

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
August 4, 2008**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ellery Adams at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Bill Mills and Robert Stacey.

Attendance: Jeanette Hall, Barbara Bennett, Harold Moxley, Bill Willis, Wendy Adams, Stephanie Dalton, Dee Harrison, Mike Blanchfield, Abby Schmidt of the Times-Record, Town Attorney Walter Palmer, Chief Reed.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Reed gave his monthly report. He said

- there were 26 calls for service;
- 15 warnings; 4 citations; 2 repair orders
- and 1 arrest.
- they downloaded the Speed Sentry data and he was impressed. It was set up in a 25 mile speed zone and the average speed was 24.2 mph. 50% of the speed recorded was 24 mph. 85% of the speed was under 28 mph. That was on Backlanding Rd. and Main St.

Public Works Report: Robert Stacey gave the public works report for Dale Whitley. He reported

- they borrowed a bucket truck from the Town of Hurlock and put up flags on all the poles on Main St.
- while they had the truck they took down a tree in the alley between 101 and 103 Noble Avenue
- they continued the removal of downed trees fallen on our neighbor's property at the lagoon
- all the brush dumped next to the Town shop has been removed
- they replaced a faulty meter on Williamson St.
- they repaired a valve leak at 161 Main St.
- they installed a new curb stop, meter and meter pit at 205 Main St.
- they repaired two water leaks inside the water building and replaced the chemical feed pump
- they relocated the phone line at the Town Hall
- they planted 40 more trees at the park and will continue to water them
- they shut down the sewer plant and started the annual cleanup.
- They had to bring the #1 aerator to shore to clean it out as it was clogged.
- They sprayed all the weeds on the shore of the primary and secondary lagoon
- The Town truck was in the shop three times, but seems to be working now.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting were approved by all.

The minutes of the Public Hearing on the Budget were approved by all.

Unfinished Business: Ellery said

- that there has been discussion for several years for a new police building and the police department is currently in temporary headquarters on Wright St. The Commissioners are actively seeking to find a new, permanent building for Preston Police Dept. and the Town is going to advertise for bids for a pole building constructed of metal. It will be in the paper as soon as specific details are ironed out.
- Our wastewater capacity has finally been approved for an additional 40 or more units and building permits that have been on hold will be issued as they are requested. At this time, it is policy of the Commission to allow building permits only for in-fill lots, no developments.
- After Ellery asked Mr. Palmer about the results of his research for the rental of the Lions Club building, Mr. Palmer said he discussed it with Mr. Fisher of the Lions Club. Mr. Palmer said he wants to circulate a draft to the Lion's Club and Fire Company to make sure it is agreeable with everyone. He will try to have it done by the August work session.
- All of the limbs and debris from the tornado has been removed and there is to be no more dumping of debris on Town property.

New Business: The July bills were approved for payment unanimously.

- Ellery advised that the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, due to Labor Day being on the first Monday of the month.

ON AGENDA:

- Ellery introduced Thomas Duncan from Senator Colburn’s office and he made a statement in support of Easton Memorial Hospital being relocated in or near Easton, Maryland and asked for the endorsement of the Commissioners of Preston also.
- Bill Willis asked Commissioner Mills if he was in support of five Commissioners. Bill Mills said he was in agreement however he would like to see the Presidency status changed in that: if a sitting President is nominated for a second term, he must have unanimous consent of the Commissioners and if that doesn’t happen then the President should be picked as is currently done. Bill Willis reiterated having five Commissioners would eliminate having two as a quorum. The terms could be worked out.
- Mr. Palmer asked about Jonestown, even though it should have been in “Old Business”. Ellery said the ball is in Caroline County’s court at this point. He said U.S.D.A. indicated there would be some grants available if the Town would get water and sewer to Jonestown, which would benefit Jonestown. He said until there is something there to benefit Preston, he does not see it happening.
- Mike Blanchfield said he would like to see a skateboard park in Preston. He said he can have one built for under \$13,000.00. He said he wants a yes or no vote now. Ellery said he is against it. Mike then said the liability is covered under the Town’s insurance. Mr. Palmer said Mimi asked about it last year and there is little to no additional premium. Bill Mills suggested Mike talk to Ridgely first. Mike said he will raise the money. Bill Mills also said he would need a lot more information and work the details out. Ellery asked that he come back with a more detailed plan of size, safety issues, who is going to operate it, what kind of fence, location, etc. Also, is there an alternative to the skateboard park?
- Mike then mentioned a Night Out for the various police departments which is held in August. The Chief said he would like to plan for next year. They have hamburgers, hotdogs, music and other things.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On July 25, 2008, at 7:29 p.m., Commissioners Ellery Adams and Bill Mills voted to hold a Special Meeting to consider a motion to go into an executive or closed meeting, under OMA Article 10-508 (a) Sect. (1) (i) and (ii) regarding personnel matters. Both Commissioners voted for closure. A closed meeting was held July 25, 2008 at the Preston Town Hall, from 7:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Mimi Willis were present, together with Jim Fisher and Town Attorney Walter Palmer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

On July 25, 2008 at 7:46 p.m., the Special meeting was reopened by Commissioners Ellery Adams and Bill Mills. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.