

September 11, 2000

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on September 11, 2000 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 Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the Minutes of the August Meeting, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the Financial Statements for the month of August and his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Chief Ridgway gave a report on the activities of the Police Department for the previous month, stating that he had received word that the grant for new police equipment and car had been tentatively approved by the State and had been sent to the Department of Justice for final approval.

Ridgway further stated that after several attempts, he had finally managed to get the DOT to designate a "School Zone" and post 25MPH speed limit signs, and create a turn zone at the elementary school.

Commissioner Lewis stated that he contacted Stevens Mill Work to come and give a price on repairing the windows and they had not been as of today. He said that he had told Bennie Lewis to do the repairs.

Commissioner Meacombs stated that he felt the town had to do something about the infiltration of surface water getting into our sewer system and he was trying to devise a plan to help track the flow.

The board reviewed a letter from the Town of Zebulon in regards to an increase in the sewer rate by ten (10) cents per one thousand (1,000) gallons to become effective September 1, 2000. A document was presented to the board showing the projected loss of revenues if the rate increase is not put into effect to Middlesex's customers. Mayor Bissette suggested that the matter be tabled until further study could be done on the issue.

The board reviewed a contract from Onsley on the portable generator recently purchased, however they felt it was extremely high and rejected it.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to purchase a spare pump for the lift station on South Elm Street, from Mechanical Equipment Company in the amount of \$2994.00, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette stated that he had spoken to Larry Daniel and Naomi Powell and both had agreed to serve the remainder of Isaac Lewis's term if appointed.

Commissioner Lewis moved to appoint Larry Daniel to serve the remainder of the term, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried by a vote of three to 1 with Commissioner Hough voting no.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into closed session to review four applications for the Public Works position, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Once in closed session four applications were reviewed, and Mayor Bissette then declared the meeting back into open session.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to call Robert Edward Mrowka and Barretta Height for interviewing on Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m., his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Clerk Bissette presented costs on updating the office software, and asked the board to consider the Payroll Ledger at this time.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the purchase of the Payroll Software from Logic's in the amount of \$3000.00 plus a one time fee of \$1895.00 to install and license fee, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Bascoe Lewis

September 14,2000

The Middlesex Governing Body met in a Special Called Session on September 14, 2000 with members Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson and Bascoe Lewis present. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint Larry Daniel to fill the unexpired term of Isaac Lewis and to interview Bob Mrowka and Barretta Height as candidates to fill the Public Works Director position.

Mayor Bissette administered the oath of office to Larry Daniel as Commissioner for the Middlesex Board of Commissioners, and all members welcomed him to the board.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into closed session to interview Barretta Height and Robert (Bob) Mrowka.

Sealed excerpts from the closed session will be attached to these Minutes until such time the board declares them open.

Mayor Bissette declared the closed session back into open session, and being no further business, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Larry Daniel
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In closed session, the board first interviewed Baretta Height from Wake Forest, now working with the Town of Morrisville, as a Public Utilities Specialist at a salary of \$14.16 per hour.

Height holds a C-Distribution in Water Works and stated that he has been in public works for three years.

When asked why he was interested in this job, he stated that he wanted to advance and in Morrisville there was no chance of doing that. He further stated that he would have to have more than \$29,500.00 to come to Middlesex and would not be willing to relocate.

Mayor Bissette thanked Height for his interest position and his time for the interview and said that the board would be in touch with him shortly.

Bob Mrowka who works in the sewer collections department with the Town of Zebulon said that he was looking for a more diversified job, that he felt burned out in Zebulon but could not come to Middlesex for less than he was making and was now making \$15.00 per hour with a one dollar and hour increase in December plus an additional 6% anniversary raise. He further stated that he had 700 hours of accumulated sick leave and would like to have that transferred to Middlesex.

After Mrowka left the meeting, the members discussed salary and Mayor Bissette instructed the clerk to call Mrowka and offer him \$34,000.00 and the acceptance of his sick leave time. The clerk placed the call and Mrowka stated that he would be in touch with her on Friday.

The board agreed to negotiate a higher salary if they had to and Commissioner Hough moved to approve to allow Mayor Bissette to offer Mrowka up to \$35,000.00 and the acceptance of his sick leave, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

These Minutes will be sealed until a Public Works Director has been hired and a salary established.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk