

**Regular Meeting  
Town of Preston  
May 4, 2009**

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

Attendance: Harold D. Moxley, Kathleen Barry, Michelle Barry, Bill Willis, Gary Waltemeyer, Chief Marcus Trise, Abby Schmidt of the Times-Record, Town Attorney Walter Palmer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted.

Commissioner Adams read a statement of appreciation to Commissioner William Mills, to be entered into the minutes. There was also a framed certificate of appreciation, but Mr. Mills was not present to accept. Robert Stacey read the certificate of appreciation to be presented to Commissioner Mills.

Commissioner Adams swore William Willis in as the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Adams said the Maryland Center for Environmental Training recognizes Dale Whitley for Superintendent Certification. He said the Commissioners have been very proud of Mr. Whitley. He is very conscientious, self-motivated in improving himself and meeting deadlines, and taking extra instruction when available.

Commissioner Adams then said Troop 165 Scoutmaster Walter Palmer received an official citation from the Maryland General Assembly recognizing the Troop's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Also, Times Record Reporter Abby Schmidt and Dan Devilio won first place awards for newspaper articles from the Maryland/Del/D.C. Press Association – 2008 Editorial Contest.

Abby won her award in the Arts and Entertainment category.

Ellery then showed a piece of art work by Elise Bryan who is in Preston.

He then advised there is still a vacancy on our Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town needs more volunteers.

Election of the President and Vice President of the Commission was held. Robert Stacey nominated Ellery Adams as President, seconded by Bill Willis. Ellery declared he would be President. Bill Willis nominated Robert Stacey as Vice President, seconded by Ellery Adams. Ellery declared Robert Stacey as Vice-President.

**Police Report:** Chief Trise submitted a Mission Statement for the Police Department created by Officer Black. Ellery read it for the members. Chief Trise reported for the month of April, 2009:

- he had 2 arrests
- there were 26 calls for service
- we issued 84 citations
- there were 7 incident reports
- he just had an IT professional properly back-up all of the Police Dept's records for the past 8 years
- he will also be installing a computer server to help with the future department needs to have the vehicle computers have the ability to communicate with state agencies.

Ellery said the Police Dept. has 2 full time officers and one part-time officer who works approximately 20 hours per week.

**Public Works Report:** Robert Stacy gave the Public Works Report for the month of April. Dale said they:

- installed a new meter and meter pit at a new house on Division St.

- broke out the tops of the clay pipe in two manholes on Fooks Ave. to clean and inspect the entire sewer line.
- Repaired a hole on Division St.
- Repaired a storm drain collapse on Main St.
- Repaired the flag pole and replaced the flags
- Filled in a hole under the fence at the lagoon and cleaned out the ditch on Fooks Ave.
- Got a load of cold patch and repaired several potholes
- Installed an aerometer at the lagoon to record wind speeds for a future project
- Pressure washed the backhoe and serviced all the moving parts
- Repaired the gate at the sewer plant
- Installed four new boxes at the horseshoe pits at the park
- Flushed the hydrants on Maple Ave. and Chambers St.
- Scraped and graded Railroad Ave. and the driveway to the sewer plant
- Moved the speed alert sign and charged the batteries
- Grass cutting is now in full swing, and we also sprayed weeds at the playground, park, both welcome signs, all the streets in town and the lagoon.
- **Unfinished Business:** Ellery discussed the new town building and said it is ahead of schedule. We are receiving solicited and unsolicited bids for various portions of the work including electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heat. He said they welcome volunteers with specific talents in various areas. Bids will be chosen between town meetings and special meetings and will be posted on the bulletin board out front.
- He said he also received an unsolicited bid to have our town wells and pumps inspected, in the amount of \$2,100.00. He suggested it was not necessary at this time and would like to table it. The other Commissioners were in agreement.
- He asked Mimi what was spent on the building as to today. She said without paying the final bill to T. J. Farms that is on the bills to be approved tonight, it is \$45,565.00 plus the \$17,937. for T. J. Farms, for a total of \$63,502,00.
- He then asked Mimi for an update on the sewer ordinance. She said it needs to be clarified as to who pays for what if there is a sewer clog. Dale would like to state the homeowner is responsible for any repairs to the lateral, but the current ordinance states the homeowner is responsible from his house to his property line. Mr. Palmer said he would have something to submit by next meeting.
- Ellery said a letter was sent to the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Blanchfield, because he hadn't heard anything about this year's activities or plans or on the proposed skateboard park. He said Parks and Recreation is a big asset to the town and he thinks they should follow up to see if he is interested or he can submit his resignation so some one else can be appointed. Bill Willis suggested asking the committee members what they think. Ellery asked Mimi to e-mail the commissioners to let them know who they are.
- Also, on Railroad Avenue paving, bids have been received to be considered by the Commissioners. They will be opened at the end of the week. They are to repair the Town's portion of Railroad Avenue.
- Ellery mentioned the evening hours the Town is open on Monday from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for the convenience of the public, which was initiated a little over a year ago. He had a list of every visitor for the last year and the number was very little and each one could have gone a different route: lock box, Internet, phone. It is up for renegotiation at this time at the request of the staff, because Monday is such a busy day. He suggested we

could go back to the old schedule or have someone else come in for the 3-1/2 hrs. on Monday evenings. Commissioner Willis recused himself from the discussion. Ellery then asked Mimi if she had any suggestions. She said because of the small amount of people who took advantage of the service, she really does not see a need to continue it. Ellery suggested she get someone to sit in for the next month, pay her/him as temporary help, and then see what happens. Robert Stacey made a motion that someone sit in for 3 hours, seconded by Bill Willis, unanimously carried. Mimi to make the arrangements. She is also to give the report of who came in during the month and why to the Commissioners.

**New Business:** Ellery said T. J. Farms has done an excellent job on the new building, but it does not have gutters on the gables yet. T. J. Farms said it was not included in the original quote. Ellery said they did put the wrong door in the back of the building. Ellery drew that to T. J. Farms attention today along with a little work on the doors to be done, and he suggested we hold back \$500.00 until the gutters are installed. Bill Willis made a motion to hold the \$500.00 until the gutters are installed, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously approved. Bill Willis made a motion to pay the bills, with the one exception, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously approved.

- Ellery said the County was going to charge the Towns for collecting the taxes this year. He asked Mimi to explain. She said it won't cost us \$2,200.00 to bill and collect our taxes. We have done it before. It would cost around \$300.-\$400. tops for the paper and postage to do the mailings ourselves. Bill Willis made a motion that the town bill and collect our own taxes, seconded by Robert Stacey, unanimously approved.
- Ellery said he spoke with Commissioners Mills and Stacey and all three agreed on the request that the Ruff Riders be in the parade in June and the Fire Company and Lions Club wanted permission to fire blanks. We agreed that it is o.k. as long as they aim their guns in the air and have it approved with our attorney. We do have an ordinance against discharging firearms in the Town limits so we have to have something in writing to make the exception. He asked Mimi and Mr. Palmer to handle it and said he would deliver it.
- Mimi said there is a form from Maryland Municipal League to be completed by June 26<sup>th</sup>, if there are any ideas on new legislation for MML to sponsor and present.
- Ellery set up a date for a budget workshop for Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 4 – 6 p.m.
- Mr. Palmer said he reviewed the firearms ordinance and the Ruff Riders are o.k.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson