Richard Bucklin gave a written work report as well as an oral report on his department for the previous month. He discussed an infiltration problem that we experienced from Hurricane Floyd. The sewer water backed up into the bathroom of citizen David Jordan's home. Bucklin stated that he would smoke test and try to get any a company to go into the lines with a camera in order to determine the repairs needed.

Commissioner Hough stated that three of the town buildings had problems with leaks during the hurricane. The police and community buildings have already been repaired. He stated that he would look at the other building over the weekend.

Commissioner Meacombs stated that he wanted the board to make sure the new well was equipped to be wired to the generator being purchased.

Commissioner Hough moved to allow Bennie Lewis to install a top on the new well pump house at a cost of \$6623.00, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the resignation of David Bartley from the Planning Board due to relocating out of town, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

The board reviewed a request from Upper Coastal Plain Government to release \$158.81 in money back to the COG in technical funds. Commissioner Hough moved to release the \$158.81, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

After reviewing materials on the amount of money being lost due to customers moving and not paying water bills, Commissioner Lewis moved to increase the required water deposit to \$100.00, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and passed with a three to one vote, with Commissioner Powell voting no.

Mayor Bissette asked the clerk to get some legal advice on whether we could legally refuse water to those that refused to repair water leaks.

Mayor Bissette said that he had attended a meeting in Zebulon during the past weeks on the proposed industry that wanted to connect to the towns sewer line on US264A and that we could not ever annex them because of the fact that they were over a mile from our ETJ, and Johnston County and the industry wanted to know if Middlesex would be willing to apply for an Economic Development Grant to supply water, sewer and natural gas to the proposed industry. He stated that there would be 25% matching funds for any grant money received.

Commissioner Lewis moved to go on record that Middlesex would be willing to apply for the grant and to supply the services if Johnston County or the interested industry would be willing to supply the 25% matching funds, and Middlesex would not have to put any local money into the project, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Powell moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Naomi Powell
Bascoe Lewis

