REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
January 9, 1978

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held January 9, 1978 at 8:00 P.M. with the Mayor, Maurice W. Lough presiding. The following councilmen were present: Mr. C. E. Dean, Mr. R. R. Dean, Mr. H. D. Flory, Mr. B. B. Holt, Mr. H. W. Leap and Mr. R. J. Lough. Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police, Mrs. Norma Leap, Clerk, Mr. Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Mr. R. Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

Mayor M. W. Lough opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. William McGahey, spokesman for the Fire Company, explained to council that the Fire Company membership had voted not to accept the town's proposal. They want the additional space with no strings attached. He pointed out that they have had a verbal agreement with the town every since the company was began in 1908 and want to continue with the verbal agreement as usual. Mr. McGahey ask council to make a decision and to take a vote on this.

Councilman Holt pointed out that the council is not against the Fire Company but are completely behind them. They realize and appreciate the fine job they do, but it is just good business to have some kind of agreement.

The minutes of the December 12, 1977 regular meeting were approved as presented with the exception of in the case of Second Readings, Mr. Wiles felt the wording should be "approved on Second Reading" rather than "approve the Second Reading of" and on Page 4, Paragraph 5, "appropriate $10,000.00" rather than "approve".

Councilman Holt stated that in regards to the Fire Company situation there is nothing magic about the proposal the council has suggested. It could be revised but there has to be some sort of responsible arrangement set up, especially in regards to electric. The town intends to supply what the Fire Company needs so he could not understand the Fire Company's objections to some type of agreement. Councilman Holt pointed out that if the Fire Company wishes to continue working together to try to come up with a solution fine, but if they are not interested then the situation is status quo.

Councilman Lough ask the Fire Company to explain to him again what they want.

Wayne Davis explained that when they first came to council all they ask for was space to house the new piece of equipment. They do not want to be bound to the town regarding money but wish to continue as they have in the past.

Councilman Holt reported on the recent vandalism in town and felt the fact that the town officers have to go clear to Harrisonburg to obtain a warrant was the contributing factor in this case. Our only police officer on duty on the night of the vandalism had to take a drunken driver to Harrisonburg and left the town unprotected during this period of time. He pointed out that Councilman Flory during his term of Mayor and Chief Hammer had both worked to try to have a magistrate placed in the Elkton area but had not succeeded in their efforts. Councilman Holt felt efforts should be continued to try to remedy the magistrate situation. He also felt council should post a reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the vandalism case. If the merchants of the town wish to add to the town's reward it would also be helpful. The reward would not go to any police officer.

Mayor Lough stated he felt council should make it a rule that the town never be left unguarded.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman R. R. Dean that the town post a reward in the amount of $500.00 for information leading to the apprehension of that person responsible for the acts of vandalism and to specify that the money not be paid to any officer of the law. The vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dean	- yea	B. Holt	- yea
R. Dean	- yea	H. Leap	- yea
D. Flory	- abstain	R. Lough	- yea

Councilman Lough suggested that Councilman Holt contact the businesses of the town to try to raise the reward to $1000.00. Councilman Holt agreed to do this.

Councilman Holt felt a strong letter should be sent to Judge Robinson stating the problems caused by the location of all the magistrates in Harrisonburg and if the Judge still feels he can give no relief to the situation, the council meet with him to discuss the situation. Councilman Holt will draft a letter to Judge Robinson.

Mayor Lough questioned how the Public Safety Department knows the vandalism occurred while the officer was out of town. Chief Hammer stated there was an eye witness.

Mayor Lough stated that he felt strongly that the council must make it a rule that the town not be left unprotected. The Chief of Police, another Police Officer, a Deputy or even the State Police could be called in when the situation arises. He stated that as long as he was responsible for law and order, he must insist on complete protection at all times.

Chief Hammer stated they have called deputies in the past and most times they are not available. Councilman Holt said they will continue to make every effort to see that the town is covered.

Councilman Flory ask where the last North Avenue grant was used. Councilman Lough reported it went back into the General Fund as this is where the money originally was taken from. Councilman Flory felt a portion should go back into the Water and Sewer Fund.

Councilman H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt to change the rates in Schedule 2 of the Elkton Electric System Schedule of Rates and Charges as presented. The vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dean	- yea	B. Holt	- yea
R. Dean	- yea	H. Leap	- yea
D. Flory	- yea	R. Lough	- yea

Mr. Monger reported that Vepco's meter to the town has broken down and our bills will be estimated until the meter is repaired.

Councilman Leap reported that B. W. Gooden, Chairman of the Concerned Citizens Group, has ask him to inform council that the group plans to have representatives attend the State School Board Meeting in Richmond and request council to give their approval to the group to investigate facts and figures regarding the town operating their own school system. No action was taken on the request.

Councilman R. R. Dean ask if anything has been done regarding a stop light at the intersection of Business 33 and Route 340. Mayor Lough reported he is waiting for information from the Police Department before writing the letter. Councilman Flory stated he would be attending a meeting with Mr. Osborne of the State Highway Department and would mention this to him. Councilman Lough stated that in years past council finally had to go directly to Richmond before they got any action on their request to the State Highway Department.

Councilman Lough reported he still has received no requests or suggestions for use of the Revenue Sharing funds.

Councilman R. J. Lough moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt to approve the Finance Report for December. The vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dean	- yea	B. Holt	- yea
R. Dean	- yea	H. Leap	- yea
D. Flory	- yea	R. Lough	- yea

As there was no further business, Councilman Holt moved to adjourn.

MAYOR: Maurice W. Lough
Maurice W. Lough, Mayor

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Norma R. Leap, Clerk