

October 14 ,2002

The Middlesex Governing Body met on October 14, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in regular session in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Larry Daniel and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Daniel. Guest present were Jeff Stallings, Zack Stallings, Paula Wheeler, Alvin Brantley, Lois Stewart, Vennie Brock, Danny Howell, Edna Mount, Ann Whitley and Minnie Kinlaw.

The first item of business was a Public Hearing on a request from Oris Stallings to amend the town's zoning ordinance to allow business's in a RA Zone . Mayor Bissette opened the floor for discussion on the issue at 7:30 p.m..

Jeff Stallings representing his father Oris Stallings was present and stated that Stallings Brothers wanted to a parcel of land on Claude Lewis Road to park their propane trucks at night, and when not in use, to place two (2) thirty thousand (30,000) LP gas tanks, and to build a shop to work on company owned vehicles only. The have a ten-twelve acre lot they wish to use for this purpose. He assured the board that no work would be done on any vehicles other than those belonging to Stallings Brothers.

After discussion on the issue, and there were no negative comments on the location or the request by Stallings, Commissioner Hough moved to close the hearing and to go into the regular scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as corrected, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

The clerk presented the Financial Statements for the month of September and Commissioner Lewis moved to accept them as correct, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

John Anthony was present to review the Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30,02, he stated that he found the town to have a clean opinion, and that the books and finances were found to be in good shape. The General Fund generated a \$91,000.00 net increase but the Water and Sewer Fund showed a loss of \$60,157.00 due to the depreciation of the system and he advised the board to pay close attention to this fund and take necessary steps to correct the losses. He reported a 97.54% collections in the taxes and praised the bookkeeping system.

Jeff Waddell gave a report on the activities of the utilities and maintenance department for the previous month, stating that the flushing of the hydrants seemed to be improving the conditions of the water for the consumers.

Commissioner Daniel moved to adopt the Curfew Ordinance prepared by Acting Chief Ferrell, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

There was a discussion of the burned trash truck, and what options to take, the matter was tabled until next month.

The board reviewed a letter from Peirson & Whitman explaining the payback on the loan obtained to do the Sewer Infiltration Project and projecting that the sewer rates would need to be increased by twenty-five cents per one thousand gallons in order to repay the loan.

Commissioner Daniel moved to increase the sewer rate from \$7.75 to \$8.00 per one thousand gallons to become effective January 1, 2003, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Ann Whitley, Planner with Upper Coastal Government was present to discuss the Rural Transportation Plan, after discussion, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt a Resolution to join the Rural Transportation Organization, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow Business's in a RA Zone by Special Use Permit only, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel and Paula Wheeler gave an annual report on the Library for the year 2001.

Danny Howell was present to ask the board to consider allowing property owners to have water services turned on without a deposit if they could provide good credit references, however the board refused to honor his request. He then asked the board about purchasing a piece of land that adjoins his lot at the intersection of West Hanes and Opossum Road. No action was taken on the request.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt a Resolution to prepay the cost of the employees share of health insurance for his dependants, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to purchase a HPColor Laser Printer in the amount of \$2431.00 for the clerks office, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjust Herman Perry's sewer bill from \$77.50 to \$31.00, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

The board reviewed a letter from Reverend Green, Pastor of Guilford Chapel Church, requesting an adjustment on the sewer bill for the month of September. The same account had received an adjustment in July, and the town policy is one adjustment per year. The board did not act upon his request.

Being no further business, Commissioner Hough moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,  
Town Clerk

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