June 14, 1963

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held June 14, 1963, at 8:00 p.m. with the Mayor R. J. Lough presiding and the following council members present: J. C. Black, E. F. Garber, R. B. Hutton, M. W. Lough, H. A. Workman and R. H. Painter.

Guests present were Mr. & Mrs. Tom Eadie, David Frey and Fred Davis.

The treasurer's finance report and minutes of the last meeting were approved.

E. F. Garber moved, seconded by R. B. Hutton and passed not to receive pay for the special meeting held May 31, 1963.

R. B. Hutton reported that he would contact C. V. Bert, A.H. Louderback and William Horne to serve on the planning commission

R. B. Hutton moved, seconded by H. A. Workman and passed that David Liskey be authorized to use the town electric truck for any town business 24 hours a day if necessary and that said truck could be taken home after regular working hours each day.

J. C. Black moved, seconded by M. W. Lough and passed to grant Hurdle Hensley a permit to build a tool shed.

R. H. Painter moved, seconded by E. F. Garber and passed that council go into an session.

R. L. Deeds, Jr., gave the following report to council:

June 12, 1963

Mayor R. J. Lough
Council, Elkton, Virginia

Investigation: Larceny After Trust

Period of Investigation May 8th - June 12th, 1963

On May 8, 1963, upon completion of police court docket and upon presenting same to Elkton Town Treasurer L. L. Lawson, a shortage of $10.00 was discovered. This report was checked and rechecked until the writer was satisfied that a shortage did exist. May 8th being a regularly scheduled court day, Mr. Lawson and the writer discussed the possibility of a mistake in change due to the congested situation in the court room or that a prisoner waiting to pay fine had removed money from the desk or possible theft. On this date, after learning of a shortage and being unable to determine source of same, it was suggested that the money be made up from the soft drink fund and be further discussed with the Chairman of the Finance Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

On May 23rd upon submitting regular court docket to Mr. Lawson, a shortage of $15.00 was discovered. On this date all money was taken fromthe fines and cost envelope (located in Section A of attached diagram of the town vault) and $30.00 of currency marked by serial number was placed in the heretofore mentioned envelope. On May 30th, a holiday, the writer was informed by Mr. Lawson that he had rechecked to assure himself that everything was in order before leaving town for the weekend and had discovered a shortage of $36.00 - Six one dollar bills were missing from the fines and cost money and $30.00 of undetermined currency from the regular change drawer (marked B in the attached diagram).

Prior to this date and shortly after May 8th, the writer advised Mr. R. H. Painter, Chairman of the Police Committee, of the suspected larceny and further advised him that an investigation was underway. The writer requested that this information be kept in confidence due to the unknown source of leakage and that Mr. Painter would be advised of further developments.

On May 29th, Helen E. Davis (colored, female and employed by the town as janitress), paid Mr. Lawson $3.00 dominated in $1.00 bills of personal loan. On the same date David Liskey (Town Superintendent) paid Mr. Lawson $1.00 change from a purchase. These bills were checked by the writer and one dollar was found to be one of the missing bills (Serial Number Y53351920A as shown on the attached list). This prompted the investigation of Helen E. Davis.

On May 30th at approximately 2:00 p.m. the writer responded to the Greenwood section, Northwest of the Elkton town limits and questioned the aforementioned Helen E. Davis. Mrs. Davis requested that she be given a polograph examination and arrangements were made with Chief Ritchie, Harrisonburg City Police Department for said examination to be given on same date (May29th). After arriving in Harrisonburg and prior to examination, Mrs. Davis became physically unable to participate in polograph. Chief Ritchie and the writer discussed the situation and decided the test was unadvisable on this date.

On May 30th the situation concerning shortage and a possible polograph on subject Davis was scheduled through Lt. Guy, Virginia State Police, at Culpeper, Virginia, on or about June 12, 1963.

On June 12th at approximately 7:45 a.m. the writer accompanied by Mr. Lawson responded to the Greenwood section to pick up Helen E. Davis and by route of River Road (to deter attention) went to Culpeper so heretofore mentioned test could be administered. Arriving in Culpeper at approximately 9:45 a.m. and after meeting with Lt. Guy, the writer was advised that said test would be administered by Investigator L. F. Craft. Around 11 a.m. on this date the first test was given and for a period of several hours six additional tests were administered. During said tests, it was determined by Investigator Craft that subject Davis was deliberatly lying to questions as follows:

Question #1 - Did you steal the town money?

Question #2 - Do you know who stole the town money?

Question #3 - Are you deliberatly withholding the truth concerning the theft of the town money?

