REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 1987

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held January 19, 1987 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: R. E. Davis, B. B. Holt, H. W. Leap, H. A. Leet, L. C. Life and R. L. Snow. Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Councilman Leet asked that the next to the last paragraph on the first page of the minutes of the special meeting December 15th be corrected to read as follows:

> "Councilman Leet stated that he felt industrial development along Route 33 should be permitted and that while he would not prohibit housing development, we should not protect housing development by zoning that would prohibit industrial development along the highway. If we want to develop residential development, it would be better for it to be back from the highway a half mile or so."

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman H. A. Leet and carried to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting and Regular Meeting December 15, 1986 as corrected.

Mr. Monger reported that they have been looking at a used street sweeper which the City of Harrisonburg has traded off to an equipment company. It would need some work but seems to be in good condition. They are asking $3000.00 for the sweeper and we could use street maintenance money to purchase this. Mayor Dean stated he feels it would probably be a good buy and we could probably rent it out to local businesses and other towns to help pay for it. Councilwoman Life stated she had thought it was going to cost $2500.00 and would like Mr. Monger to see if we could get it down to $2500.00.

Mr. Monger reported that we have some alleys getting torn up pretty badly due to the traffic through the alleys. He wondered if these could be barricaded off during bad weather. Mr. Davenport was asked to look this up to see if it is permissable.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of December.

Chief Pence reported he had nothing extra to report other than what is in the police report for December unless someone had a question.

Mayor Dean asked if both automobiles are in operation. Chief Pence stated they are both in operation at this time but they have had a lot of difficulties with the one. It has been worked on several times and has been operating fine the last few days but Chief Pence stated he couldn't see putting a whole lot more money into it. He would rather run just one car.

Councilman Leap reported that Avery Whitfield has been supervising some electrical work which we have contracted out to Richardson and Wayland. Mr. Monger explained that this work included moving switches at the regulator station, raising the line going across Route 33 and ripping out the old poles, installing switches on Shenandoah Avenue and replacing a lot of cross arms. The bill will be approximately $10,000.00 but we should recover about $3,000.00 from insurance for the pole which was knocked off by a tractor trailer.

Councilwoman Life reported that the Streets and Sidewalks Committee has met twice since the last meeting. She stated that in response to our resolution and discussion at the December meeting about the maintenance funds to towns with a population of under 3500, letters have been sent to Senator Kevin Miller, Delegate Emmett Hanger, Delegate Paul Cline, Timothy Hulings, Chairman of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors, William O'Brien, County Administrator, Michael Amyx, Executive Director of the VML and Mayor William R. Hartz, Chairman of the Town Section of the VML requesting their assistance. We have already received a response from Mayor Hartz and Michael Amyx. Councilwoman Life reported she also sent a letter to Mayor Dalke of Woodstock thanking him for his help.

Councilwoman Life reported that at one of the committee meetings, the committee discussed the petition to repave or redo the alley west of Stuart Avenue beside AmeriGas. They had contacted all the property owners hoping they would be willing to pay 50% of the cost but did not have much success with this. The committee feels that, since the alley is in a business district, the alley is already paved and the traffic change on Route 340 eliminated residential parking in this first block, the town should bring this alley up to standards at a cost of approximately $771.00.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman R. E. Davis to accept the motion by the Street Committee to bring the alley in discussion up to standards at a cost of approximately $771.00.

There was some concern as to setting a precedent regarding paving alleys. As most of the alleys in the business district are paved and as this alley is already paved, the general consensus was that we should maintain the alley.

The vote on the motion was recorded as follows:

Davis	- yea	Leet	- yea
Holt	- yea	Life	- yea
Leap	- yea	Snow	- yea

Councilwoman Life reported that the committee discussed the letter received from an out of town resident regarding the safety hazard on Route 340 and Rockingham Street at the post office. The committee had several different ideas, but they felt the first way to start was to again contact the State Highway Department to see if they would put a traffic light at this location. Mr. Monger has sent a letter to the highway department with information regarding accidents, etc. and asking again for a traffic light. No reply has been received as yet. We also asked for the highway department to look very closely at Route 340 and Shenandoah Avenue regarding placing a traffic light at this intersection.

Councilwoman Life reported that they also discussed that due to safety reasons, a light was needed at Prospect Avenue and Sixth Street. This light has been installed.

Councilwoman Life reported that since December 26th she has received fourteen calls regarding Commonwealth Cablevision. She feels we have let something die too soon as there are still some real problems. Councilwoman Life stated she has advised each person who called her with a complaint to call Commonwealth Cablevision and report their complaints. She will get with Mr. Monger to see what options we might have and what other companies might be available to provide cable service.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that unpaved alleys shall be temporarily closed except to emergency traffic when weather conditions prevent travel on such alleys without damage to the roadbed, and shall remain closed for so long as the roadbed is in such condition.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Superintendent shall block alleys to non-emergency traffic in such circumstances.

Councilman Leet reported that we have finally received the fluoride meter. There is a possibility we may have to have someone come in to help install the meter so it may not be installed immediately.

Councilman Leet reported we have not heard anything further from the county regarding putting the sewer line across the river.

Mayor Dean stated he thought the latest was that they were going to expand it on to the shopping center. Mr. Monger reported that according to Mr. Kreuger, plans are being drawn for sewer and water to go across the river and up to the shopping center site. They have been working on this for approximately a month.

Councilman Leet reported that the Water and Sewer Committee met and discussed to some length what we should do about rates for hooking in water and sewer facilities to apartments and possibly other businesses, such as motels, etc. Mr. Monger has written up a schedule based upon what other surrounding towns and Harrisonburg are charging. Mr. Davenport has this and is working on what we need in form of an ordinance. The committee hopes to have this ready to present at the next meeting.

Councilman Holt commented on zoning. He stated that all he knows about the county planning meeting was what he read in the paper. Sometimes things come out in the paper that aren't exactly the way that they happened and this may have been the circumstances. However, the article did upset him. He has been receiving numerous comments, which he did not solicit, from other town officials and business people throughout the county regarding the statements in the paper, such as wanting to preserve the scenic beauty of Massanutten and the corridor. Many of them have said "that's ridiculous" or "that's the dumbest thing I have ever heard of". Councilman Holt went on to say that when you look at Route 11 North and South and Route 33 East and West at the things you see, it's disgusting, and now all of a sudden people are concerned about the view of the Massanutten mountains. He pointed out he was not pushing for another grocery store or supporting Food Lion, but for someone in the planning commission to say if the people in Elkton want to shop Food Lion, drive sixteen miles and go to Harrisonburg or that Elkton doesn't need another grocery store. A person in an official capacity should not make a decision on how to resolve this question on the basis that a new operation might compete with an existing operation. That approach is improper and probably illegal. The main concern is that the decision made on the zoning was for all the wrong reasons.

Councilwoman Life stated that she agreed with everything Councilman Holt said and that she doesn't know when she has ever been as exasperated in her life. She went on to say she feels the water and sewer across the river comes into this and they do not want us to have access to this nor do they want us to have growth. She feels if someone had property between the Massanutten entrance and Harrisonburg, the zoning would have been passed.

Councilman Davis stated that he agreed with Councilman Holt. They say we are treated equally but this is another case of where we have not been.

Councilman Leet stated that if you have ever headed west from Harrisonburg on Route 33 toward those beautiful Shenandoah mountains and then look at what's along the side of the road, you wonder where the planning commission was when that happened.

Councilman Snow stated that it's easy to see that somebody is interested in scenic beauty, all you have to do is look up on the peak.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters.

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

Mr. Monger reported that the Rockingham County Municipal League will meet here in Elkton February 18th.

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