

April 14, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met on April 14, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Bascoe Lewis, and Larry Daniel. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order and Commissioner Daniel gave the invocation. Mayor Bissette welcomed the guests, Gary Lee, Kevin Brown, Hattie Thomas, Connie Kale, Dane Williams, Vennie Brock, and Richard Lambert.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as correct, Commissioner Daniel seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the Financial Statements for March 2003 as presented by the clerk, was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell noted that both of the part time police officers hired at our March 10, 2003 meeting have been hired full time by other agencies, and he would review their schedules and still use on a call-in basis if possible.

Utilities Director Jeff Waddell presented a quotation for \$8970.00 from Carolinas Instrumentation for a flowmeter and installation costs which would measure wastewater to Zebulon at 99.9% accuracy. When this company calibrated our flowmeter in February of this year, we found it was measuring 9% higher than the actual volume of pumped wastewater. This matter was tabled until we get more information.

Jeff also presented a quote from Hollis Welding and Repair for \$450 to install OSHA required rails at the bar screen at the lift station on Selma Road. The Board agreed to have this done. Jeff also noted we are trying to fill in the pit and Hollis Welding will give us price on cutting the catwalk off the old aeration bay on Selma Road.

Commissioner Hough motioned to keep the same deductibles and liability coverage amounts for our Property, Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance for the next fiscal year. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and was carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the town's Safety and Health Program and read the Resolution. Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt the Resolution supporting the Safety and Health Program, as well as the entire draft of the Safety and Health Program, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

After some discussion on sprinkler systems in the town, the clerk was advised to contact Tonya Eatmon and advise her we could keep her sprinkler system connected and she would be required to pay a monthly water bill or if she desired, the town would permanently remove her meter. If she ever decided to connect again in the future, she would have to pay a meter fee.

The Board discussed employee overtime compensation at length. Commissioner Hough moved to add the town's policy to give compensatory time off in lieu of pay for overtime to our employment application and to be sure to advise all new hires of this policy.

After review of Peggy Bissette's hours worked over the past three months, the Board agreed that Bissette's hours would be scheduled by the clerk.

Gary Lee, representing First Baptist Church, thanked the Town Board and the Police Department for help with solving some of the loitering problems and cleanup on E. Hanes Avenue and he requested that the street lighting in the area be improved. Mayor Bissette advised Mr. Lee that Progress Energy maintained the street lights and that we would contact Progress Energy and discuss the situation.

Connie Kale addressed the Board regarding water standing on S. Elm Street. Mayor Bissette advised Ms. Kale that he and Commissioner Robinson had looked at the problem and proposed to cut down a tree and dig a drainage ditch in the near future when it gets a little drier.

Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt the Minority Business Participation Plan, Commissioner Robinson seconded and was carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed and discussed filters for Well #4 on E. Finch Avenue. The quote was for \$29,262 for two filters plus installation costs of approximately \$4,000. Commissioner Daniel moved to buy the two filters and have them installed. Commissioner Robinson seconded and was carried unanimously. Mayor Bissette requested the clerk to contact Peirson and Whitman to get the required discharge permit needed for the project.

Mayor Bissette noted that he met with a group on the proposed Commuter Rail Service, Eastrans, which would primarily be a service for the people in our area, not a money-making project. He noted the feasibility study for the project would be \$70,000.

Commissioner Daniel moved to recognize Dennis Patton with Upper Coastal Council of Governments as our Zoning Review Officer replacing Patsy King who has taken a position with Nash County. Commissioner Robinson seconded and was carried unanimously.

After some discussion, the Water Tower Maintenance Agreement with Utility Services was tabled until painting the inside of the water tower has been completed. This project was put on hold last year due to problems with water pressure and Jeff is working with Utility Services now to schedule completion of the project.

Mayor Bissette advised the Board that he would be distributing information to them and to town businesses reporting the findings of the meetings of SONAC (Southern Nash County Leadership Program) and also stated that this program would continue by having local officials from all towns to participate in regular meetings.

The Middlesex Fire Department tested the fire hydrants in an effort to reduce insurance rates and noted several problems. Jeff Waddell has a list and will fix two of the problems and Sullivan's Construction Company will fix the remaining hydrant problems.

Commissioner Hough moved to schedule a Budget Workshop for Monday, May 5th, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Conference Room. Commissioner Robinson seconded and was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to allow Jeff Waddell to address the Board regarding his job performance. Commissioner Lewis seconded and was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to return to Open Session, Commissioner Daniel seconded and was carried unanimously. No action was taken from the discussion during the Closed Session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Daniel moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners:
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Larry Daniel
Bascoe Lewis