

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
October 6, 2008**

The regular meeting 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: Harold Moxley, Michelle Barry, Bill Willis, Kathleen Barry, Mike Blanchfield, Gary Waltemeyer, Attorney Walter Palmer, Abby Schmidt from the Times-Record, and Chief Robert Reed.

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

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

- 10 calls for service
- 17 warnings
- 7 traffic citations
- 1 arrest
- 2 assists for other agencies
- 1 emergency evaluation
- He took one of the shotguns out of service
- The prisoner retaining bench has been installed and used
- An animal cruelty complaint was turned over to the Humane Society

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

- started the sewer plant this month and is very happy with the new equipment installed.
- sprayed the shoreline of both lagoons for weeds and most of the streets in town
- took one aerator out and sent it for repairs
- took the Town's sewer machine to a shop in Cordova that specialized in jet machines and it is not back yet
- reinstalled the pump at the lift station in Tidewater after having new seals installed. Don't get alarms anymore
- replaced a signpost on Lednum Ave. that was broken off at the ground. The sign was o.k.
- relocated a water meter at the hair salon because the dock and handicap ramp are being replaced. Water in the area was off for about 25 minutes during the change over.
- took the Public Works car to the shop to get the back window replaced which was broken in the June storm. also repaired the radio and mounted the license plate on the front bumper. It is now ready for use.
- repaired the fence at the shop and the light at the north end of the building that was damaged in the June storm. He also had a company come out and repair six parts of the lagoon's fence that was damaged in the June storm. They actually wove the fence together and did a great job.
- read all of the meters in town for the quarterly billing
- to report on the proceeds from the auction last month: the bicycles brought in \$62.42; plastic pipe from the school paving project-\$305.95; old mower-\$500.00; and backhoe attachment-\$2,500.00. After commission, received total of \$3,143.42 to go into the highway fund.

Ellery then stated there had been a closed session just prior to this meeting and said they interviewed a police officer for possible hire; discussed salary and benefits for certain employees.

Unfinished Business:

Ellery then reported:

- the bid for the new Town building was given to T. J. Farms. Mr. Lorenz advised we need a survey done and have the building located properly on the lot, etc. He suggested hiring a surveyor that can do it in a reasonable length of time. Bill Mills asked Mimi to make some phone calls to get prices and availability. Bill Mills then made a motion that the Town Manager, Mimi Willis, call three reputable survey companies to see who sets the lowest bid for the survey at the location for the new building at the Public Works area, to be completed within fifteen days. Robert Stacey seconded and it was unanimously passed.
- Bill Mills then said the last time they met they agreed to borrow the money from the Town temporarily and he thinks a Resolution should be passed indicating the latest the money should be put back. Bill then said they can discuss it at the next work session. Mimi volunteered to draw up a Resolution and leave the dates blank.
- Ellery then said a quote was received for \$1,200.00 from Snell & Sons for repairs on the pavilion due to the tornado damage. Robert made a motion to repair the pavilion shingles and cupola for \$1,200.00, seconded by Mr. Mills, approved by all.
- Regarding Charter Amendment and third party rental Ordinance, Walter Palmer said he has broken the Charter Amendments in two; one increasing the Commission size from three to five each for three year terms. The elections would actually be two commissioners one year, two commissioners the next year and one commissioner the third year. The other Charter Amendment was that if the current President or Vice-President desires to continue in that position for

an additional year, initially requiring a unanimous vote to succeed oneself and, after that, a majority vote of the nomination will be required.

- Mr. Palmer also updated on the Rental Ordinance. He said he e-mailed it to Maggie Rogers, the contact person for the Lions Club around Sept. 24th in time for their meeting and he has not heard back. He said he called Mr. Fearins to get his e-mail address and the two e-mail carriers are not compatible, so he is going to get his address and mail it to him. Ellery said he talked to one of the Lions Club members and they are not happy with the Ordinance. They are satisfied with what they did on their own. He suggested a sit down with the Lions Club and Fire Company to iron it out in the next month.
- He then discussed the letter sent for the extension on the Jonestown request on the 10 day deadline to reply. It was denied and Caroline County said they were going to take care of it on their own. Bill Willis asked why there was no public hearing of this issue. Ellery said there was not enough information to have a hearing.
- Mr. Cosden has approved putting barriers behind his store, which would be between Shore Stop and Tidewater Farms. Norris Taylor could supply concrete barriers at \$65.00 each for about 10 barriers or \$650.00. The delivery charge is \$45.00. Bill Mills made a motion to approve concrete barriers between Shore Stop and Tidewater Farms, not to exceed \$500.00, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously carried.
- The State has reviewed the "No Parking" signs on Maple Ave. and they will make some corrections.

