

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
September 2, 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: Robert H. Lorenz, Gary Waltemeyer, Barbara Bennett, Michelle Barry, Kathleen Barry, Harold Moxley, Jeanette Hall, Dan Debillio from the Times-Record, and Chief Robert Reed.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.
- The minutes of the August 25, 2008 Public Hearing were approved as presented

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

- 21 calls for service
- 25 warnings
- 5 traffic citations
- 2 arrests
- moved the new speed sign around to various locations
- working on 2 child abuse crimes
- Bill Mills said he believes the speed sign is too sensitive since it also picks up people walking and bicycles
- Kathleen asked that Sunset Blvd. be placed on the list for the speed sign
- Ellery asked about increased visibility. The Chief said he is trying to hire another officer. He said he has two candidates to pick up applications. He interviewed several already.

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

- had ASG security repair the cameras that were damaged in the June storm.
- got bids to repair the fence at the lagoon, the pavilion at the park and the garage door at the shop.
- repaired a water hydrant at the park damaged by vandals. Also staked and taped a tree that had been kicked over.
- watered trees at the park several times a week.
- flushed fire hydrants on Chambers St. and Maple Ave. to get the water circulating better
- removed pump #2 from the pumping station for repairs but has not been reinstalled yet.
- Took most of the old bicycles accumulated over the years to a local auction, together with an old lawn mower, backhoe attachment, riding mower with a bad engine and some old drain pipe.
- Put out late notices for water bills, 30 in all.
- Biggest project of the month was work on the sewer plant. Cleaned the chambers, installed diffuser motor, installed new scales and a new automatic switchover system for our chlorine and sulfur dioxide tanks.

Unfinished Business:

- Ellery said last week there was a public hearing on the pole building bids and he asked Commissioner Bill Mills to chair the meeting.
- He then asked Kathleen Barry for an update on the website. She said the public notice for last week's meeting did not go out since she was out of town. However, she has been posting public meeting notices. Larry Bodzer who was with Caroline County schools has opened his own business and we will be working with him. She does not know if there will be a fee now and, if so, she would like authorization to update the website completely to make it more modern. Mimi said the Town paid him the \$300.00 usually donated to the school and he will redesign the webpage. Ellery told Kathleen to tell Mr. Bodzer what she has in mind and get a price for it.
- Bill Mills suggested businesses join in for a fee of perhaps \$10.00 per business.
- Ellery said the bids were opened last week for the pole building to be used as a town office, meeting hall and police station. Bill Mills said there was no decision made at that time. However, the size of the building is 45' x 90'. The bid we requested was for the framing of the structure. The concrete work will be bid on separately. T J Farms came in with \$50,800.; Delmarva Pole Building came in with \$52,860.63; Built To Last - \$43,922.92; Wooleyhand Construction - \$45,892.82; Double Tree Construction - \$69,842. At the end of the meeting, there was a question on Built To Last and Wooleyhand Construction as to whether or not the

bid was for 10' or 12' height. Mimi said she called them and they confirmed it was for 12'. Wooleyhand e-mailed her and confirmed the height of 12' and the gable height would be approximately 20'. Ellery said the bids from Built To Last and Wooleyhand were identical, except for the prices. He then said the original plan was to put in 2 interior walls and he asked Bob Lorenz if it would be cheaper to put them in now or later. Bob said he didn't think it would make that much difference. Bill Mills said he does not feel comfortable to make a decision at this time. Ellery said he would like to see a couple more part time police officers to fill the 80 hours budgeted. Robert Stacey said he would like to get something started before the prices increase. The Commissioners decided to make a decision at a Public Hearing before the work session on September 22, 2008.

