SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING
April 20, 1981

A special meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held April 20, 1981 at 7:30 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Maurice W. Lough presiding. The following council members were present: V. L. Cook Jr., S. P. H. Flick, L. C. Life, C. A. Schumacher, R. L. Snow and L. W. Winegard. Norma Leap, Clerk, Jim McIntyre, Chief of Police, Gerald Monger, Superintendent, and Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

Mayor Lough stated that this is a special called meeting and unlike a regular meeting, council will not follow the regular agenda as voted on by council, but will follow an agenda for the purposes as outlined by council in calling the special meeting.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. that anyone that would like to speak pertaining to any issue on the agenda tonight be allowed five minutes as in any other meeting. The vote was recorded as follows:

Cook	-	yea	Schumacher	-	yea
Flick	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Life	-	yea	Winegard	-	yea

Mrs. Shirley O'Byrne, Mrs. Nita Edmondson, Mrs. Mary Hutton, Mrs. Furry and Dr. Downey all spoke in opposition to the consolidation of the town offices into the municipal building. Some of the reasons given were it being an unofficial historical landmark and they did not want it destroyed or remodeled, did not want the Treasurer's office upstairs as senior citizens would have trouble with the steps, the Superintendent should remain with the men for supervisory purposes, not desirable for police offices due to disturbances and abusive language, small children would be deprived of their story hour each week, the possibility of converting the basketball and tennis courts into parking lots in the future and hindering the growth of the library.

Mr. Bill Holt spoke in opposition to doing away with the dispatching system. Some of the reasons he gave were it would do away with the town lockup, lose twenty-four hour police coverage when officers have to go to the county jail, lose twenty-four hour monitoring for the police and fire departments, some ten businessses would lose their burglar alarm systems which are hooked into the police station, he does not feel the consolidation would save money in the long run and he would be very reluctant to put any more control of the operations of the town into the hands of the county.

Scott Edmondson stated he hopes nothing will happen to change the library as he likes it where it is.

Wayne Hensley, President of the Fire Company, stated that the company had presented each council member with a list of things they would like covered regarding maintaining the present twenty-four hour dispatching service in the community.

Mrs. Edmondson stated that they have sixty names on a petition against consolidation.

Miss Ruth Chisholm stated that as a citizen living four miles from Elkton, she would certainly hate to see the dispatching system done away with as they really need it and it would be an inconvenience if it was discontinued.

Mrs. Fuller asked if there are any plans to turn the basketball and tennis courts into a parking area. Mayor Lough stated that there are no plans for creating a parking lot on these courts, there are no plans for moving the library, there are no plans for doing anything at this point. When the committee makes their recommendations, they will be made public before any action is taken. The public will be allowed input before any action is taken. Mrs. Fuller stated she would be opposed to doing away with the basketball and tennis courts.

Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. moved, seconded by Councilman C. A. Schumacher

AAD025

to approve on Second Reading the following transfers and additional appropriations:

Electric Department
Transfer $1000.00 from Wages to Miscellaneous

Sewer Department
Transfer $1000.00 from Wages to Miscellaneous

Garbage Department
Transfer $1000.00 from Private Hauler to Truck Upkeep

Street Department
Approve an additional appropriation in the amount of $5,027.26 for funds not appropriated previously but the town will be receiving under the Highway Upkeep Grant as follows:

Truck and Equipment Upkeep	$2000.00
Insurance	1400.00
Supplies	1627.26

The vote was recorded as follows:

Cook	- yea	Schumacher	- yea
Flick	- yea	Snow	- yea
Life	- yea	Winegard	- yea

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman S. P. H. Flick to approve on Second Reading the following appropriations in the Revenue Sharing Budget for Entitlement Period 12:

Sewer Repair Lower End of Town	$ 1,000.00
Door Closer or Ceiling (Fire Hall)	2,285.00
Landfill Operations	6,000.00
Recreation	4,000.00
Mower	1,010.00
Fire Company - Gasoline	2,200.00
	$16,495.00

The vote was recorded as follows:

Cook	- yea	Schumacher	- yea
Flick	- yea	Snow	- yea
Life	- yea	Winegard	- yea

Mr. Wiles presented the First Reading on an Ordinance Amending and Re-enacting Section 6, Subparagraph 9 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Elkton, Virginia, to Allow the Placement of Certain Free-Standing Signs in B-1 Business Districts. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be sent to each council member for further consideration before the Second Reading.

Councilman Schumacher stated he has done some research on the existing signs in town and would like council to review his findings along with the proposed ordinance. He feels we need business in town and if we put too many restrictions and hardships on businesses, it is going to be hard to attract new business.

Council took no action on the request from the York County Board of Supervisors for support for their efforts to have October 19th designated as an annual state holiday.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to support the Town of Grottoes on their resolution for the formation of a regional landfill in Rockingham County.

Mr. Wiles reported we have received three change orders on the sewer project from Arthur Beard Engineers which he feels require council action. The first one changes the Type 2 Concrete Design Mix by increasing cement content 5.25 to 5.75 bags per cubic yard. The cost of this change is $2,019.22. Arthur Beard assures us that this cost will be taken out of the contingencies and still be covered by the grant and the FmHA loan. The second change order is to provide extending the heighth of chlorination walls to the roof of the ceiling. There is no increase in the contract price for this change. The third change order is the request for a thirty day extension on the contract period provided for completion. Council previously voted to approve this

extension if it did not cost the town any money. Mr. Wiles does not see that this will affect the closing of the loan or cost the town any money.

Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. moved, seconded by Councilman S. P. H. Flick and carried to accept the three change orders.

Mr. Wiles reported that we are in the process of preparing for the FmHA loan closing on May 5th. One of the requirements by FmHA is a Fidelity Bond, payable to the United States of America, covering all employees who have control of town funds in the maximum amount of any funds anticipated to be on hand at any one time. At present we have a $10,000 bond and to meet this requirement we will have to increase this to probably about $150,000.00. Flood insurance is required where available, hazard and other insurance is also required. Some of the insurance such as liability and property damage will be added to our existing policies at extra cost.

Councilman C. A. Schumacher moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to authorize Mr. Wiles to act as our agent with R. Loring Cover to obtain the required insurance coverage, with approval by Councilman Cook.

AAD025

Mr. Wiles reported that another requirement by FmHA to close the loan is an audit agreement between the town and the firm doing the audit. FmHA provides a model auditing agreement which can be used. The purpose of the agreement is to assure that the auditor recognizes the responsibility to advise FmHA of any problems he runs into in the audit and to provide them with copies of these reports. The agreement does provide for a fee to be charged for these services. Mr. Wiles could not get any firm answer when talking with Mr. Dean of A. M. Pullen as to whether this would affect the quote we received and accepted previously to do our audit.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to authorize Mr. Wiles to prepare an audit agreement for execution by the Mayor on behalf of the town and by A. M. Pullen & Co., the town auditors.

Mayor Lough stated that the job of any Mayor is to see that the wishes of the council are carried out and this would include conduct at the meetings. His purpose in telling different people in town that no public discussion would be made was not to hamstring anybody and he wanted everyone to throughly understand this. Council can at anytime override any of its rules. The normal procedure at any special meeting of council is to strictly follow the agenda unless all members of council are present and vote to change the agenda. He hopes the public understands this is simply what he was trying to do tonight.

Councilman Flick presented the First Reading on the proposed 1981-1982 Town Budget.

BUDGET
1981 - 1982

EXPECTED REVENUES	
Utility Accounts	
Electric	$ 768,138.69
Water	50,228.69
Sewer	126,116.10
General Fund Accounts	240,144.26
TOTAL REVENUES	$1,184,627.74
EXPECTED DISBURSEMENTS	
Utility Accounts	
Electric	$ 698,740.72
Water	70,036.56
Sewer	120,202.33
General Fund Accounts	
General Government	24,290.82
Garbage Department	56,780.13
Street Department	61,787.26
Public Safety	143,316.98
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	$1,175,154.80
SURPLUS	$ 9,472.94

Due to a change in the bookkeeping in the year 1981-82 (a change required due to the government sewer grant) each department will reflect actual costs. This has not been done before and results in some departments having a lower budget this year and others a much higher budget.

