Special
Council Meeting
April 21, 2008

A special meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held in Council Chambers of the Elkton Area Community Center on April 21, 2008, with Mayor Wayne E. Printz presiding. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
M. Dearing
M. Isom
M. O'Neill
D. Kite

ABSENT
S. Sigafoose
T. Pence

Public Informational Meeting

Town Attorney M. Christopher Sigler, Chief James A. Morris, Treasurer Clairen Sipe, EACC Administrator Allison Morris, EACC Secretary Dianne Johnson and Clerk of Council Denise R. Monger were also present.

Mayor Printz opened the public informational meeting by stating the Town's water and sewer and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues would be discussed.

(A copy of the agenda is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A".)

Mayor Printz recognized Mike Breeden of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors and Warren Heidt, Director of Public Works for Rockingham County, who were in attendance.

Chris Fewster, Engineer, of Anderson & Associates, spoke regarding corrections needed at the wastewater treatment plant, timeline and various other issues.

Mr. Fewster stated the Elkton Wastewater Treatment Plant was having compliance issues with DEQ. He noted errors in reporting and an aging facility as causes for some compliance violations. He further spoke regarding operational problems, a portable belt press and the dewatering process for sludge.

Mr. Fewster stated additional Notices of Violation from DEQ should be expected since correcting issues at the plant would be a time-consuming process. He noted a systematic approach would be used to identify further outstanding issues

Mr. Fewster noted a local contract operator could assist at the plant with day-to-day operations and report information back to him. He noted Council had been very supportive.

A compliance plan had been formulated and presented to DEQ outlining the Town's plan of action to address compliance issues and other matters. A meeting would take place between all parties to review the plan and address concerns.

Mr. Fewster noted the average water sold in the community was approximately 180,000 gallons per day. Over the past six weeks, the sewer plant had treated more than 400,000 gallons per day. A major concern was the infiltration of water into the sewer plant. Per day, an average of about 200,000 gallons of water was infiltrating the plant. The Town had identified some of the problem areas and would be performing some monitoring at night via a camera to gather additional information.

Homeowners could also be contributing to infiltration issues by using sump pumps. He asked citizens to examine how their sump pumps were set up and take appropriate measures to ensure that water was not being pumped back into the Town's sewer system.

Mr. Fewster stated the new schools were to be established on the west side of the Town. He noted the Town had an aging system and some areas were in need of repair. He stated that when water was established to the west side of Town, storage was not provided. Therefore, water was sent to that side of Town via a network of pipes. He noted a water tank or reservoir was currently being reviewed as a joint effort with Rockingham County to resolve some issues with the new schools regarding fire protection, demand and a resolution to benefit the community.

Mr. Fewster noted that total costs were undetermined. However, wastewater improvements would cost $1.5 – 5 million and water an estimated $1-2 million. The impact on rates could not be determined due to financial questions such as loans, grants and borrowed funds.

Mr. Fewster spoke of a timeline for compliance regarding wastewater. He noted aggressive treatment over the upcoming three months with an additional nine months of stabilizing work forthcoming. He noted the "school's schedule" was to be completed by September 2009 which was the schedule the Town would also adhere to. He noted a meeting could take place with Rockingham County to discuss a future plan favorable to all parties.

Town Attorney M. Christopher Sigler spoke regarding the process for compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality. He noted the Town's receipt of a Notice of Violation from DEQ. A meeting was scheduled and took place between the Town and DEQ to discuss the violations. He noted a plan of action was requested from the Town by DEQ within thirty days. With the assistance of Anderson & Associates, the Town had prepared and submitted their plan to DEQ. He noted that DEQ would review the plan and return comments to the Town on their submission. A consent order would be entered into by the Town and DEQ to define the plan of action to be taken, the timeline for such actions and how the Town would come into compliance. He noted that the Town had aggressively taken action to address problems and outstanding issues to bring the plant into compliance.

Town Attorney C. Sigler thanked Mike Breeden for attending the meeting and noted the Town looked forward to working with the County on the future matters mentioned.