- Ellery asked about the pavilion repairs and Robert said he talked to Mr. Ewing regarding the roof repairs and he said he would replace the shingles. Mimi said that LGIT will issue a partial check for our claims until all the bills have been received for fixing everything. The most expensive was branch/debris removal and, since it happened before the beginning of the new year, there is a \$500.00 maximum. This year the maximum was increased to \$10,000.00.
- Ellery then discussed the proposed ordinance for approval process for public parties in Town, prepared by the Town attorney. He said a meeting will be held with the Lions Club, Fire Company, Commission and our Town attorney to work out details.
- He said discussion to increase Commissioners from 3 to 5 seems to have some support, and he has a proposed ordinance. It will be presented at a meeting after the Commission has met with the Town attorney for review.
- The Commissioners of Preston sent a letter to the Governor supporting keeping the hospital where it is in Easton.
- Mimi said she received the Police Department inventory today. The Chief is still working on getting Comcast. There are 2 accounts involved and Mimi suggested the Chief call and cancel one of them, since the contract was not signed.
- Ellery mentioned advertising in Discover magazine. Mimi said Margaret would be willing to approach the businesses to see if they would be willing to donate. Bill Mills made a motion to pay one-half of the bill (\$425.00), and the businesses to pay one-half, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously carried.
- Caroline County has taken over the school crossing guard duties officially.
- Ellery discussed the speeding police cars in residential areas in Ridgley a year ago and a couple of weeks ago in St. Michaels. He said only one police department speeds in the Town limits and he has personally told the State Police about this more than once. Robert Stacey suggested the matter be brought before the County Municipalities meeting.
- Mimi said complaints have been received about the condition behind Mr. Taylor's building regarding trash, etc. She talked to him and he will have it cleaned up by the end of the week.
- Also, she advised that people are pulling the posts out of the ground in the forestation area behind Cosden's so they can go around it or park back there. Mr. Taylor said he would sell concrete barriers to the Town for \$65.00 each and \$45.00 delivery cost. She called the two homeowners involved to make sure they have no objections to the barriers being on their property.
- Barb Bennett said access and egress to Pam's Place is a safety issue. Bill Mills suggested a mirror be put on the wooden pole to see oncoming traffic.
- Jeannette Hall said she can't see coming out of Chambers St. Perhaps pet store could move the flag or sign.
- Bill Mills brought up having No Parking signs on the other side of Maple Avenue. Ellery asked Mimi to write State Highway to ask them to put the No Parking further down for us because of the hazards of the increase in traffic and handicapped people trying to cross there. He also asked the Chief to increase enforcement for the next month. The Chief said he talked to the tractor trailer driver and Mike and they are trying to get it worked out.
- Ellery read a thank you letter received from Talbot County Councilman Thomas Duncan regarding Preston's letter to the Governor requesting the location of the new hospital remain where it is.
- Ellery said he doesn't like to hear there is nothing for kids to do in Preston. He said the churches have activities for children along with the fire house. He would like to see a list of available children's activities.

Kathleen said she would like to try and compose a calendar for Town events along with available children's activities and put it on our website with links to different places.

- He then asked if there are any news items for the next water bill. Mimi said she is putting our webpage in there again. Bob Lorenz said it is a federal and state law that all houses must have addresses. Mimi to put in newsletter. Bill Mills asked that speed sign stats be put in newsletter
- Ellery asked where we are on handicap accessibility. Barbara Bennett then said each business is supposed to have a handicapped parking space. Ellery said he would talk to Mr. Malkus regarding parking regulations.

New Business:

- The September bills were approved for payment unanimously.
- Ellery asked Mimi to bring everyone up to date on the Trail Resolution. She said Maryland Municipal League is trying to start and have the Town participate in what is called Geocache which is like a treasure hunt and they would like to see at least 2 people from each Town participate. You have to have a GPS, a container rubberstamped, etc. It begins in January and ends July 1, with enrollment beginning in October. It is to encourage people to visit small towns.
- Ellery asked Mimi to handle the advertising required for September 22, 2008. The Public Hearing will be at 7 p.m. and the work session will follow immediately thereafter.
- Mimi advised that last month the Town averaged 97,000 gallons of water a day and is allowed 80,000 a day. She said the Commission may want to consider water restrictions. Bill Mills suggested the Town pass legislation to limit automatic lawn sprinklers on odd/even days permanently.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On August 4, 2008, at 8:50 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) Sect. 1, to discuss personnel matters. All three Commissioners voted for closure.

A closed meeting was held August 4, 2008 at the Preston Town Hall, from 8:51 p.m. to 8:59 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Mills and Robert Stacey 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 8:59 p.m.

On August 4, 2008, at 8:59 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 9:00 p.m.