

September 8, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on September 8, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the town hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, and Larry Daniel. Commissioner Basco Lewis was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting order and Commissioner Daniel gave the invocation. Guests were John Anthony, Henry and Helen Manning, Alvin Brantley, Vennie Brock, Doris Hicks, and Edna Mount. Mayor Bissette welcomed all the guests and thanked the citizens for showing interest in the affairs of the town.

Commissioner Luke Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the August meeting as correct, Commissioner Daniel seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette introduced John Anthony with Anthony, Moore & Tabb, PA, the town's auditors. Mr. Anthony presented a clean opinion of the financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and noted that they represent a fair presentation of the town's finances. He stated that the town continues to be in good financial condition. Our cash was down due to monies spent on the sewer rehabilitation project that will not be reimbursed until fiscal year 2003-2004. He stated that the general fund had revenues over expenditures (or net income) of \$77,404, but the water and sewer funds had a net loss of \$94,622, which is comparable to last fiscal year. Mr. Anthony also stated that if the water and sewer fund continues to have a net loss, that we would most likely be hearing from the state if we did not raise our rates to compensate for these losses. The town had a 98% rate on tax collections which was very good, and the county had an 85% rate for collection of motor vehicle taxes, which about the same as other county collection rates. Mr. Anthony advised that the town was in overall good financial condition and the transition from Peggy Bissette to Jennifer Lambert as Town Clerk/Finance Director went very smooth.

The Clerk presented the August financial statements. Commissioner Fred Hough moved to accept them as correct, Commissioner Meacombs seconded his motion and it carried unanimously. The clerk advised the board that the advertisement for bids for the sewer rehab project will run on September 10th and 17th, 2003 and the deadline for bids is 2:00 p.m. on October 15th 2003.

Utilities Director Jeff Waddell was absent. Chief Ferrell reported that the community service worker is continuing the painting on the interior of the police department and a new sign has been placed on the front of the building. Officer Sammy Drake received his uniforms last week. Mayor Bissette questioned the difference in mileage on the two Crown Victoria police cars and Chief Ferrell stated that one officer does more patrolling than the other and that he was already checking into the situation.

Commissioner Daniel stated that we were still working to get the park cleaned up.

Mayor Bissette and Commissioner Robinson requested the clerk to report street lights out at Claude Lewis Road and Poplar street and at 9449 N. Nash Street.

The Board reviewed a written request from Constance Corbett to participate and support the "2003 Christmas in Middlesex" to be held Friday, December 5th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Hough moved to participate and spend \$500 in support of the project. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Angelica Silva requested the clerk to place her on the agenda to speak to the Board regarding a deposit paid for the use of the community building which was not refunded. Ms. Silva was not present for the meeting. The clerk stated that Ms. Silva used the building on Friday, August 29th to set up and take packages in after Peggy Bissette had told her she could not use the building until Saturday, August 30, 2003. Jeff Waddell requested her to leave on Friday because she had paid rent for the building for Saturday only. Commissioner Daniel moved to deny Ms. Silva's request for the deposit to be refunded. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette reviewed a Water and Sewer Rate Survey which he had asked the clerk's office to prepare. He stated that he had been hearing complaints about the Middlesex rates being so high, but in fact, Middlesex had the lowest rate compared to Bailey, Spring Hope, Elm City, Kenly, and Lucama.

The Clerk presented and read aloud a Resolution to Enact a Policy under Session Law 2003-169, Adverse Reactions to Small Pox Vaccinations Enacted June 12, 2003. All municipalities must enact a policy by September 10, 2003. Commissioner Hough moved to adopt the resolution. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and it carried unanimously.

After some discussion of the proposal from the N.C. League of Municipalities and the MAPS Group to review and update the town's personnel policy, complete a job classification study and salary range guidelines. Commissioner Daniel moved to sign the Memorandum of Agreement accepting the proposal. Commissioner Meacombs seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following 2003-2004 budget amendments as recommended by our auditor, John Anthony:

Library: 10-330-0100 interest earned from	200.00 to	.00
10-330-0200 library fund balance from	2880.00 to	7080.00
10-331-0000 town contribution from	4000.00 to	.00

Nondepartmental: (move janitorial person to public buildings)

10-660-0200 salaries from	6080.00 to	.00
10-660-0500 fica expense from	470.00 to	.00
10-660-0901 other benefits from	100.00 to	.00

Public Buildings:

10-500-0200 salaries from	.00 to	6080.00
10-500-0500 fica expense from	.00 to	470.00
10-500-0901 other benefits	.00 to	100.00

Water Operations:

30-810-0000 deposited refunded from	4080.00 to	.00
30-810-4500 contracted services from	5500.00 to	9500.00

Commissioner Robinson moved to amend the 2003-2004 as recommended by John Anthony. Commissioner Daniel seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the following sewer adjustments. Commissioner Meacombs seconded his motion and it carried unanimously:

1. Garland Hopkins from \$288.75 to \$24.75
2. Betsy Boykin from \$206.25 to \$33.00
3. Catina Mansell from \$181.50 to \$24.75
4. Tammy Daniel from \$371.25 to \$24.75
5. Carroll Ferrell from \$74.25 to \$33.00

Zoning Administrator, Peggy Bissette asked the board to review a change in the penalty clause of the Zoning Ordinance and presented materials from Attorney Liz Fairman on the issue. The change would be to give the town the authority to levy a fine at the local level rather than through the courts.

Commissioner Luke Robinson moved to hold a Public Hearing on October 13, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. on amending the penalty clause of the Zoning Ordinance, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

The board reviewed a letter from Stallings Brothers asking them to amend the Special Use Permit issued to them in December 2002 for a garage on Claude Lewis Road. They want the permit to allow them to work on any and all vehicles, the permit now states that they must limit the work done in the garage to Stalling Brothers Vehicles only.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to set a Public Hearing on the amendment for October 13, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

The discussion of a county wide water system for southern Nash County was tabled until all the commissioners have had the opportunity to attend one of the meetings and all the meetings in the various towns have been held.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Larry Daniel