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POTOMAC NEWS, Dumfries, Va., November 10, 1977, Page B-4

# End of a town?

## Haymarket considers dropping charter

The Town of Haymarket will consider a proposal to surrender its 178 year-old town charter as soon as the Town Attorney Turner T. Smith prepares the necessary documents.

The council directed Smith to gather all information regarding the legal implications of abandoning the town charter at a special 2½ hour meeting recently.

While a decision has not been made whether a public hearing will be set by the council, Mayor Hugh Orndoff indicated he believes the residents of Haymarket are unwilling to surrender the charter.

"After the matter is

thrashed around, I doubt the people will want to give it up," he said.

John Sloper, administrator of the Greater Manassas and Yorkshire Sanitary District, said he would like to see the town become part of the sanitary district.

"Otherwise, the town and the sanitary district will have to charge separate rates," said Sloper.

Three alternative solutions—for the town to abandon its charter and become part of the sanitary district; to sign a contract with a private firm or the sanitary district to build, operate,

and collect fees for the system; or to construct its own sewage facilities—were offered by Sloper at the special meeting.

Since 50 septic tanks in the town have been declared a health hazard by the Virginia State Health Department after the results of a survey conducted by the Prince William Health District, the council is faced with the problem of solving an expensive sewage problem.

Garnett C. Ball Jr., director of finance for Prince William County, says the surrender of the charter would have no financial impact on the

county because the town already pays county taxes.

The second issue that would be affected by the abandonment of the charter is the town's court system and police force, which would be automatically terminated.

Currently, the county police force must receive permission from the town's judge, Arthur Stickley, to make arrests and serve warrants in the town.

The council is confronted with the prospect of surrendering the charter because of new requirements imposed on small towns in the state of Virginia.

The state General Assembly passed a bill in July 1975 requiring towns to have comprehensive development plans, a planning commission, subdivision ordinances, animal control laws, soil and erosion control ordinances by July 1, 1977, according to the town attorney.