A brief question and answer session took place in which some technical questions were asked by citizens that were addressed by Mr. Fewster. Such matters addressed were: operational procedures, capacity, belt press, clarifiers, equalization basin, and pump stations.

Council member O'Neill addressed rates and future improvements. Mr. Fewster noted that additional data would be reviewed and additional testing on effluent, affluent and operating would be performed. He noted Phase I was prepared to address solids management and that matter was being addressed. Phase II and III involved issues with clarifiers, building work and the UV unit at peak flows. He noted clarifiers would be a big expense but was optimistic about other techniques which the Town may be able to use with clarifiers.

Vice Mayor Dearing noted that no water and sewer rate increase had taken place in the past eighteen years. He noted, based on the proposal submitted to DEQ, the Town would need to fund $1.5 million by May of 2009. He briefly discussed the purchase of a water tank and the timeline for the job to be completed. He noted those issues would

have a financial impact on the Town. Mr. Fewster noted that grants and loans were available. He noted that funding was often dictated by the amount of a Town's rates.

Council member O'Neill questioned if the study provided by Anderson & Associates dealt with the Town's water capacity. Mr. Fewster noted the report did not and that the wastewater study and rate study were two separate reports. Council member O'Neill noted his concern regarding time and the need for funding. Mr. Fewster concurred funds were needed now, but could not commit to any financial figures until future positions were taken in regards to possible partnering with the County and a resolution with DEQ. It was determined funding of $1.5 million would be required to move forward in the next twelve months regarding the wastewater treatment plant. Funds for I&I were undetermined at the time of the meeting as ongoing data was still being gathered. Mr. Fewster suggested a permanent I&I program be implemented by the Town.

Council member Kite thanked Chris Fewster for assisting the operators at the Town's wastewater treatment plant. He queried if the Town could sell the Kite property considering the outstanding issues and impact at the plant. Mr. Fewster stated the Town would need to review what impact the project would have on the Town and have a downstream analysis prepared from the connection point to the plant. Capacity issues were not limited to the plant but could exist elsewhere in the collection system.

Council member Isom queried of grants, funding for the plant and partnering with the schools as opposed to all funding coming for the Town. Mr. Fewster noted that grants needed to be tailored to specific projects. Correcting operational problems, maintenance problems, and equipment problems could not be funded by grants from DEQ. He noted other programs were available via revolving loans or grants with certain restrictions. He noted Anderson and Associates could assist the Town with the process. However, some of the programs for funding were not available since the deadlines had expired.

Financial figures for the Town's upcoming fiscal budget discussed.

Mayor Printz noted that there were wells that could be put into service for the Town as an option for the water and sewer treatment plant. He noted that action could save the Town funds.

Mr. Fewster noted discussions with DEQ and County regarding the schools would take place over the next six weeks. He noted that he and Dale Lehnig, of Anderson & Associates would work with the Town to establish financial figures for the budget.

Mayor Printz noted that 200,000 gallons of water was infiltrating the plant. Mr. Fewster briefly discussed infiltration searches.

Additional discussions took place regarding new technology such as a membrane for clarifiers, pump stations, and selling of the Kite property.

Mayor Printz thanked the public, Mr. Fewster and Town Attorney C. Sigler.

Council member O'Neill moved, seconded by Council member Kite, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, M. O'Neill and D. Kite

NAYS: None

VOTE: (4 – 0 voice vote) Motion carried

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz

Recorder: _____
Denise R. Monger, Clerk

APPENDIX A

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF ELKTON
April 21, 2008
5:30 p.m.

Mayor Wayne E. Printz has called a Special Meeting of the Elkton Town Council on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., at the Elkton Area Community Center located at 20593 Blue and Gold Drive in Elkton, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. Closed Session – Potential Litigation (5:30 p.m.)

2. Public Information Meeting regarding Water and Sewer Plant and Pending Matter with DEQ (5:45 p.m.)

3. Hearing regarding the Revocation of Home Occupation Permit for Scott Knight (6:45 p.m.)

The Regular Council Meeting will follow the conclusion of the above-referenced meetings.