REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 1990

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held January 15, 1990 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: J. R. Correa Jr., B. B. Holt, R. B. Hutton, L. C. Life and R. L. Snow. H. W. Leap was absent. Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing December 18, 1989 and the Regular Meeting December 18, 1989 as presented.

Mr. Gerald Monger reported on the Route 340 Stop Light Project. He stated we are probably going to be required to have a Public Hearing before the next council meeting regarding donating or selling property to the Highway Department for this project. The property is located at the pump station and the amount we would donate or sell would be about $245.00. In order for the Highway Department to proceed with the project until council decides on the land, the Highway Department needs a right of entry.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman R. B. Hutton and carried to approve the following Right of Entry:

RIGHT OF ENTRY

We, hereby grant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Highways and Transportation and/or her agents the right to enter upon (our) property within the proposed right of way limits as shown on plans for the construction and improvement of Route 340, Project 0340-082-S02, RW-201.

It is understood by both the Highway Department and the landowner that the granting of this right to enter upon this property within the limits of the proposed right of way prior to settlement will in no way prejudice either party in regard to the final settlement or eminent domain proceedings should it become necessary.

Mr. Monger reported that he has not heard if the Consent Special Order issued by the State Water Control Board on October 15, 1985 has been cancelled as requested.

Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger what can be done about the sewer problem at Marla Nemoytin's. They have a lot of problems with this line. Mr. Monger stated the problem the other night started on them and then got into our line. He said we could put in a new line but there are other areas in town that have just as much problems.

Mr. Monger reported that the gas tank has been removed.

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

Councilman Correa reported that during the initial discussions to hire additional policemen, the Public Safety Committee did some investigating to see what the Police salaries were in the surrounding areas, such as Grottoes, Dayton, Bridgewater, Broadway, Timberville, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg. They found that most of these towns, if not all of them, have recently increased their starting salaries for policemen. Those salaries range from $15,000.00 to $16,000.00 depending on whether or not they have certification up to about $18,000.00 or $19,000.00. This was taken into consideration and that is why the committee decided that when they brought in the recommendations of who to hire that would be the basis for recommending the starting salaries for the new officers. Also during this meeting they discussed raising the salaries of the existing policemen to coincide with that increase of the new officers. A meeting was held with the Finance Committee to review the finances and at that meeting determined that increases of $3,000.00 to the two existing policemen, Sgt. Marshall and Patrolman Lantz would be in line and this is what the Public Safety Committee is recommending.

Councilman J. R. Correa Jr. moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt to increase the salaries of Sgt. Robert Marshall and Patrolman Jay Lantz by $3,000.00 effective February 1, 1990. The vote was recorded as follows:

Correa	- yea	Hutton	- abstain
Holt	- yea	Life	- yea

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to appoint Councilman R. B. Hutton as Chairman of the Electric Committee and Councilman Joseph R. Correa Jr. as Chairman of the Personnel Committee. Councilman Correa will also serve on the Public Safety and Finance Committee.

Councilman Holt asked if down at the triangle it would be possible to put in a lane for people turning left. Mr. Monger reported that he has talked with the Highway Department last week about this and when they paint lines they are going to put in the lanes.

Councilman Holt also stated that there are no pedestrian markers for people to cross over to the triangle from his side of the street. There are pedestrian markers from the triangle over to the Sovran Bank and he was wondering if this could be done from his side of the street over to the triangle. Mr. Monger stated this could be taken care of when they paint the lines.

Mayor Dean reported that we have lost our Recreation Director to Page County.

Councilman Holt stated that although properly matters pertaining to Recreation should come through the committee which he chairs, this has not been the practice. Information and problems have always come from the Chairman of the Recreation Commission. He feels this might be a good time to standardize this one way or another. Councilman Holt stated he has no feelings about doing it either way.

Councilwoman Life stated she feels council should approve the hiring of a Recreation Director before they are hired, not hire someone and then bring it to council for approval.

Mayor Dean reported that he had received a request from Joe Hammer on behalf of the Elkton Area United Services for a donation as they are in bad shape right now due to the fuel crisis.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to approve the First Reading to donate $2,000.00 to the EAUS. The vote was recorded as follows:

Correa	- yea	Life	- yea
Holt	- yea	Snow	- yea
Hutton	- yea		

Mayor Dean reported that the Rockingham County Municipal League will meet Wednesday night at Bridgewater. Solid Waste Disposal will be discussed.

Councilman Holt asked what can be done about the sand and grit in our water? Mayor Dean reported that he thinks there is some new technology out where something can be put on the bottom of the well to stop the problem and he will check into this.

Councilman Correa asked about the schedule of fees that was suppose to be presented to council tonight. Councilman Holt stated that they are not completed as the Planning Commission did not meet over the holidays.

Councilman Correa asked if we had heard anything back regarding Bill O'Brien talking to the Sheriff regarding the trash site and Councilman Holt reported that the town has not heard from Mr. O'Brien. He feels Mr. O'Brien will be at the Rockingham Municipal League meeting Wednesday night and he plans to talk with him at that time.

Councilman Correa spoke regarding the trash site. This was a disgusting sight over the holidays. He passed some pictures around of the dump and one of the Broadway dump. He stated that he plans to make a motion tonight

that our attorney draft a letter to the County to address several issues. (1) The Town would like to see some type of policy, procedure or proposal on how the County plans to handle the trash at the site in Elkton in order to keep the site in good condition. (2) The dump in Broadway does not have a fence and he would like the County to reevaluate the need to have a fence at the Elkton Site and if they feel the fence is necessary, how do they plan to deal with the trash that builds up at the fence when the dump is closed? (3) How does the County intend to keep the grounds cleaned? (4) There are repeated concerns and complaints being registered regarding people from out of the County or area bringing their trash to this site and how does the County plan to police this?

Councilman J. R. Correa Jr. moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to have our attorney draft a letter to the County addressing these items of concern by the Town of Elkton and that we would like to have a response by the next council meeting.

Mr. Monger stated that it is time for council to decide again what, if any, increases for next year's budget. He suggested it would be a good idea if anyone, like the EAUS, etc., wants something put in the budget, they make a request before the budget is prepared.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow that inaccordance with the Code of Virginia, Sec. 2.1-344(1), Council go into Executive Session to discuss proceedings dealing with the performance of a former police officer and possible litigation and prospective employment of a public officer. The vote was recorded as follows:

Correa	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Hutton	-	yea			

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session and that each member, to the best of his knowledge, certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the Code of Virginia were heard, discussed or considered. The vote was recorded as follows:

Correa	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Hutton	-	yea			

Mr. Davenport stated that there is this long lead time for renewal of the cable television and he has written Commonwealth Cable but has not heard anything. He told them that the Town wanted them to send a proposal of renewal. He also pointed out that there is a lot of interest in Congress for redoing that whole scheme.

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