PUBLIC HEARING
April 13, 1993

A Public Hearing was held Tuesday, April 13, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. in the Elkton Fire Company Activities Building on Route 340. Mayor Dean presided over the hearing. The following council members were present: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. B. Fuller, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow and T. R. Whitfield III. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Mayor Dean stated that the purpose of the hearing was to hear comments from the citizens on the possible hiring of a town manager.

Mayor Dean gave a brief background on past experiences regarding a town manager and what is now being considered. He explained that this would not change the town's form of government. The town charter does provide for the hiring of a manager. He would be given the administrative powers. The three department heads would report to the manager rather than to council as they do at present. Mayor Dean stated that council feels the town can afford to hire a manager without raising taxes. Mayor Dean was asked how this would affect the present employees of the town and he stated this would not affect any of the town employees at this time, except in possibly some changes in duties.

The following people spoke in opposition to hiring a town manager: Hazel Crider, Joe Early, Jack Davis, Vernon Shifflett, Ray Williams, Norris Shifflett and Stephanie Monger. The major concerns were Gerald Monger's job security; the salary for a town manager; the ability to get and keep a qualified person; the additional expenses for an office, secretary, computer, etc. for the manager; the possibility of having to increase taxes and more pressing needs in other areas such as streets, sidewalks, town hall, etc. All of these people stated they felt Mr. Monger was doing a good job and the town was running well under the present system.

The following people spoke in favor of hiring a town manager: Bill Holt, John Adams, Lori Dixon, Bob Whitfield, Benny King, Welty Hensley and Lou Ellen Kirkendall. Those speaking pointed out that Elkton is the fastest growing town in the county. They felt the town needed and would benefit by hiring a trained, qualified person to coordinate all of the operations of the town; having someone with the working knowledge in obtaining and administering grants; someone to insure the proper training of employees and someone to communicate with other local, county and state officials on behalf of the town. Mr. Welty Hensley stated he feels a manager would be good if council is willing to give up the administrative authority and if the person hired is a super individual able to take the pressure that will be involved with this position. He suggested council do an in depth study for the man first and then introduce him to the community.

Mrs. Ruth Pritchett stated she would rather see Elkton get a grocery store or a taxi.

Mayor Dean stated council will probably make a decision within the next two months.

As there were no further comments, the meeting adjourned.

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

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