REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
September 10, 1973

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held September 10, 1973 at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers with the Mayor, Edward F. Garber presiding. The following council members were present: Mr. R. E. Davis, Mr. R. R. Dean, Mr. H. A. Leet, Mr. W. H. McGahey, Mr. A. R. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Workman. Mr. Homer Ageon and Mr. William T. Herring, Acting Superintendents, Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police and Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk were also present.

Mr. R. R. Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular meeting August 13, 1973.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Special Meeting August 16, 1973.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the minutes of the special meeting August 21, 1973.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey and carried to approve the minutes of the special meeting August 24, 1973.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the minutes of the special meeting August 27, 1973.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of August.

The following citizens were present: Mrs. Ruth Brooks, Mr. Richard Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Downey, Rev. Martin and Mr. Carl Schumacher. Mrs. Charles Hammer, Mr. William Traylor, Mr. Gamlin of the Daily News Record and Mr. Taylor of The Valley Banner were also present.

Mr. Wylie of the Harrisonburg Trans-Video, a division of Warner Cable, was not present in regards to their interest in cable television for Elkton.

Mr. Earl Judy and two other representatives of Luray Trans-Video, Inc. were present in regards to furnishing cable television for Elkton. Mayor Garber read the letter he had received from Mr. Judy prior to the meeting in which Mr. Judy had stated that they had completed the cable system for Woodstock, Virginia and were in a position to build cable television systems in other communities and were interested in discussing cable television with our council. Mr. Judy explained that they were still interested in obtaining the franchise rights in Elkton. The system would be micro-wave and they would provide the three major channels (ABC, NBC and CBS), one Independent Channel, one Education Channel and one Local Time and Weather Channel. Mr. Judy indicated they would request permission from the FCC to provide more channels but would not guarantee that the request would be granted. They gave an approximate completion date of eight months. Rates would be $10.00 for installation, $5.00 per month for one set and $1.00 per month for each additional set. The town would receive a percentage of their gross revenue.

Mayor Garber stated that the town is still interested in cable television but he is not definite what steps the town will have to take but probably they will have to advertise again for bids.

Mr. Loring Cover of R. Loring Cover Insurance Agency, Inc. was present to review the town's insurance. He commended the town on the fact that they are now enjoying a credit on some of their policies due to the good safety practices by the town employees. Mr. Cover recommended the following changes be made in our insurance coverage:

1. Increase fire insurance approximately 10%.
2. Increase the limits of bodily injury liability from $100/300,000. to $250/500,000. on the automobile policy.
3. Increase the comprehensive general liability policy limits on bodily injury to a single limit of $500,000. per occurrence.
4. Change collision coverage on personal and police cars from $50.00 deductible to $100.00 deductible.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey and carried to approve the recommendations for insurance changes by Mr. Cover.

Mr. Workman requested Mr. Cover to submit another quote to the town on the substation.

Mayor Garber reported that he had contacted Mr. Hillsman to see if he would reconsider the position of Town Attorney but he did not feel he could. Mayor Garber had then talked with a Mr. Bruce Walinger, who is presently working in the law firm of Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver. He would be interested in acting as our attorney at a retainer fee of $600.00 a year and $15.00 an hour for extras. Mr. McGahey suggested Mr. Mike Layman another young attorney in Harrisonburg who might be interested. Mr. Workman felt the men should come before the council before hiring anyone. This was deferred until the next meeting. Mayor Garber asked the council to contact anyone they think might be interested or to give him the information and he would contact the person.

Mayor Garber reported that due to a number of the town employees being dissatisfied with the benefits received there had been an informal meeting of the majority of the council members and they had unofficially agreed to give the employees the following benefits:

Two extra holidays - Easter Monday
Veteran's Day

Sick Leave - increase the number of days you can accumulate to 45 days.

Vacations - change to:

1 year - 1 week
3 years - 2 weeks
5 years - 3 weeks
10 years - 4 weeks

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried unanamiously to grant the employees the following extra benefits:

1. Two extra holidays - Easter Monday and Veteran's Day.
2. Allow a maximum of 45 days accumulated sick leave.
3. Vacations as follows: one year - one week, three years - two weeks, five years - three weeks and ten years - four weeks.