After these seven tests were administered by Investigator Craft, and discussed with the writer, a fact of knowledge was gained indicating that subject Davis was lying. Mrs. Davis was accused of lying by Investigator Craft and at same time was interrogated to the fullest extent without confession. At this point the writer entered the interrogation room alone with the accused (with the assistance of a tape recorder accompanied by viewing room within the presence of Investigator Craft and Mr. Lawson) and affronted her with the situation she was involved in. After assuring her that she would not be prosecuted for larceny committed the attached question and answer confession was made. This confession was written as verbal discussion with subject Davis same reaction to Mrs. Davis deleting the words "used for or against me in court as you heretofore promised" and the same confession was signed by Helen E. Davis and witnessed by L. L. Lawson, Treasurer, of the Town of Elkton, H. E. Elwood and L. F. Craft, Investigator"s Virginia State Police, 2nd Division, Culpeper and Robert L. Deeds, Jr., Chief of Police, Elkton, Va.

Upon arrival back in Elkton, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the writer, after being unable to contact Councilman Painter, called Councilman Hutton. Mr. Hutton was advised of aforementioned facts and a meeting was scheduled at the Elkton Police Department at 8:00 p.m. concerning above information. At said time Mr. Hutton was present and advised he was unable to locate any other council member and said case was discussed with him. Mr. Hutton was further advised that the writer and Mr. Lawson had taken the liberty to temporarily suspend Mrs. Davis from present position pending council action. It was further discussed that the complete case in minute detail would be discussed at the forthcoming council meeting in executive session.

There being no further reason for investigation of any other employees of the Town of Elkton, the writer submits a full and complete report and as of this date considers heretofore mentioned case solved and closed.

Signed: R. L. Deeds, Jr.
Chief of Police

Continued

Helen E. Davis : Larceny After Trust

I, Helen Davis, age 34, make the following statement to R. L. Deeds, Jr., Chief of Police, Elkton, Virginia, of my own free will, without force, threat and promise and after being told that any statement I do make can be used for or against me in court:

Q. Do you remember getting money out of safe first time?

A. I took two five dollar bills off table when dusting.

Q. Did you get any more that day?
A. No.

Q. When did you get money again?
A. On May 29th.

Q. Did you get the money in morning or afternoon?
A. Morning.

Q. How did you get it?
A. I knocked a five dollar bill on floor out of drawer and five one dollar bills and a one dollar bill under safe. I pulled it out with a stick.

Q. Have you taken anything else from town other than what you told me?
A. No.

Helen E. Davis

Witnessed by: H. E. Elwood
L. F. Craft
L. L. Lawson
R. L. Deeds, Jr.

Comments of Interrogation:

During interrogation of Mrs. Davis by Investigator Craft, she denied stealing money, but admitted taking items of smaller value belonging to the Town of Elkton. Items being specifically identified as follows - cleaning rags, soap powder, stamps, soft drinks, pencils and pens.

Note - Being unable to determine exact amount,taken a valued loss cannot be submitted on above items.

Upon writers interrogation and prior to the attached confession concerning larceny and money, the accused repeatedly admitted taking above items. These statements were witnessed by L. L. Lawson with the aid of viewing window and tape recorder.

Upon confession of larceny of money, subject Davis stated that she was deeply in debt and unable to meet monthly and weekly obligations, that her husband was in her words "a no good bastard", 67 years old, drawing social security and did not help support or aid in support to her or her three children. She said that she had taken money as a last resort after exhausting all other means of obtaining loans and could no longer stand humiliation of borrowing from friends. Mrs. Davis further stated that the money taken was used to pay bills.

Mrs. Davis has only confessed to taking $21.00 of the missing $61.00, however, it is this writer's opinion that the complete Larceny of $61.00 was committed as heretofore described by Helen E. Davis.

$5.00 = F54844548A	$1.00 - N67723386A	1.00 - M65983794A
5.00 - E90384195B	1.00 - D76026368J	1.00 - B66084402A
5.00 - E86018224B	1.00 - 110121801A	1.00 - D60995805J
5.00 - C49810134B	1.00 - M88233217A	1.00 - Y53351930A
	1.00 - P38910029A	1.00 - J59035004A

E. F. Garber moved, seconded by M. W. Lough and passed that a petty cash voucher be drawn for $41.00 of the missing money as shown above if Helen Davis would endorse a $20.00 pay check owed to her by the town. If not, a voucher would be drawn for the $61.00 missing and a report attached to explain said voucher.

Council moved to go into regular session.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____ Mayor

Recorder: _____