SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING
June 1, 1977

A special meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held June 1, 1977 at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers with the Mayor, Maurice W. Lough presiding. The following council members were present: Mr. C. E. Dean, Mr. R. R. Dean, Mr. H. D. Flory, Mr. B. B. Holt, Mr. H. W. Leap and Mr. R. J. Lough. Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police, Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk and Mr. R. Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

Mayor Lough opened the meeting with prayer.

Mayor Lough stated that he assumed the large crowd were there for the same purpose, the support of Officer Helsley. In light of this fact, he ask those present to select a spokesman for the group and council would hear this person. Mr. R. B. Hutton was selected as spokesman.

Mr. Holt ask permission to bring the citizens up to date on what has been done in regards to Officer Helsley to date. Mr. Holt explained that a little over a year ago a letter of reprimand was placed in Officer Helsley's file by Chief Hammer regarding his not performing his duties properly. Since that time, Chief Hammer has found it necessary to issue oral warnings to Officer Helsley on repeated occasions. Within the past two weeks two flagrant incidents have occurred and another letter of reprimand has been issued. The Public Safety Committee met, advised the Mayor of their recommendations regarding Officer Helsley, and the Mayor stated if council agreed he would sit in on the meeting with Mr. Holt and Chief Hammer when they talked with Officer Helsley. Council met and it was decided to offer Officer Helsley an easier job with no deduction in pay. Mr. Holt and Chief Hammer then met with Officer Helsley to inform him of the council's decision but Mayor Lough did not meet with them.

Mr. Hutton ask why Mr. Holt as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and Chief Hammer as the Department Head took the action they did without council action. Mr. Hutton stated he had checked the minutes of the May 25, 1977 meeting and no official action was taken by council. Mr. Hutton went to Councilman Holt and Chief Hammer asking to see the formal complaints against Officer Helsley and was refused. Mr. Hutton was ask to leave at both places. At no time did Mr. Hutton ask to see personnel records but he has been advised that complaints are public information and is taking the necessary steps to make this information available. Mr. Hutton pointed out that all he was interested in was the facts and that if they could prove to him that Officer Helsley was no longer able to perform his duty, he would have no complaints. He found it hard to understand how someone could become incompetent over night. Mr. Hutton and the citizens he represented felt that due to the embarrassment caused Officer Helsley and his family, a public apology was due him.

Mr. Holt explained that the meeting had been called to hear Officer Helsley if he wishes to be heard.

Mr. Hutton stated that when he questioned the other councilmen they admitted they had not heard Officer Helsley's side of the story, only Chief Hammer and Councilman Holt. He also pointed out that at no time had Officer Helsley come to him to tell him the problem or ask his support. He had been contacted by individual citizens who were concerned and ask him to attend a meeting to support Officer Helsley which was held on Tuesday night.

Officer Helsley was ask if he would prefer to be heard in regular session or executive session. Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Helsley's attorney, stated they would prefer to be heard in executive session at this time.

Mr. H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean to go into Executive Session to hear Officer Helsley, along with his attorney and the town attorney. The vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dean	- yea	B. Holt	- yea
R. Dean	- yea	H. Leap	- yea
D. Flory	- yea	R. Lough	- yea

Mr. R. J. Lough moved, seconded by Mr. B. B. Holt and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

Mr. R. J. Lough moved, seconded by Mr. H. D. Flory that in view of the complexities of the situation, the council will delay final decisions until the regular July council meeting. Until that time Officer Helsley will serve in such police officer

duties as the Public Safety Committee and the Chief of Police decide on. The vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dean	-	yea	B. Holt	-	yea
R. Dean	-	yea	H. Leap	-	yea
D. Flory	-	yea	R. Lough	-	yea

Mr. B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Mr. H. D. Flory and carried to adjourn.

MAYOR: Maurice W. Lough
Maurice W. Lough, Mayor

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