

November 4, 1996

The Middlesex Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 4, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. with members Mayor Bobby R. Bisette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Jimmy Meacombs, Isaac Lewis, Naomi Powell and Bascoe Lewis present. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

The Minutes of the previous meeting, and the Financial Statements for the previous month were accepted as correct in a motion made by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Naomi Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bisette welcomed the guests to the meeting, and also Gary Pittman who was here on behalf of Anthony, Moore, and Tabb, P.A. Firm. He reported to the board on the 1995-96 Fiscal Year Audit Report.

Pittman stated that the town was in excellent financial shape and complimented the board on operating within the budget. He further stated that the tax collection rate was 98.45% which was also excellent. He said that the board had made a wise decision to increase the water and sewer rates at this time to prepare for the indebtedness that will occur within the next two years.

Diane Burgess was present to ask for sewer service at a residence on South Spruce Street in order to prepare a place for her elderly uncle to live. She said that she had contacted the state about the issue and they referred her to the town hall. Mayor Bisette asked the clerk to inform the board on the matter.

The clerk stated that she had informed Burgess that the town was under a Special Order of Consent and could not add any new customers at this time without the permission of the State, and that information had been gathered and sent to the proper officials with the state government to try to determine if more flow could be allocated to Middlesex and was told that a decision would be forthcoming in the near future.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to allow Burgess's request to tap into the sewer system due to a hardship case, provided that the permission to add the flow to our system is received from the state agency, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

Joe Whitley was present and wanted to know if the water meters were read each month or if they were sometimes estimated. He said that his bill had been continuously increasing each month. He was assured by the utility supervisor that the meters were read each month. Whitley stated that he would continue to try to conserve water usage in order to keep the bill down.

Alvin Brantley was present and asked why the board raised the water and sewer rates at this time, before they had to actually begin to pay Zebulon and the indebtedness that would be incurred. He was told that preparations were being made to enable Middlesex to be in sound financial conditions when these conditions arose. Brantley asked that the clerk provide him with figures on exactly what the sewer revenues were for July-October of 1995 and July-October 1996 at the next town meeting.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that FEMA Representatives had been here to examine the newly dug ditch between the railroad tracks and the home along US264A, and had stated that Middlesex would be eligible for approximately \$1200.00 for damages done to the ditch by Hurricane Fran.

Commissioner Hough had an estimate from Robert Harrison for \$5,000 in labor only to lay a brick wall at the cemetery, with Middlesex buying all supplies. Commissioner Isaac Lewis stated that he had an engineer on staff at his business, and he would provide a free design on a retainer wall before any money was invested if the town wanted him to. The board agreed to table the project until the engineer could look at the wall.

Commissioner Hough also had a rough quote of \$2372.79 on carpet for the building being rented by Dorothy Daniel. Hough stated that he felt the town could not invest that kind of money to carpet the building when they did not receive but \$150.00 per month in rent. The board agreed that they would not purchase the carpet at this time.

The board discussed the issue of customers who need water for use that does not go into the sewer system and are asking for relief of the sewer charge, however no action was taken on the issue.

The board reviewed a request from Angelo Cameron for an adjustment on his water bill due to a leaking toilet and Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to adjust the bill from \$169.05 to \$109.90, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette
Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette *BRB*
Commissioners
Jimmy Meacombs *JM*
Fred Hough *FH*
Naomi Powell *NP*
Isaac Lewis *IL*
Bascoe Lewis *WBL*