PUBLIC HEARING
June 7, 1994

The Elkton Town Council held a Public Hearing Tuesday, June 7, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The roll call is recorded as follows:

PRESENT

F. A. Bennett
M. B. Fuller
W. E. Printz
T. R. Whitfield III

Norma R. Leap, Clerk was also present.

Mayor Dean stated the purpose of the hearing was to hear comments and questions from the public concerning the purposed 1994-1995 Budgets. He pointed out that plans are to recommend that the 1994 Real Estate tax rate be set at $0.10 per $100.00 of assesed value. Although this rate is lower ($0.105 last year), this would be a 5.06% revenue increase due to reassessments.

Andrew Dixon questioned the amount set aside for New Vehicles in Recreation and the other departments. He wanted to know details as to what type of vehicles are being purchased, how many and how this relates to each department. He pointed out that according to the proposed budget the Garbage Department will be losing $60,000.00 next year and suggested considering getting out of the garbage collection business completely. He also asked about the Newtown Road Project and if the town is obligated to go ahead with this project.

It was explained to Mr. Dixon that plans are to purchase a 1 ton four wheel drive dump truck to replace the one that broke down while pushing snow. The cost of the vehicle will be divided between the departments that will be using the vehicle and according to the estimated usage. In regards to the garbage, it was pointed out that there are other expenses in the Garbage Department besides trash collection, such as brush grinding, items not picked up by the regular trash collection each week, etc. Mayor Dean explained that the town already has water lines on the Newtown Road servicing that area and will have to replace these lines when the project begins. The only choices the town had was whether to install the four inch line as required or to put in a larger line at this time which will help us in the future; to extend the line further and whether to put in sewer lines to service this area. The town chose to replace the line as it is presently located but to replace it with a larger line.

Daniel Dail questioned whether the town is becoming more dependent each year on the Electric Department revenues to balance the budget.

Councilman Bennett explained that the town has always depended on the Electric Department revenues. He pointed out that spending can be controlled by council and he does not feel the town is becoming any more dependent on these revenues than they have been in the past.

Councilwoman Fuller stated that to her the budget, as presented, is not understandable and that it is hard for her to answer the citizens questions regarding the budget. She suggested supporting documents which would explain the line items. Councilmen Printz and Whitfield both felt the budget was not as clear as they would like it to be.

As there were no further comments, the Public Hearing adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

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