Mayor Garber gave his annual report. The following highlights of the year were mentioned:

1. Stop Burning Law, Closing of Town Dump and County Landfill.
2. Quarterly Meetings of Rockingham Towns.
3. Increase in Highway Upkeep Grant to $1600.00 per mile.
4. Problems at Grade School - Sidewalks, parking, paving, etc.
5. New law requiring building inspector. Contracted with County.
6. Advertising for Town Manager.
7. Balancing of Budget with aid of Revenue Sharing.
8. Year ended in healthy financial condition.

The following projections for the coming year were given:

1. Change charter to comply with State.
2. Secure Town Manager.
3. Job evaluation program and worker's manual.
4. Annexation and housing projects.
5. Review sources of revenue - tax and license structure, property tax rate and reevaluate electric services.
6. More harmony and consideration in every operation of the town. Work as team.

Mayor Garber read a letter from Mr. Richard T. Brown, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in which the committee recommended that necessary steps be taken to change our present form of government to the Town Manager form of government. They strongly recommended that proper methods be taken to secure a qualified person to act as Town Superintendent until the present form of government can be changed, at which time this individual would assume the duties of Town Manager. The advisory committee had recommended the same basic steps in January and they stated that they felt that little or no real action had been taken along these lines. They feel that this would result in a savings to the Town through proper management of the Town's affairs.

Mayor Garber assured Mr. Brown, who was present at the meeting, that the council would take their suggestions under advisement and see what they could do.

Mr. Thompson reported that he had contacted Mr. Berlin Eye again about the spouting on the Municipal Building and he promised he would check it as soon as possible. He also reported that the fence in front of the Municipal Building is in bad shape.

Mr. Thompson reported that the town still owes Mr. Dean for the work done at the police station. He stated that he would talk with the new attorney when we appoint one to see what can be done. Mr. Workman suggested that those going to the convention see if they can find some answer to the problem.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to approve the Second Reading to appropriate $581.50 for one half the cost of the sidewalk from the Tastee Freez to Route 340.

Mr. Herring reported that he figured the sidewalk in front of Mr. Swortzel's will cost approximately $450.00.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to extend the sidewalk in front of Mr. Swortzel's on Spotswood Avenue at an approximate cost of $450.00, the town assuming the entire cost.

Mr. Herring presented a bill from Stockhouse, Inc. for the sidewalk in front of the Farmers and Merchants Bank on Rockingham Street in the amount of $1024.50. The town's share is 1/3 totaling $341.50.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to approve $341.50 for the sidewalk in front of the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Mr. Herring reported that all the paving had been completed and he would like to see more done before winter.

Mr. Herring reported that the Elkton Volunteer Fire Company had requested the town furnish the paint and they will furnish the labor to color code all the fire hydrants in town.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to grant permission for the Elkton Volunteer Fire Co. to color code the fire hydrants in town under Mr. Herring's supervision and the town furnishing the paint.

Mr. Herring reported that all the materials had been received to replace the water line washed out during the flood and he hopes to finish the project this week.

Mr. Herring reported he had received several requests from individuals to reopen the boat landing. Mr. Leet suggested we reopen this on a trial basis and if no problems arise we can leave it open. The council agreed.

Mr. Herring reported that applications for building permits should be picked up at the town office. He will still have to approve the applications as to whether they meet the town's zoning laws before they are submitted to the county.

Mr. Ageon reported he needed a reel of overhead and underground triplex which would cost approximately $508.00 a reel.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to appropriate $1000.00 for two reels of triplex.

Mr. Davis reported that information had been sent to the State Health Department in regards to the new proposed water filter but it has not been approved due to what the committee considers a misunderstanding in reading the information. A letter has been written in regards to this. He also reported that the committee is working on the North Avenue water problem.

Chief Hammer read letters of resignation from Patrolmen Farmer and Jarels.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to accept Patrolmen Farmer and Jarel's resignations.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to employ Lester B. McGuire as a full time dispatcher.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to employ Charles F. Coe Jr. and John J. Denman Jr. as patrolmen in the Police Department.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to accept Mr. Harry House's resignation as dispatcher in the Police Department due to health reasons.

The Electric Committee said it would look into the need for vapor lights on the parking lot beside The Valley Banner.

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from Julian F. Hirst, Executive Director of the Virginia Municipal League, regarding the convention in Norfolk September 16, 17 and 18.

As there was no further business, Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to adjourn.

MAYOR: Edward F. Garber
Edward F. Garber, Mayor

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