

August 11, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on August 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bisette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Larry Daniel, and Bascoe Lewis. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Daniel. Guests were Bob Crowder, Susan Ennis, Sammy Drake, and Vennie Brock.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the July meeting. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and was carried unanimously.

Bob Crowder with the N.C. League of Municipalities and Susan Ennis of the MAP Group presented a proposal for updating the town's personnel policies, including updating job descriptions and developing a salary administration guideline at a cost of \$3877.00. Mr. Crowder and Mrs. Ennis stated that the Board would advise them what specific areas they would like addressed in the policy. In addition, the updated policy would be in compliance with the current labor laws. Mayor Bisette thanked Mr. Crowder and Mrs. Ennis for the presentation. No action was taken.

The Clerk presented the July financial statements. Commissioner Hough moved to accept them as correct, Commissioner Robinson seconded his motion and the motion was carried unanimously. The Clerk advised the Board that property taxes and privilege licenses had been billed. Out of the three roofing companies contacted, only one has responded, saying that with all the rain they were backlogged but would look at it as soon as they could. Commissioner Robinson stated he would take a look at the roof and see what he thought it would take to repair it.

Chief Ferrell stated a community service worker would be painting inside the police department. He also presented a business checklist for the officers to make periodic nightly rounds to the businesses in town between 9:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Mayor Bisette requested Chief Ferrell to add the community building to the list and his request was acknowledged. Mayor Bisette asked Chief Ferrell about progress on the investigations of the recent break-ins. Chief Ferrell said they have matching footprints and are continuing investigations.

Utility Director Jeff Waddell presented the Board with a proposal from Cummins Atlantic for a maintenance agreement for our generators. Mayor Bisette requested Jeff to find out the cost after deducting for oil changes, which Jeff already does. Jeff also presented the Board with a proposal for a security system at each of our three wells. Mayor Bisette requested Jeff to get proposals for fencing at all three wells. These proposals were obtained as a result of a request from Nash County EMS. Nash County received a \$95,000 grant through the Homeland Security Act and requested our input for projects we thought were a priority to security throughout the county and municipalities.

Mayor Bisette stated that materials and equipment had been brought in to begin the Manning Street Railroad Crossing Signal installation. Jeff also said the filters in Well #4 on Finch Avenue were in place, the sand and gravel is there, and we are waiting for piping material for hookup.

Mayor Bisette asked the Board to review the Legislative Bulletin which included **Senate Bill 168 *Economics Development District*** which created an economic development district in Johnston County that prohibited municipalities in Johnston County from annexing into the district, which means no tax revenue for the municipalities. At this time, this only applies to Johnston County, not statewide.

The Clerk presented six proposed strategies for the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan and requested their input and concerns so she can present these to the Wooten Corporation (contractor developing the HMP) by the end of August.

Commissioner Daniel requested that the Board review the unmetered water price of 25 cents per 100 gallons stating it was not fair for citizens outside of town to come in and fill up large tanks and pay the same rate as in-town citizens. Mayor Bisette requested that Jeff measure the exact gallons dispensed for 25 cents and what would be involved in changing the price and/or gallons dispensed.

Both parties that were interested in renting the town building next to the town hall did not attend. Terry Winstead requested the clerk to withdraw his name at this time due to excessive moving expenses and other obligations and priorities in the next few months. Mayor Bisette requested Jeff to place a "for rent" sign in the window of the building.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the following sewer adjustments. Commissioner Daniel seconded the motion and was carried unanimously:

1. Jerry Daniel from 156.75 to \$57.75
2. Johnny Strickland from \$239.25 to \$49.50
3. Erzell Lucas from \$96.00 to \$56.00
4. Sherry's Snacks from \$96.00 to \$24.75
5. Yvonne Hernandez from \$90.75 to \$24.75

After discussing the implementation of a required policy for adverse reactions to small pox vaccinations, Mayor Bisette asked the clerk to find out if workers compensation insurance would cover the bills, or if the employees group health insurance would pay before we adopt a policy. This policy must be adopted by September 10, 2003.

Vennie Brock asked Mayor Bissette if he could address the Board. His concern was a utility customer moving from one residence in town to another in-town residence and being billed for two minimum bills. Mayor Bissette stated that it was due to the fact that it requires extra administrative time in the billing office and reading both meters.

Commissioner Hough moved to go into Closed Session to interview Sammy Drake Jr. for a police officer position. Commissioner Robinson seconded his motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to go back into Open Session. Commissioner Daniel seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to hire Sammy Drake Jr. as a police officer at a salary of \$23,500 per year subject to twelve months probation.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

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