New Business:

- The October bills were approved for payment unanimously.
- Ellery said we did receive a letter from Sen. Colburn thanking us for our support for trying to get a County Delegate, since we are the only County without a resident delegate.
- We received a letter from Bryan Gadow in opposition to a traffic light on Maple Ave. and Main St. Ellery to forward the letter to Sen. Colburn.
- Caroline County Historical Society is requesting donation of \$35.00 and extending invitations to Commissioners for lunch November 8th. The donation is for the ceremony for two former governors; Governor Tribitt and Governor Hughes. A motion was made by Bill Mills to send \$35.00 for the donation, seconded and unanimously approved.
- Ellery suggested Halloween be celebrated Friday, Oct. 31st. Ellery asked the Chief to put the message on the traffic control sign and asked Robert Stacey to put it on the Town signs. Ellery suggested Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. and everyone was in agreement. Ellery asked Mimi to prepare an announcement for the newspaper.
- Ellery asked Kathleen for an update on the webpage. Kathleen said she has been working with Larry Bodzer to expand the list of businesses and churches and adding the schools. She said the webpage we had through the school was functional but the one through Mr. Bodzer appears to look better and is more user friendly. Ellery said the webpage through the school was paid for by donations only and no fee was required. This time a charge is required. Kathleen thinks it is a one-time only charge. Bill Mills asked if she could get a contract with him. Kathleen said o.k. Ellery made a motion to hire Mr. Bodzer to handle our website, subject to receiving a contract agreeable to him and the Town. Bill Mills seconded, unanimously approved. Bill Mills asked if new ordinances could be posted on the website for 90 days and then put in the Codes section. Kathleen said yes.
- Robert Stacey said some citizens requested lights on Railroad and Main and Chambers. Mr. Waltemeyer said he was asked by Judy Noel to request lights because she walks her dogs after dark on Railroad Ave. He said Victor Collins also requested additional lights. The Commissioners decided to go there after the meeting and look at it themselves. The one at the ball park is in Caroline County. The Chief said some of the lights on Apple Lane are much dimmer than the rest of the Town. A repairman from Delmarva Power told him a different type of bulb would have to be put in to make it brighter and the Town would have to put a request in. Ellery said if there is a light out on a pole, take the numbers off and call Delmarva Power to replace, or give them to Mimi to report it.
- Ellery advised that Roger Banko has stepped down from Planning and Zoning and Kathleen Barry has agreed to fill his position. Bill Mills made a motion to send a framed letter to Mr. Banko thanking him for his service, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously approved.
- Ellery then swore Kathleen Barry in as a Planning and Zoning member.

ON AGENDA:

Mr. Mike Blanchfield, on behalf of Parks and Recs. Committee, said there will be another movie and costume party on October 25, 2008, for children 12 and under, and he is looking for volunteers. It is free. He would like a volleyball court at the park. There is also a horseshoe pit and Dale can go ahead and rework it. He also suggested a library for kids to use computers, perhaps a community senior center. Ellery said the Town now depends on the Bookmobile. Ellery said computers may be set up in a portion of the new building. Bill Mills said perhaps books from Denton could be ordered on the computer and delivered with the Bookmobile. Mike said at least four computers would be necessary. The Bookmobile could be asked to stop at the new building.

He also suggested a skateboard park again. He has all the information. It can be any size we want; need a fence for security; don't need lights; the kids would be safer in a controlled area. It would be owned by the Town and it won't cost the Town a dime. He has contributors lined up. Ellery said to bring this back on paper to a work session something more specific, such as size, height, ramps, etc., so the Commissioners can ask questions. Mike said it would be 35' x 50' with 4 ramps.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On September 22, 2008, at 8:09 p.m., Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey voted to hold a Special Meeting to consider a motion to go into an executive or closed meeting, under OMA Article 10-508(a)(1)(ii) and (7), to discuss personnel matters. All three Commissioners voted for closure.

A closed meeting was held September 22, 2008 at the Preston Town Hall, from 8:10 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey, Mimi Willis and Town Attorney Walter Palmer, Chief Reed were present, . The meeting was closed under OMA Article 10.508(a)(1)(ii) and (7) to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

On September 22, 2008, at 9:01 p.m., the Special meeting was reopened by Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey. Ellery advised that no decision was made. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

On October 6, 2008, at 6:17 p.m., Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey voted to hold a Special Meeting to consider a motion to go into an executive or closed meeting, under OMA Article 10-508(a)(1)(i) , to discuss personnel matters. All three Commissioners voted for closure.

A closed meeting was held October 06, 2008 at the Preston Town Hall, from 6:18 p.m. to 6:58 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey, Mimi Willis and Chief Reed and Marcus Trice were present, . The meeting was closed under OMA Article 10.508(a)(1)(i) to discuss personnel issues. Ellery said they interviewed a police officer for possible hire; discussed salary and benefits for certain employees. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

On October 6, 2008, at 6:59 p.m., the Special meeting was reopened by Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey. Ellery advised that no decision was made. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.