Committee Meetings
May 10, 2005

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

Audit Report

Richard Phillips and David Black of Young, Nicholas, Branner & Phillips, LLP presented the Financial and Compliance Reports for the year ending June 30, 2004.

Chief Pullen

Chief Pullen and Sgt. Morris will be in Richmond tomorrow where Sgt. Morris will receive a Help Eliminate Auto Theft Award (HEAT). Officer Shifflett performed a K9 demonstration with Rainer for Cub Scouts in McGaheysville. Rainer has been active in several calls.

TOWN MANAGER

Availability and Connection Fees

Mr. Donachy was notified that effective July 1, 2005 Rockingham County will raise connection fees to $5,000.00. On July 1, 2006, the rate will increase to $6,000.00. Considering the County's increase, as well as other jurisdictions, Mr. Donachy proposed a Town increase to $4,000.00 effective July 1, 2005 and an increase to $6,000.00 on July 1, 2006.

The matter of pre-paid connections surfaced. Council member Dean submitted his opinion of offering some type of financing for hook-ups of residents on Pentecostal Hill. Vice Mayor Snow agreed to help those residents, but called for mandatory hook-ups. Treasurer Sipe was not sure what our current computer system could accommodate, but she will discuss a program with Southern Software.

Council member Workman questioned how pre-paids would affect developers. Mr. Donachy had no objection to taking that money and putting it aside. Treasurer Sipe related that an individual had come into the Treasurer's office and wanted to pre-pay for 30 lots to hook-up to water and sewer before the rate increase. This led to a discussion of time limits if the services were pre-paid, with six months to one year being allowed to hook-up or pay the prevailing rates after the time limit expiration. Developers were more problematic. What would be a fair and equitable time allowance for a sub-development which contained 400 to 500 units, as an example?

Vice Mayor Snow suggested finding another "angle" to assist Pentecostal Hill residents, other than letting "commercial people" take advantage of a pre-pay policy. "I don't like that," he stated. Vice Mayor Snow's solution was to notify all affected residents on Pentecostal Hill to inform them hook-ups would be required and the rates would increase July 1. That would give them time to sign up, with the understanding that the Town would finance their costs.

Mayor Printz then asked if that included those with acceptable wells and septic systems. If not, the Code will have to be amended again, as Council recently changed the Code to exclude those residents with properly working septic systems and safe well water.

Mr. Donachy and Mrs. Sipe will find out what the computer system can do. If additional time is needed to implement this policy, it could become effective January 1, 2006. Pentecostal Hill residents would be notified of the increase and offered Town financing. After that date, they hook-on and pay whatever the rate may be at that time.

Vice Mayor Snow then asked, "Why are we doing pre-paids? Does it help people on Pentecostal Hill?" The answer to the first question was because there have been inquiries and an answer is needed for yes or no. Mr. Donachy answered "no" to the second question. Vice Mayor Snow stated, "Then I don't think we need to do it, personally. Why do it if we don't need to do it for Pentecostal Hill? Why do it for anybody?"

Pre-pay or not became moot when Council was reminded that the Town has already accepted, in essence, pre-paid rates for six sewer hook-ups and eight water hook-ups because the Pentecostal Hill project is not scheduled for completion until February 2006.

Council member Dean wanted clarification of Council's thinking regarding multiple pre-paid hook-ups. His scenario was if someone paid for 30 connections and completed only 5 houses within a year's time, then the other 25 would be charged the difference between the pre-paid amount and the prevailing rate. Council agreed that was fair and correct.

Before moving on to the next item on Mr. Donachy's agenda, Vice Mayor Snow stated, "My concern is we have a Town here and we have to upkeep the water and sewer systems. We have people in Town not contributing to that. From a business standpoint, and a revenue standpoint, we need to collect all the revenue we can collect." His position has always been that all in-Town residents should be connected to Town water and sewer systems.

Both Vice Mayor Snow and Council member Sigafoose agreed the Town's water rates were "the best deal in the country."

<u>November Elections</u>

•Vice Mayor Snow stated, "We need to do it."
•Council member Sigafoose favored leaving the election in May.
•Council member McDaniel had a change of mind and said, "We have much more important business to deal with than to fight a battle that is meaningless to me."
•Vice Mayor Snow responded, "If we don't do it now we will never do it."
•Council member Workman spoke, "We have all to lose and nothing to gain. I thought about it today. All seven people sitting here will be affected by it. All seven people, no matter what year you were elected, will be affected. So you can't target four people. That's bogus. There is no argument."
•Council member McDaniel spoke again, "The reason I was going to support it was because I made a commitment to Mike Breeden. Mike called and told me don't fight the battle, Clyde, if you don't have to. You have much more stuff to deal with."
•Vice Mayor Snow answered, "Well, I don't care what Mike Breeden says. The reason I was going to vote for it is because it needs to be in November like everybody else's. If you are against getting more people out to the polls to vote then you need to be living in another country.
•Council member Pence input, "Nobody in this world thinks more of this country than I do. I may live in Russia, but I'm not voting to move it to November."
•Council member Workman stated, "That's real open minded, Theodore."
•Council member Dean said, "I'm voting to move it to November."
•Vice Mayor Snow: "It's going to take two seconds Monday night to vote on this issue."

•Mayor Printz revisited the long range planning session where Council agreed more than they disagreed.
•Vice Mayor Snow asked, "What's that have to do with the election, Wayne?"
•Mayor Printz: "Because it's a divisive issue."
•Vice Mayor Snow: "It's divisive with Hazel."
•Council member McDaniel: "In all fairness to what Wayne just said, I've had, I'll bet you a half dozen people, stop me wherever I was and told me not to do it, not to move it."
•Council member Workman: "What do they use as a basis for their argument? There is none. You park your car, you walk in here, and you vote, and then you walk out. It has nothing to do with Elkton Heritage. It's not Field Day. I had a meeting about the Elkton Festival. Instead of coming to my meeting they were running around Town – the same people who wanted to have this – getting a petition signed. I passed them on my way home after nobody showed up. So the fireworks and this good stuff they want to have, they don't want to have it. They didn't even show up."
•Council member McDaniel: "I'd like to see us move it to November, but it isn't that important to me to fight that battle."
•Council member Workman: "There is not one fact setting there. You can't say heritage, you can't say seniors getting confused, you can't say weather. It serves no purpose."
•Council member Pence: "One thing about it, but if I was going to run for reelection, I would never get out, and I'm not going to get out here and campaign when it's cold."
•Council member McDaniel: "I agree with Rick. There are a lot of advantages to moving it to November. I'm strictly basing it on we have too much other important stuff to do."
•Council member Pence: "Rick, what is yours and Randell's theory about moving it to November?"
•Council member Workman: "The County asked it to be moved. The townspeople are here every week wanting a rec center, rec center, rec center. There is an opportunity to get money from the County. If I was on the County Board of Supervisors and I asked the Town of Elkton to move the Town election – which has no factual basis to keep it in May – and they just came flat out and said no and the vote came around to me and I was from Bridgewater or Dayton or Timberville or somewhere, and the vote came around to me to give them $250,000.00, I'd say they don't want to save me $16,000.00, why would I want to give them $250,000.00? I'm going to jeopardize that and the future of the Community Center just because?"

When Vice Mayor Snow compared this situation to the Charter issue, some voices were raised in opposition to the comparison. Council member Sigafoose said he was elected to represent "them" and if they wanted the election in May he would support that and if "they" wanted a November election he would represent that. "It doesn't make a bit of difference to me," said Council member Sigafoose.

•Vice Mayor Snow: "What you have to remember is, and I've said it 50 times sitting in this seat, if you have an issue to be voted on, you always hear from the ones who don't want change. Every time it's the ones who don't want change. What you have to think about they may add up to 400 or 500 people but how many people do we have in this Town now? We have about 3,000 people. So, you were elected to represent all 3,000, not just the 200 or 300 you're hearing from. Just answer one question. What's wrong with having more people show up out here to vote for the people sitting here?"
•Council member Sigafoose: "I don't know that they will show up more in November than they will in May."

The steadfast positions of Council members were evident and it was agreed that continued discussion would be non-productive. Council member Sigafoose was excused at 7:20 P.M.

Other Discussions

•Darryl Crawford will be present at Monday's meeting.

•Mr. Donachy wants to advertise for an Economic Director/Grant Writer.

•Regarding the budget, Mr. Donachy discussed leasing police vehicles, free police vehicle that displays advertising, 3% COLA, transfer of Cemetery funds, and 1.4 million dollar loan for Pentecostal Hill.

•Mr. Donachy will ask Council to consider some rate increases.

•Mr. Donachy shared information regarding electric service to Elkwood, the Kite property, and the Taylor property.

•Future staff hiring.

•Cross-training of employees.

•Plant upgrade. Blackwell estimated $2,016,000.00.

•Close alley between Wirt and Spotswood.

•Open Second Street as a road.

•Meeting with Angler.

•Dr. Downy was discussed.

•Elkwood and the Phum property were discussed in relation to sewer capacity.

•Town clean-up is underway.

•Waiting for easement to run 12" line to the reservoir.

•"O" Street paving completed; started Spotswood.

•Old 33 storm drain project will begin in 2 to 3 weeks. Will take approximately 6 months.

•Two divertees are currently mowing.

•No return calls from Norfolk-Southern regarding leaning pole at Riverside Park.

•Mr. Shifflett needs a new sewer machine at a cost of 35 to 40 thousand dollars.

•The small Kubota should be replaced at a cost of approximately $30,000.00.

•Shutters are being installed on the Kite house.

•Check valve has not been installed at Donny Mowbry's.

•Mayor Printz stated Mr. Donachy informed him that Town Code reflects an individual must pay for any excess over 100' for a water/sewer connection. This was in reference to lines running from Fairfax and connecting to Summit. Mayor Printz said Odell Crawford and Denise will grant the Town a lateral. Mayor Printz wanted to know if Council would

approve the line if a resident on Summit paid the line over 100 feet. Council member Dean answered that he would discuss the possibility with Mr. Donachy and Mr. Shifflett.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk