REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 1985

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held November 18, 1985 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: S. P. H. Flick, B. B. Holt, H. W. Leap, and L. C. Life. R. E. Davis and H. A. Leet were absent. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent, Warren Pence, Chief of Police and Dale Davenport, Attorney were also present.

The Rev. Ronald T. Davidson was present and presented a summary report on the Elkton Evacuation Center which was set up November 4th. for the people of Elkton due to the flooding situation. Mr. Davidson stated that to his knowledge there is not an evacuation plan available for the Elkton area. He does not believe the center could be established in a shorter time without a well defined plan and certain necessary supplies on site. It is possible that in the near future we could find ourselves with an emergency situation with a short time to evacuate and no way to do so. He is recommending a plan coordinated between the city officials, the Red Cross, the Rescue and Fire, the Police, and medical personnel. Necessary supplies such as blankets, a generator, emergency lights, oxygen and medical supplies could be purchased and be in place. All necessary personnel could be advised as to their responsibility and permission to use certain facilities and forms of transportation be granted prior to the incident. If these plans could be developed with the assistance of the necessary professionals and volunteers, then facilities could be available to begin evacuation in 20-30 minutes. The supplies would be minimal in cost, while the benefit could be life sustaining.

Mayor Dean and the council commended Mr. Davidson and all those who helped during the flood on a job well done and told Mr. Davidson that his suggestions would be looked into.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman H. W. Leap and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 21, 1985 as presented.

Mr. Monger reported on the damages at the sewer treatment plant due to the flood. He estimates the damages to be about $32,000.00. Mr. Monger said most of the damage was to motors in the blower room. Two were lost at a cost of approximately $500.00 each, all of the chain length fence was lost and they are unsure of what damage was done to the drying beds. Mr. Monger is not sure what our insurance coverage will be. Mayor Dean stated that the Mayor of Broadway had called and offered their assistance if they could be of any help.

Chief Pence reviewed the monthly police report. He reported that the unmarked police car (1982) is out of order and there doesn't appear to be any way to economically repair this vehicle. It will cost approximately $2,000.00 to repair this vehicle. Both police cars suffered some water damage due to the heavy rains as the trunks of the cars filled up with water. Chief Pence requested council to have a short Executive Session at some point during the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. He also said he would like council to recognize his officers who gave up quite a lot of their time during the flood. Councilman Holt also commended Chief Pence for all the time he gave during the flood.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of October.

Councilwoman Life reported that they had received a letter from the PTO President, Lou Kirkendall, regarding the sidewalk at the Elementary School. Councilwoman Life stated she called Mrs. Kirkendall and explained to her that the town has been working on this problem for over a year, that Mr. Monger has taken all the elevations and they have been sent to the County Engineer and the matter is more or less out of our hands at this point. She also reported that the town had a minimal amount of problems due to the flooding and this was due to storm water. There were no wash outs.

Councilwoman Life stated she felt the public would like to know what progress there has been on Rockingham Street. Mr. Monger has given them permission and she thinks some of the apartments will be occupied by Wednesday of this week. There are a few leaks up there but Mr. Michael is going to take care of these.

Councilman Leap reported that he has received a few complaints on cable television reception this past week. Councilwoman Life reported she has not had any major complaints except the day of the flooding she had a few and she has not been home long enough lately to watch television. Mayor Dean stated that the low channels are bad and that as of this date he has had no response to the letter he sent to Commonwealth Cablevision. Councilman Leap stated that reception has improved but he wanted to make Councilwoman Life aware of the complaints he received. Councilwoman Life stated they will keep on top of this.

Councilman Holt asked if there was anything new on the sewer extension to the area across the river. Mr. Monger reported that the agreement with the County was signed and approved and that the Engineers, Johnson and Williams, are working on it.

Councilman Flick reported that Councilman Leet is improving and hopes to be at the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Life asked if we had heard anything on the Vepco settlement and Mr. Monger stated he has a meeting in Richmond Wednesday on this and it still looks very favorable.

Councilman Leap stated he didn't have anything on personnel but he did want to commend the town forces on the job they did during the flooding.

Councilman H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Councilman H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

Mrs. Leap read a letter from William G. O'Brien, County Administrator, expressing the appreciation of the members of the Board of Supervisors for the prompt installation of electrical service at the County's Refuse Container Site near Elkton. He stated they had experience with a public utility company at another site in which the electrical service was delayed for months and they had to pay a sizeable fee for extending the service. The Town's prompt action in extending the service to the site near Elkton and lack of any charge saved the residents many dollars, while providing a needed service.

Mrs. Leap read a letter from John E. Wetsel, Jr., regarding Chief Pence and Investigator Don Smith of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department. He stated that on the night of November 5, 1985 his wife's car left Route 33 and entered the flooded Shenandoah River at Elkton. Chief Pence and Investigator Smith responded immediately to the plight. Chief Pence, at risk to his own life, jumped into the river and rescued Mr. Wetsel's wife. Mr. Wetsel stated that the promptness and courage displayed by Chief Pence was exemplary and was a tribute to both the Chief and the town police force. He also was appreciative of the hospitality shown to his wife afterwards as it was a great comfort to her and helped lessen the effect of this horrific experience. He stated that words are

always inadequate to express sincere gratitude, but that they wanted to thank the police force, Chief Pence and Investigator Smith and asked that council commend them for their outstanding work.

Council commended the Chief on his bravery and expressed their appreciation to Investigator Smith for his help.

Mayor Dean reported that the Rockingham League of Municipalities will meet Wednesday, November 20, 1985 at 7:30 P.M. in the Ruritan Club building at Mt. Crawford.

Mayor Dean reported on the gifts received at the Coor's Groundbreaking Ceremony from the City of Golden, Colorado and passed them around for council members to see. He will be going to Colorado and will be taking several gifts from the town to the City of Golden.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

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