Committee Meetings
September 13, 2005

PRESENT	STAFF
C. McDaniel	Nathan Miller
T. Pence	Dennis Donachy
W. Printz	Clairen Sipe
S. Sigafoose	Marty Shifflett
R. Snow	Emily Burner
P. Workman	Richard Pullen
	Richard Carey

Council member Dean was absent due to a death in the family.

• Mr. Donachy introduced Robert Hall, an "undercover" investigator who was hired approximately three months ago. Mr. Donachy stated after he "had been here a couple of months he went to each Council member individually, as well as the Mayor, and asked them if they would be interested in having an undercover police officer work for the Town of Elkton." He received an "affirmative" from the Council members he talked to and the Mayor met with Mr. Hall. Mr. Donachy added that with strategic planning discussions, a desire of Council was to establish an investigative branch for the Elkton Police Department. Mr. Donachy believed that would provide additional upward mobility opportunities for the police officers.

Mayor Printz stated for the record, "I did not know, or the Council did not know, that this gentleman was in the Town for the last three months." Council member Pence stated he did not know. Mayor Printz's statement that the hiring "will have to be talked about later on" was supported by Council member Sigafoose. Council member Workman's position was "that is the nature of an undercover cop. If you know about it then it's not undercover."

• Mr. Donachy will canvas the Towns and County regarding their charges for building permits. He may seek an increase because he knew "we were the cheapest in the area."

• Mr. Donachy received the Master Plan for Elkwood today at 1:00 P.M. It reflects 367 homes, more green space, water tank, and one or two wells. It will be presented to the Planning Commission tomorrow evening.

• HallowScream will be observed on Monday, October 31 from 6:00 P.M., to 8:00 P.M. Next year the Halloween HooDoo will be returned to the Main Street Program to organize.

• Council supported the Mayor signing the Daughters of the American Revolution's Proclamation.

• Council was favorable to Mr. Donachy's request to proceed with the RFP for a Town engineer.

• Council reviewed the Mopeds and Bicycles Ordinances.

• The Community Center Committee received a 1.8 million dollar estimate from one firm to renovate the former Wrangler building. Two phases for the project could be considered, with the first phase consisting of the Council Chambers and bathrooms, and the rest of the building in the second phase. Vice Mayor Snow stated the drawings had been put out for bid. Next will be a funding issue. The roof and façade would have to be the initial projects before any interior improvements. The Town and County commitments will need to be determined to arrive at funding the project. Vice Mayor Snow believed a local bank would lend the money to complete renovations if the Town had in-hand approximately $430,000.00 plus a designated sum from the Angler deal.

Council member Workman requested a chart showing expenses versus income for all the projects in progress and planned. He wanted to make sure the Town did not "spend the same money three times."

• Mr. Donachy has researched the possibility of a DMV service office. Council was receptive to the idea.

• A neglected property on Gibbons Avenue was discussed, as well as the options at Council's disposal for failure to comply with Town ordinances to maintain one's property.

• Council decided to hold another Public Hearing for the proposed Charter revisions.

• Paul with Triad Engineering discussed the plans for ISTEA (T-21). VDOT assured Paul that funding for the project is still active and available. He was authorized by Council to put the project out to bid.

• A Public Electric Authority, which could issue bonds and create its own debt, was discussed. Mayor Printz suggested some type of partnership with Massanutten. Attorney Miller cautioned Council about loosing the Town's exempt status from some requirements to sell electricity. An authority would set rates.

• Mr. Donachy presented two estimates of impacts of Angler development; one for Elkwood and the other for the Pham property. The financial impacts did not include income from electric sales or real estate taxes, nor expenditures.

• While reviewing the requirements for a November Town election, Attorney Miller stated a petition containing the signatures of a minimum of 10% of the registered voters must be submitted to the court sixty days prior to the election for a referendum to appear on the ballot. "The statute does not allow you to have it between January 1 and June 30," added Mr. Miller. Attorney Miller made it clear that the election could be changed only by a majority vote at referendum or by a Charter amendment.

• Some type of assistance for Hurricane Katrina victims will be further studied.

• Attorney Miller will update Mr. Donachy on the status of the Industrial Development Authority.

• Mr. Bennington and others can continue to mow alleys.

• For planning purposes, the Town needs to obtain a copy of the Rockingham County Emergency Plan and adopt policies for the Town.

• Emily Burner submitted an economic development report for September 2005. Council member Workman suggested fly-over pictures of the Town as development progresses.

• Council wished the repayment to REPO be invested in CDs.

• Chief Pullen is still accepting applications for an auxiliary police program. Leasing vehicles is still an option. Motorcycle units are being studied.

• Marty Shifflett shared with Council his equipment and personnel needs in Public Works. He also detailed many infrastructure problems.

• Council member Workman was excused at 8:52 P.M.

• The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk