UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: January 25, 2012

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<u>NEW JERSEY</u> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) <u>0-422</u> (Commission File Number) 22-1114430 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1500 RONSON ROAD, P.O. BOX 1500, ISELIN, NEW JERSEY 08830

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(732)-634-1500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- £ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- £ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- £ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- £ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events.

At its January 24, 2012 meeting, the Board of Directors of Middlesex Water Company (the "Company") declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.1850 per common share payable on March 1, 2012 for shareholders of record as of February 15, 2012. A copy of the press release announcing the dividend declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated into this Form 8-K by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit

Number Description of Document

99.1 Press Release issued by Middlesex Water Company, dated January 25, 2012.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf of the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY (Registrant)

s/Kenneth J. Quinn Kenneth J. Quinn Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary and Treasurer

Dated: January 25, 2012

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY DECLARES DIVIDENDS

ISELIN, NJ, (January 25, 2012) Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX) today announced that its Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.1850 per common share payable on March 1, 2012, for shareholders of record as of February 15, 2012. This quarterly dividend remains unchanged from the previous quarter and represents an annualized dividend of \$0.74 per share. The Company has paid cash dividends in varying amounts continually since 1912 and has increased its dividend for 39 consecutive years.

For information regarding Middlesex Water Company including information about the Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Common Stock Purchase Plan for new and existing investors and a Plan Prospectus, visit the Investor Relations section of the Company's Web site at www.middlesexwater.com or call (732) 634-1500.

About Middlesex Water Company

Middlesex Water Company, organized in 1897, provides regulated and unregulated water and wastewater utility services in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania through various subsidiary companies.

This release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including, among others, our long-term strategy and expectations, the status of our acquisition program, the impact of our acquisitions, the impact of current and projected rate requests and the impact of our capital program on our environmental compliance. There are important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements including: general economic business conditions, unfavorable weather conditions, the success of certain cost containment initiatives, changes in regulations or regulatory treatment, availability and the cost of capital, the success of growth initiatives and other factors discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Contact:

Bernadette Sohler, Vice President – Corporate Affairs Middlesex Water Company, 1500 Ronson Road Iselin, New Jersey 08830 (732) 638-7549 www.middlesexwater.com