Councilman Flick presented the following statement:

> "With permission from the Chair, I would like to make a short statement in regard to the budget, as presented tonight.
>
> Whiles the budget, as presented, is balanced, it does not address realities. Our auditors tell us that we should have a depreciation fund, (totaling well over $100,000.00) $75,000.00 on the new sewer plant, alone. They also tell us that we should have a source of supply for gasoline used by the Town's vehicles, between 5 and 10,000. ANY effort this Council makes towards cutting costs is met by organized and vociferous opposition by special interest groups and the inference is that the present Council is completely devoid of common sense.
>
> Pride in our Public Safety and Fire Departments is understandable and laudable. Does it make sense for these departments to be the envy of the surrounding towns when we have no funds available for emergencies or capital improvements and per capita cost for PD are 95.54 per person. We have a drainage problem on the East and West end of the town, a water system in which the piping was laid down in the early part of the century. We have no reserve funds for replacement or repair. In the past we have diverted funds from the electric system to cover these costs. I submit to you, these profits are no longer being made. (Incidentally, we have no reserve for emergencies in this department either).
>
> If we have any citizens who believe in fiscal responsibility, it is high time that we hear from them."

Councilman Flick stated he had a word to say about the dispatching, but he, nor his committee, would make a recommendation either way. If council puts a cost of $35,000.00 per year on our present dispatching system and council should decide to go to the county system, the following are possible uses to which the savings could be put:

Storage Tank for Gasoline	$ 6,000.00
Office Consolidation	10,000.00
Police Officer	8,500.00
Receptionist-Clerk	7,000.00
Fire Company Monitors	3,500.00
	$35,000.00

Councilman Flick stated that he feels we are going to finish up this year with a balance if all goes well and that with the $9,473.00 proposed surplus in next years budget, it looks like if anyone is interested enough to go for it, we could make a start toward a town manager. At least we could earmark the surplus for that purpose.

Councilman C. A. Schumacher moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to allow discussion on a town manager. The vote was recorded as follows:

Cook	- yea	Schumacher	- yea
Flick	- yea	Snow	- yea
Life	- nay	Winegard	- yea

Councilman C. A. Schumacher moved, seconded by Councilman S. P. H. Flick that if we have a surplus of $9,473.00 in the 1981-82 budget, it be earmarked for possible use for a town manager.

After some discussion regarding the motion, Councilman Flick withdrew his second and Councilman Schumacher his motion.

A Public Hearing on the Proposed 1981-82 Budget was set for May 11, 1981 at 7:00 P.M.

Councilman Snow stated he would like to see more discussion on the elimination of the dispatching system and if this is done how the other members of council feel about the proposed use of the money which would be saved. He stated that to this point, and the things he had heard discussed, he had heard nothing to change his mind. He felt the public would like to know the rate increases that are included in the proposed budget.

Mr. Flick stated that the base rate on the sewer will increase from $7.00 to $9.00 and the cost per thousand will increase from $0.90 per thousand to $1.30 per thousand, water rates will increase approximately 50% and garbage rate 20%.

Councilwoman Life stated that she would be opposed to doing away with the dispatching system. Some of the reasons she gave were that we would be closing the police doors for sixteen hours a day, would lose the personal contact between the police and the public, all our dispatchers are local and know the area, the dispatchers are notaries and are available to offer this service, and we do monitor Channel 9 which is the emergency citizens band. She also reviewed the items presented by the Fire Company which she felt to be very important.

AAD025

Councilman Flick stated that it seems to him that council is wasting their time. There has been two completely opposite points of view presented tonight and there seems to be no way to make a decision. Since the dispatching system is in the present budget and also included in the new budget, he suggested putting off any decisions and try to find some common meeting ground during the next two months.

Councilman Cook stated he is not ready to vote tonight. He wants to look at both sides, hear the committee recommendations and see some cost figures before making any decision.

Councilman Schumacher agreed with Councilman Flick that we are too far apart and some way there has to be a compromise.

Councilman Snow stated he felt that a lot of smoke is being blown around, a lot of people in town don't want change, no one wants to listen to anyone else, the only way to do things is their way, somebody comes in and wants to put in apartments, there is opposition to it. Councilman Schumacher wants to put in a Town Manager, there is going to be opposition to that and if Coors comes and the town wants to grow, there is going to be opposition to that. The buck has to stop someplace. There are 1500 people in this town supporting the police and rescue and fire companies. That, in turn, supports the entire eastern part of the county, most of whom don't pay tax in town, but to the county. The county should either pay us for our dispatchers or we should get some service from the county and this is a way we can do that. He could not see paying $35,000.00 a year to duplicate services.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: M W Lough
Maurice W. Lough, Mayor

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