**PUBLIC HEARING**
**June 10, 1996**

The Elkton Town Council held a Public Hearing June 10, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Mayor Charles E. Dean presided over the hearing. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

D. H. Dail
M. B. Fuller
R. L .Snow
T. R. Whitfield III

ABSENT

F. A. Bennett
W. E. Printz

Ted Costin, Manager, Norma Leap, Clerk and Gerald Monger, Superintendent were also present.

Mayor Dean stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to hear comments on the 1996-97 Proposed Budget.

Town Manager

Ted Costin, Manager, gave a brief summary of the proposed budget. He noted that the earliest council can act on this budget is next Monday night at the regular meeting. Mr. Costin explained that the advertisement contained one error. The amount of revenue received, two grant sources, Litter and Fire Programs were inadvertently omitted from the totals. This results in $4,950.00 more in the grant revenues and surplus. Mr. Costin pointed out that projections based on December 1995 revenues and expenditures results in a net surplus in the 1995-96 budget of $69,162.21. He explained that these are only projections. They do not include significant projects such as the reservoir repairs and the purchase of the GIS System so a deficit could very well result. This deficit could also be tied to capital projects, such as, but not limited to, those funded in fiscal year 1994-95 and incurred cost in fiscal year 1995-96. The 1996-97 proposed Budget has a Revenue Proposal of $2,715,816.97 and an Expenditure Proposal of $2,694,581.63, resulting in a surplus of $21,235.34.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Nicki Lynch

Ms. Lynch, Director of the Rockingham Public Library, thanked Mr. Costin and the council for the new Elkton Community Library building. Elkton is now a branch rather than a book station. The circulation has increased 16% since they moved into the new building. Ms. Lynch requested council consider increasing, rather than decreasing, their donation to the Elkton Community Library.

Sandy Boutillier

Ms. Boutillier stated she recently opened the Country Photo in downtown Elkton. She came in support of EDRC and to tell everyone how much EDRC and Marsha Deavers helped her in getting her business started. She feels the activities sponsored by EDRC help bring tourist into Elkton thus helping the businesses. She feels EDRC is a great asset to the town.

Tim Hulings

Mr. Hulings came in support of EDRC. He commended the council and the leaders in the town for the progress and growth over the past fifteen or twenty years. EDRC, the library and these others are asking that the town continue their investment in these organizations so that the town will continue to progress and be competitive.

Jerry Ruhlen

Mr. Ruhlen came in support of EDRC and the Main Street Program; specifically the Farmer's Market that was created last year. Mr. Ruhlen stated he and his wife own a small farm and one of his chief sources of income is the vegetables they grow. This market has provided an outlet to sell these vegetables which wasn't available before. He has tried to give something back to the town by telling others about the services in the town such as restaurants, retail stores, etc. He encouraged council to continue fully funding the EDRC and Main Street Program.

Bill Holt

Mr. Holt read a letter from Tim and Sally Haden. They praised the work done by EDRC and felt it was a real honor to be named a Main Street Community. They feel much progress has been made and urged council to support EDRC as well as the new Town Manager, Mr. Ted Costin.

Paul Cline

Mr. Paul Cline of Cline Energy was present and spoke in support of EDRC. Mr. Cline stated they have leased commercial space within the Town of Elkton for the last 25 years and operated the Exxon gasoline station. They recently decided to purchase land and invest in a new facility within the town. A couple of things that impressed them and influenced their decision about Elkton was that Elkton has an economic development policy and a vision of what they hope to be in the future. He feels EDRC has a lot to do with formulating this vision and urged council to consider supporting EDRC's budget request.

Jack Stevens

Mr Stevens, President of Rockingham Heritage Bank stated that they have recently purchased the old bank building on Spotswood Trail and hope to open a branch here in the fall. They had seven locations for a new branch in mind. A year ago Elkton was about third or fourth on the list. After contacting EDRC members, Marsha Deavers, Ted Costin, Joe Shifflett and others who were all very helpful in answering questions, Elkton soon moved up to number one. They were very impressed with the forward thinking of the community and feel it is because there is an active group of citizens working to make Elkton better. He urged council to continue to support organizations like EDRC.

Greg Riddle

Mr. Riddle read a letter from Dr. Larry Bompiani supporting EDRC. Mr. Bompiani stated his decision to open his office in Elkton required the help of various individuals. In addition to Joe Correa, Ms. Marsha Deavers played a pivotal role not only in his decision to open in Elkton but also in providing him direction and assistance throughout the early stages of construction. He feels his building would have been much less visually appealing without this help. He feels there is an immense potential remaining in Elkton and is in favor of the continuation of EDRC and the Main Street Program.

Mel Kirkendall

Mr. Kirkendall spoke in support of EDRC. As a citizen he feels that everyone has benefited from the work done by this organization and urged council's continued support

Welty Hensley

Mr. Hensley spoke in support of the Elkton Historical Society which is moving right along with the restoration of the Miller-Kite House. They have expended most of their funds and hope council will continue to support the Historical Society.

Mr. Hensley stated you can see what EDRC has done in the community and asked council to continue to support EDRC; maybe even increase the donation to $30,000.00 rather than $25,000.00.

Mr. Hensley also requested council's support for their parade. They are asking the following:

1. Council, Mayor and any employees ride in the parade.
2. The town build a float for the beauty queens and/or council.
3. The town donate money to help get some bands and a Grand Marshall.

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

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

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