Public Hearing
June 18, 2007

A public hearing of the Elkton Town Council was held to receive comments regarding the '07-'08 fiscal budget. The public hearing was held at 6:30 P.M., on June 18, 2007 at Elkton Area Community Center. Mayor Wayne E. Printz presided. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
M. Dearing
M. Isom
D. Kite (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
M. O'Neill
T. Pence
S. Sigafoose (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Town Attorney Tom Miller, Town Attorney Lauri A. N. Sigler, Chief James A. Morris, Treasurer Clairen Sipe and Clerk of Council Denise R. Monger were also present.

Acting Town Superintendent/Zoning Administrator Marty Shifflett was on vacation and did not attend the meeting.

The public hearing was opened and the following comments were made:

Faye Vickers, 18947 Red Brush Road, Elkton, questioned the transfer of $140,000.00 from water designated funds and $160,000.00 from sewer designated funds. She was unclear if the funds currently existed or would be a future source of income.

Council member O'Neill responded that a $300,000.00 payment is due from Angler in June 2006, which Council member O'Neill identified in the budget as designated money for water and sewer.

Mrs. Vickers questioned if the above-referenced funds would be used for infrastructure or another expense. Council member O'Neill stated the funds would be used for infrastructure and the water and sewer upgrade.

Mrs. Vickers questioned the $100,000.00 expense in both water and sewer funds. Council member O'Neill stated the Town would be receiving additional water and sewer connection fees from Angler and some of those funds would be transferred to designated funds and carried over to the '09 fiscal budget. Mrs. Vickers stated she was unclear regarding the matter. Council member O'Neill further explained that when money is transferred to a designated fund he also charged the money as an expense in order for that money to come out of the cash flow at that time. Further, he stated that under water and sewer expenses was the Phase I Sewer Plant Expansion Project at a cost of $434,000.00. Funds received from Angler in the amount of $300,000.00 would go towards that project and other water and sewer capital projects.

Council member O'Neil stated additional revenues in the amount of $700,000.00 would be received during this fiscal budget. Those funds had been designated in the budget as connection fees under water and sewer. The Omnibus Agreement, endorsed by the Town and Angler, specified that Angler must purchase 100 connections during the '08 fiscal budget and 50 connections before the end of the current fiscal year which totals $300,000.00. The additional 100 connections that Angler must purchase would be as follows: 50 connections by December 2007 at the water and sewer connection rate of $6,000.00 and following June 2008, 50 additional water and sewer connections at a rate of $8,000.00.

Mrs. Vickers queried what arrangements were made for the next five years when the funds previously discussed would no longer be available to the Town. Council member O'Neill responded that funds received from the new water and sewer connections would be deposited back into water and sewer revenue.

Mrs. Vickers and Council member O'Neill disagreed as to the final outcome of the balanced budget.

Lastly, Council member O'Neill stated that he had prepared the budget to show what ongoing expenses were covered by ongoing sustainable revenue and that connection fees were targeted to support infrastructure upgrades and not operating costs.

Mrs. Vickers stated that $300,000.00 in revenue was in the budget with $200,000.00 in expenses being designated in the budget, however the remaining funds of $100,000.00 was not designated. Council member O'Neill stated there were additional projects being funded by this revenue which are listed in the budget.

Mary K. Hutton, Elkton, spoke of her trip to the Town of Bridgewater and tour of their administrative facilities. She displayed to Council a booklet that Bridgewater publishes yearly concerning their fiscal budget and stated it was very informative. She compared populations and budgets between both Towns and discovered that Elkton's population was approximately 2,800 with a budget of $5,621,000.00 equaling a cost of $2,007.00 per citizen. Bridgewater's population was 5,468 with a budget of $5,577,000.00 equaling a cost of $1,020.00. Mrs. Hutton stated her concern regarding the size of Elkton's budget compared to the larger Town of Bridgewater.

Mrs. Hutton queried Council as to the current tax rate. Mayor Printz responded by stating the real estate rate is $.08 ½ per $100. Upon receiving this information, Mrs. Hutton stated the Town should reasonably raise the real estate rates to assist in eliminating some of the Town debt.

Council member O'Neill stated that the '07-'08 budget does reflect the $1,700,000.00 loan for the Community Center which has affected the figures.

Thomas Schroeder, 2621 Northeast Highway, Elkton, thanked the Mayor and Council for the $10,000.00 donation [in the budget] to the Fire and Rescue Squad. He stated there were 2278 calls run in 2006 at a cost of $500.00 per call. He asked Council to consider a set yearly donation.

Mayor Printz thanked Mr. Schroeder and the Rescue Squad for their hard work and dedication.

Council member O'Neill thanked Richard McGregor for his contribution and guidance with the '07-'08 budget.

Vice Mayor Dearing stated in March of 2008 the Town of Elkton will be 100 years old. He stated that in past years more accounting information was available to Council than in recent years. Therefore, practices of past years have been implemented in order for Council to be more informed regarding revenue and expenses and as a result the budget is more accurate.

Vice Mayor Dearing thanked Council member O'Neill and all of the staff for their work on the budget.

Mayor Printz also thanked Council and commended Council member O'Neill for all of their hard work on the budget. He further thanked Mr. McGregor for his assistance as well.

As there were no additional business, **Vice Mayor Dearing moved, seconded by Council member Isom, and carried to close the public hearing.**

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence and, S. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz

Recorder: Denise R. Monger
Denise R. Monger, Clerk