

December 9, 2002

The Middlesex Governing Body met on December 9, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Larry Daniel, and Bascoe Lewis. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Daniel. Guests present were Kevin Brown, Gary Lee, and Vincent Brock .

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting, with one correction, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

The clerk gave the Financial Statement for the month of November and they were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Daniel, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell gave a report on the activities of the Police Department for the previous month. He presented information to the board on a grant proposal that would allow the town to get two new police cars for the sum of \$1.00 each. The program is sponsored by the Homeland Security Act and private sponsor's will provide the cars for a three year period. He asked the board to sign the contract to enter into the grant cycle. He also stated that Officer Jason Newsome had been offered a job with another department at a salary of \$26,500.00 and he asked the board to match that amount in order to keep Newsom here.

Mayor Bissette expressed appreciation to Jeff Waddell for the work he and Shawn Pond did during the ice storm. They had kept generators running through the night during the ice storm in order for the lift stations.

Waddell stated that five lift stations were without power from Thursday Morning through Sunday Morning. He stated that a tree fell at Lift Station # 7 taking the power line down and that he and Pond took turns staying to keep the generator going.

Waddell stated that he had over 240 hours of comp time accumulated before this storm and asked that he be paid for up to five weeks of it.

Commissioner Robinson moved to pay Waddell for five weeks of comp time, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

There was a discussion on the payoff of the burned 1988 Ford Truck used for trash pick-up. Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the offer of \$5,000.00 and allowing the town to keep it as salvage, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette recognized Kevin Brown and Gary Lee who were here to discuss the conditions surrounding the loitering on Hanes Avenue and Oak Street near First Baptist Church. Mr. Brown had attended the meeting in November and stated that several of the citizens on Oak Street had concerns with high water bills and promised to return in December with names of those complaints, he stated tonight however, that he had not had the opportunity to get the names of the customers with complaints, but would have them at the January 2003 meeting.

Commissioner Hough moved to amend the 2002-2003 Budget as follows:

General Fund Revenues:

Fund Balance Appropriated from \$39,500.00 to 114,530.00

General Fund Expense:

Police Expense—Capital outlay from 0 to \$25,000.00

Sanitation Expense—Capital outlay from \$2,000.00 to \$52,000.00

Hough's motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously. The purpose of the amendment was to allow for the purchase of a 2003 Police Car to replace the one wrecked in a chase and to purchase a truck to replace the garbage truck that burned.

After reviewing information from the League of Municipalities concerning safety issues, Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt a policy for riding in town owned vehicles as follows:

It is the policy of the Town of Middlesex that no employee shall ride outside the passenger compartment of a vehicle. All individuals in town-owned vehicles must be seated inside the passenger compartment, wearing seatbelts. All employees riding on a trash vehicle must be seated in the cab with seatbelts fastened when traveling at speed in the excess of 10 MPH for distances exceeding 1/10 of a mile. There will be no exceptions and this policy will be rigorously enforced. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

Lewis's motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjust the sewer bills as follows:

Dorothy Kent from \$ 54.25 to \$23.25

Mark Rose from \$69.75 to \$23.25

William Crumel from \$186.00 to \$38.75

Darlene Thorton from \$137.50 to \$31.00

Robinson's motion to adjust these bills was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the recycling program, weighing the cost involved against the low percentage of participation by the citizens, Commissioner Robinson moved to discontinue the recycling program at this time, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to enter into closed session to discuss the performance of Officer Jason Newsome after his request for a salary increase, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson .

After discussion with Chief Ferrell on Officer Newsome, Commissioner Hough moved to go back into open session.

Commissioner Daniel moved to increase Officer Newsome's salary by \$ 2860.00 thereby raising his salary to \$26,500.00 per year, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Clerk Bissette stated that she would have three weeks of vacation that she could not take before her retirement date of Dec.31,2002 and Commissioner Hough moved to pay her for the three weeks, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to allow Chief Ferrell to apply for the grant for the two police cars, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Hough moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette
Town Clerk

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