

November 11, 2002

The Middlesex Governing Body met on November 11, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, 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. Guests present were Bennie Fulford, Kevin Brown, Gary Lee, Pastor Isaac Green, Pastor Essie Brown, Pauline Hinnant, Elaine Merritt, and James Montgomery.

Luke Robinson moved to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as correct, his motion was seconded by Fred Hough and carried unanimously.

The Deputy Clerk presented the financial statements for the month of October and Commissioner Daniel moved to accept them as correct. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Acting Chief Charles Ferrell presented the police report and noted that the wrecked police car was totaled by both our insurance adjuster and the insurance adjuster from Plymouth Rock Insurance Company (the agent for the person involved in the chase).

Utilities Director Jeff Waddell reported that his new software programs for maintenance of lift stations and well pump readings seemed to be working well. The Christmas lights have been installed and will be turned on the day after Thanksgiving. Cleaning and painting of the water tower will be delayed until after the first of the year due to the upcoming holidays.

After discussion on replacing the burned trash truck, Commissioner Meacombs will get prices on a diesel cab and we will renegotiate with our insurance company on what they will allow the Town for the cab only and the Town will reuse the body. Once this is done, the Board will call a Special Meeting.

Kevin Brown, an Attorney representing First Baptist Church and several of the citizens from the South Oak Street area, expressed concerns to the Board regarding excessive water bills in the area for the month of October. He requested to be put on the agenda for our next regular meeting and will present the town hall with a list of specific accounts to be reviewed. They also mentioned a safety concern due to lack of street lights and an abandoned house on South Oak Street.

Commissioner Robinson submitted three quotes for a sidewalk on East Hanes Avenue. The sidewalk issue was tabled in order to see how residents feel about paying for half of the sidewalk and also the possible need to curb and gutter first.

Commissioner Hough moved to purchase a new police car to replace one wrecked in a chase. The car is to be purchased through state contract price. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Middlesex Planning Board on the subject of a Special Use Permit to allow Stallings Brothers to operate a business in a RA Zone. Jeff Stallings presented copies of the map complying with the Planning Board's recommendation.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to allow Stallings Brothers a Special Use Permit to operate a business in a RA Zone with the following stipulations:

- (1) business located on a separate lot of record
- (2) site plan showing locations of propane tanks and garage
- (3) garage only be used for maintenance of Stallings Brothers business vehicles only

Commissioner Meacombs' motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

A sample safety policy submitted by Risk Management which needs to be adopted by the Town will be rewritten to apply to the Town of Middlesex and will be submitted for approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Diane Trevathan requested an adjustment of \$11.25 on the October bill due to the fact that we did not pick up her trash or recycle at her son's house on West Hanes Avenue. Commissioner Daniel moved to adjust the \$11.25 sanitation charge from her account, Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

The Board approved a new form for sewer adjustments combining the request from the citizen, showing the adjustment, the reason, and action taken by the Town Board.

Commissioner Daniel moved to adjust Middlesex Insurance Agency's October sewer bill from \$108.50 to \$23.50. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

The Town Board denied Sadie Meacombs-Whitfield's request for an adjustment. We had given an adjustment on her March 2002 bill and the Town's policy allows only one adjustment per customer in a twelve-month period.

Commissioner Daniel moved to adjust First Baptist Church's October sewer bill from \$333.25 to \$62.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to allow Tienda Hispana La Union an ABC permit to sell off-premises beer provided they present the permit from the state. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept Town Clerk Peggy Bissette's letter of retirement with the condition the word "resignation" be replaced by the word "retirement". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session to discuss Acting Chief Charles Ferrell's probationary period ending November 14, 2002. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to return to Open Session and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hire Charles Ferrell as a permanent Police Officer. Commissioner Lewis seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to appoint Charles Ferrell as Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to raise Charles Ferrell's salary to \$32,000 per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to hire Judy Heath as a full time Police Officer with a six-month probationary period at a salary of \$21,500 per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to pay Christmas bonuses in the amount of \$200 to full time and \$100 to part time employees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Deputy Town Clerk

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