Committee Meetings
January 11, 2005

PRESENT	STAFF
J. Dean	Dennis Donachy
C. McDaniel	Sgt. James Morris
T. Pence	Clairen Sipe
R. Snow	Richard Carey
P. Workman	

Christine Michaels of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce spoke to Council about membership, marketing, training, and other resources available through the Chamber of Commerce.

Steve Kite gave the history of an on-going water drainage problem on his property. Mr. Donachy presented a proposal of $45,000.00 from RanMar to run 880 feet of pipe, covered by a minimum of two feet of top soil. Council member Dean expressed concern about environmental issues with the water directed into the Shenandoah River. Vice Mayor Snow preferred a drainage ditch as opposed to running pipe because of cost and maintenance of a pipeline. Vice Mayor Snow dismissed environmental concerns as the water from the property already drains into the River. The Town would not be introducing anything new to the water.

Mr. Kite contacted the "Soil and Water Conservation Board," who went to his house on December 21, 2004. Mr. Kite was told, "This is a problem. This is an environmental issue here. It's a health issue – it's everything. I cannot get nobody here before the end of the year, but I will be here after the first of the year. I will have an engineer with me, two other technicians will be with him, and also this guy will be here from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, National Resource Conservation Service Department. He's comin' with 'em. They are supposed to be here Thursday. They are coming to shoot the grade, tell me what to do and how is the best way to fix it."

Mayor Printz went around the table for comments regarding commitment to correct the problem.

Council member Pence: "We have to fix the problem."
Council member Workman: "I don't have a problem fixing it. I need more information."
Council member Dean: "I don't have a problem fixing it. I just want to make sure we don't end up with another lawsuit down the road from somebody because we are polluting downstream. You get us the figures back whatever they say and we can work with you."
Vice Mayor Snow: "I think we are all committed to solve the problem. We need to hear from these people and we need to address the long term. We don't need a quick fix."
Council member McDaniel: He was too new to the problem to offer a comment.

Mayor Printz concluded: "We want to do the right thing."

- Lynn Meadows presented a calendar of recreation activities.

- Access and use of the Community Center were discussed.

- The return to the Town from the indoor sales at the Community Center does cover the cost of advertising. Council considered raising the cost to $10.00 to obtain a space for the sales.

- George McDaniel reported that the Elton Area Community Center Committee will meet with County officials to seek additional funds for the Community Center. Also they are working on the plans for the Community Center "because the plans we have are not approved by the architect."

- The color scheme for the Community Center was discussed.

- Kite House Usage Fee was revised and will be added to the Council agenda.

- Mandatory water and sewer hook-up proposals were distributed by Mr. Donachy to Council for their review.

- Mr. Donachy explained a deferred compensation plan.

- Merchants' Capital Tax – the Town previously did not have the capacity to bill this tax, but the computer system was adjusted. Treasurer Sipe stated it is a personal property tax, just as mobile homes are considered personal property. The rate was included in the personal property tax rates approved by Council. Rockingham County has always billed this tax. "I have a problem with our Treasurer's Office charging something that we never charged before without us knowing about it," stated Vice Mayor Snow.

- Non-Budgeted Items:

  Labor for grit system - $45,000.00
  Radio upgrade - $60,000.00

Vice Mayor Snow favored continuing the practice of "borrowing" from the Community Center until the end of the fiscal year, at which time a CD or two could be cashed to reappropriate where needed. He also reminded Council of $140,000.00 due from the Cemetery.

- The Personnel Policy was discussed.

- Council Committees

  1. Council member Sigafoose will Chair Public Health, Public Safety, and Ordinances.
  2. Economic and Community Development Committee – Council member Workman will Chair and Council members Snow and McDaniel will serve as members.
  3. Council member McDaniel withdrew from the Electric Committee and Council member Dean replaced him.
  4. Elkton Area Community Center Committee will be added to the Town Directory.

Closed Session

Council member Dean moved, second by Vice Mayor Snow, and carried to go into closed session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 to discuss real property.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. McDaniel, T. Pence, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (5 – 0 roll call)

Council member Dean moved to go from closed session back into regular session and that each member, to the best of his or her knowledge, certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement under Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the Code of Virginia were heard, discussed, or considered. Vice Mayor Snow duly seconded the motion.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. McDaniel, T. Pence, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (5 – 0 roll call)

Council discussed the possibility of a work session "retreat" where a "facilitator" would be in attendance.

As there was further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk