PUBLIC HEARING
January 11, 1989

A joint public hearing by the Elkton Town Council and the Elkton Planning Commission was held January 11, 1989 at 7:30 P.M. in the Junior Order Hall on Shenandoah Avenue with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: R. E. Davis, B. B. Holt, R. B. Hutton, H. W. Leap, L. C. Life and R. L. Snow. Elkton Planning Commission members present were: Ishmal Baugher, Chris Davis, Dan Goodson and G. W. Berry. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Town Superintendent and Bill Strieder, Executive Director of the Central Shenandoah Planning Commission were also present.

Mayor Dean stated the purposes of the hearing and set forth the order of business and the procedures to be followed.

The first item on the agenda was the resubdivision of Tract 1 of the division of the Randall Dean property, located south of the Liberty Heights Subdivision and north of the Whitfield Subdivision. The only person speaking regarding this subject was Barry Ream of 406 "F" Street who stated he was in favor of the resubdivision of Tract 1.

The second item on the agenda was the subdivision of land by Timothy W. and Sally M. Haden located between Rockingham Street and Spotswood Trail. There were no speakers on this subject.

The third item on the agenda was the consideration of applying for a Community Development Block Grant to install water and sewer lines in the Pentecostal Hill area.

Mr. Strieder gave a brief history on the Community Development Block Grant Program and the object of the grants and procedures to follow.

Mr. Delma E. Morris of 116 E. Summitt Avenue stated he is having a problem with his septic tank and does not have land to upgrade his system. He is in favor of pursuing the grant.

Mr. Junior Morris of 310 E. Prospect Avenue stated he wanted to see things stay as they are as he has gone to the expense of putting in a new well.

Mr. Robert Shifflett of 310 E. Prospect Avenue stated he did not want to see a grant for water and sewer service pursued. They have a new well and a good septic system.

Mr. Lyle Martin of Lee Avenue stated he has property at 703 E. Washington Avenue. He would like to enlarge his store but he has no way to get rid of the water and would like to see water and sewer run to this area.

Mr. Darrell Campbell of 210 E. Washington Avenue stated he is for pursing a grant and would like information as to what is going on as he does not have a bathroom as yet.

Mr. Raymond Morris of 211 E. Summitt Avenue stated that people in that area knew they had water problems when they bought there and he does not want water and sewer service.

Mr. Norman Shifflett of 125 E. Prospect Avenue stated that the town in the past has had to limit water usage during dry seasons while they have not had that problem on Pentecostal Hill. He stated he feels block grants are another form of welfare. He pointed out that a petition was circulated in August of 1988 and twelve were in favor of the town supplying water and sewer and seventy-six were opposed to it.

Mrs. Mabel Wood of 403 High Street stated she has her own well and sewage and does not want town services.

Mr. Tracy Knight of 216 E. Summitt Avenue stated he feels there is a need for water and sewer service in that area. He pointed out he has done without a bathroom for four years but is now ready to put his service in. He questioned if he would be required to hook up to the town system if the services are run to this area.

Mr. Harold Herring of 104 E. Washington Avenue stated that about three-fourths of the problems are on Spring and Washington Avenues. They have some serious problems and would like to have town services.

Mr. Ernest Leon Lam of 120 E. Washington Avenue stated they get all the water that comes off E. Washington Avenue. When it rains it really affects their septic system. He stated he would like water and sewer service.

Mr. Norman Shifflett asked what the town ruling is on mandatory hook up?

Mayor Dean stated the town does not have a ruling for out of town customers at this time. The county does not have a mandatory hook up policy. The town does have mandatory hook up for in town customers but if they are already on a working septic system when services become available they are not required to hook up.

Mr. Ernest Leon Lam asked if it would be possible to get a grant for a portion of that area which needs it so badly?

Mr. Strieder stated this might be possible if the area proves to be eligible. He explained the survey that had been taken which is necessary to determine if the area is eligible as far as income is concerned and requested those that had not been surveyed to please contact the town.

Mrs. Leap read the following letter from Supervisor Hulings:

"Due to a previously scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting, I cannot attend tonight's Public Hearing.

Personally, I strongly endorse the town's attempt to serve the "Pentecostal Hill" area with water/sewer service and the grant application to accomplish this project.

Many details and specific designs need to be examined and if those specifics are in the best interest of the area, I pledge my best efforts in having Rockingham County assist the project in an appropriate manner.

In September, at an informal gathering of residents to discuss options for "Pentecostal Hill", fear was expressed on two subjects -- mandatory hook ups and town annexation.

The county does not now and never has had a mandatory hook up policy for existing sites for either water or sewer service where provided. The State Health Department may require hook ups for problem sites, but that is not county policy.

Town annexation of the area is a town planning decision, however, it is my opinion that if services are being provided to that area before annexation then, from the county point of view, no annexation would be necessary. If services are not being provided it would be in the county's interest to have that area included in any future annexation.

From the county's point of view, application and receiving of this grant would make annexation of the "Pentecostal Hill" area less likely, not more.

I stand ready to do whatever I can to further this project."

There was some concern expressed that the town will attempt to annex the area. Mayor Dean pointed out that the town has no plans to annex at this time but that this is not the issue at this public hearing.

As there were no further comments from the citizens, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

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