

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
July 7, 2008**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ellery Adams at 7:10 p.m. Also present were Commissioner Bill Mills, Commissioner Robert Stacey, and Mimi Willis.

Attendance: Abby Schmidt of the Times-Record, Bill Willis, Dee Harrison, Ellen Cyrana, Michelle Barry, Kathleen Barry, Mickey McCrea, Shannon Hart, Bob Lorenz, Attorney Walter Palmer and Chief Robert Reed.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Public Works Report: Robert Stacey gave the Public Works report submitted by Dale Whitley, who said he:

- repaired #1 aerator
- called Mr. Rooter to clear sewer blockage between Messick Ave. and Noble Ave.
- handed out sample bottles for lead and copper testing and turned them over to the lab. Mimi said they all passed.
- prepared inventory for the auditor
- handled several repairs at the sewer plant.
- disposed of 18 tires dumped on Railroad Avenue
- read all the meters in Town
- received annual Drinking Water Quality report showing our water quality is very good.
- The biggest job this month was cleaning up after the June 4th storm. The storm debris should be removed shortly.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Reed gave his report for May including:

- 17 calls for service
- 12 warnings
- 2 traffic citations
- 2 arrests
- worked the traffic after the storm
- moved the Police Dept. to Chambers St.
- received the new speed sign
- worked the carnival the week of June 16th
- made one arrest for disorderly conduct at the parade
- handled a group from the carnival who were disorderly
- assisted Greensboro with their carnival
- handled a burglary and a couple of thefts; arrests are pending.
- He named 3 NRP officers who helped the Town during the storm; Officer Darin Moore, Cpl. Ross Parker; Sgt. John Buchanan. He will send thank yous to them and Chief Johnson.
- He brought up an issue regarding the Lions Club. Back on May 25th they were rented by a group of folks from Hurlock who had a party and dance and were charging to get in. About 1:06 a.m. the dispatcher said he received a call that there had been a fight and shots were fired at the parking lot at the Lions Club. The same group came back and rented it again on June 4th. They had to be shut down about 12:45 a.m. On Saturday night, the party at the Lions Club was still going after midnight and he had to call the rental officer and he came out. They had to shut them down again, a fight broke out with about 40 to 50 participants. He would like to see the Town bill the Lions Club for any police presence required. Bill Mills said he talked to Jim Fisher, the new president of the Lions Club. He is in the process of drafting an ordinance to give the Town and the owners/renters control over what is going on.
- Ellery said if the Lions Club and/or the Fire Dept. would like Town input, the Commissioners would be happy to meet with them.

Unfinished Business:

- Ellery brought up the school crossing guard. He said the Town has not heard from the Board of Education and asked Mimi to send another letter and if they need to meet with the Commissioners, let them know. Mimi said the last she heard, they were going to check with other Towns to see what they are doing.
- Ellery stated the speed alert sign is now owned by the Town and has been in use for approximately 3 weeks and will be moved from place to place.
- Ellery discussed the Town's wastewater capacity from Maryland Dept. of Environment. It is out of the Town's control and under State control. Patsy Allen of MDE met with the Commissioners about 2 months ago and has given her approval for approximately 43 or more new units. However, it is being held up by

the County level. Mr. Don Wilson has not given the go ahead and it is not our call. We have written several letters, made several phone calls, and we do not know what the hold up is at the County level, although it is still a State agency.

- The Town's reforestation brochure has been mailed to all residents in Tidewater Farms to show what is and what isn't allowed in the forestation areas.
- Mr. Malkus has sent a violation notice to an address who must repair a sewer line that leaks into the water line because it is a health hazard. Ellery urged support from the Commissioners for Mr. Malkus.
- The Barnhardt's have hired an attorney to help resolve Planning and Zoning issues they feel they have with the EMS building.
- Ellery asked Bob Lorenz to attend the County Comprehensive Plan meeting July 10th from 10-12 at the HAPS Bldg.
- Regarding Jonestown, Ellery said he has correspondence from the State informing us they would like to work with Preston and the County and are willing to get grants to upgrade our sewer system. The Commissioners had decided not to sign a Memorandum of Understanding but to listen to what was proposed to see if there is anything that will be of benefit to Preston and Jonestown. Mr. Palmer said there is a request being sent from the County to the State to study the need for sewer to be extended to Jonestown. That is the first step to having sewer added to the water.

New Business:

- The June bills were approved for payment unanimously.
- Ellery asked Mimi if she had filed a claim for damages with L.G.I.T. from the tornado. She said she filed a preliminary claim form and they are going to send an adjuster out to see the damages incurred; such as the fence; the garage door, the cupola on the pavilion.
- Kathleen asked about the County supplying a wood chipper. Mimi said the County said their gas budget was gone and they didn't have the manpower, so they couldn't give us dumpsters or a chipper and if they do it for us they will have to do it for everyone.
- Ellery said the police station has moved to Wright St., Apt. I at Jensenstead. He asked Chief Reed if he had put a sign out yet identifying it and the Chief said he had not. Commissioner Mills said the police department phone number should be put up on the signs for at least a week. The phone number has not changed, it is 410-673-2918, and the new fax number is 410-673-1303.
- Walter Palmer talked about the rental ordinance. He suggested an application signed by both the facility's owner and the person renting the facility. Bill Mills suggested a sponsor be listed for the renter. Mr. Palmer suggested a two-tier approach; one for events that are free and another for events that charge, and maybe post a bond for events that charge. Bill Mills then suggested that any additional required expense for security should become a permit fee. Mr. Palmer suggested maybe a fee charged in advance and refunded if not used.
- Ellery said the owners of the storage buildings on Mill St. have come to an agreement with Planning and Zoning for their required screen.

On Agenda:

- Dee Harrison said:
 - she was withdrawing from annexation.
 - she mentioned the alley she maintains that belongs to the Town. Ellery said the Commissioners decided about 3 years ago that the Town will not give up any rights to their alleys and he asked Mimi to find the reference and mail her a copy. Ellery asked Public Works to go and look at it.
- Stephanie Dalton was on the agenda but was not present.
- Commissioner Bill Mills:
 - resigned from the Preston Parks and Recreation Committee effective immediately.
 - asked the Chief where the Town stands for getting another police officer. The Chief said he is looking at the academy and has not found anyone. Bill then asked about part-time and the Chief said he has not found anyone for part-time either.
 - asked how he determines the Drug Task Force hours as compared to what we pay them. The Chief said he does not know how the Town has that set up but they have been working. Bill said now would be a good time to meet with them. The Chief said he could set up a meeting with the Drug Task Force and the Commissioners and Bill said he would like it advertised for public input.
 - said regarding the speed sign, he would like to see us get organized rapidly, get a program, a schedule, move it around town, download the data, present the data to the citizens and analyze the

data. Ellery said when the sign is moved, it should be charged over night, according to the manufacturer. Bill suggested to move it to the brush pile and indicate no more dumping. Commissioner Stacey asked the Chief if he needs more schooling to operate the speed sign. He said he thinks so.

A discussion was held to get another hitch installed.

Bill Willis said:

In November of 2006, Reverend Wheatley suggested the Commissioners change the Charter to have five (5) Commissioners instead of three (3) and he would like to get a commitment that the current Commissioners are willing to change the Charter to five (5) commissioners. A quorum is currently two (2) Commissioners and two cannot talk about Town business without violating the Open Meetings Act. Ellery said he would support it. Commissioner Mills said he would have to think about it. Commissioner Stacey said he was for it. Ellery asked Mr. Palmer to give him a rough draft for next meeting.

A discussion was then held regarding the request by Mr. Barnhardt's attorney for copies of minutes.

Kathleen said she prepares the Planning and Zoning minutes and Mr. Palmer said they are a matter of public record. He advised any requests should go through the Town Manager and she will notify Mr. Palmer if necessary. Mimi said she e-mails Mr. Palmer, the Commissioners and Planning and Zoning members to keep everyone informed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On June 27, 2008, at 7:24 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, to discuss personnel matters. Both Commissioners voted for closure.

A closed meeting was held June 27, 2008 at the Preston Town Hall, from 7:25 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills, and Mimi Willis were present. The meeting was closed under OMA Article 10.508(a)(1) to discuss personnel issues. It was decided that the part time contract labor police officer be put on the payroll for liability purposes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

On June 27, 2008, at 7:46 p.m., the Special meeting was reopened by Commissioners Ellery Adams and Bill Mills. Ellery advised that the Commissioners decided that the part time police officer currently considered contract labor be put on the payroll for liability purposes. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

**TOWN OF PRESTON
PUBLIC HEARING
July 7, 2008**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Commissioner Ellery Adams at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioner Bill Mills, Commissioner Robert Stacey, and Mimi Willis.

Attendance: Abby Schmidt of the Times-Record, Bill Willis, Dee Harrison, Ellen Cyrana, Michelle Barry, Kathleen Barry, Mickey McCrea, Shannon Hart, Bob Lorenz, Attorney Walter Palmer and Chief Robert Reed.

- A public hearing was held to adopt the budget for 2008-09 because there was no quorum for the hearing scheduled for June 23rd to adopt the 2008-09 budget.
- Commissioner Adams then read the second reading of the Budget Ordinance and asked that all in favor of approval of the new budget say "aye" and the vote for approval was

unanimous. He then stated the new budget takes effect immediately and retroactively as of July 1, 2008.

- Bill Mills then stated the emergency legislation previously enacted covered the period of July 1, 2008 until the new budget was adopted.

Fran Johnson