

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
June 1, 2009**

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

Attendance: Kathleen Barry, Michelle Barry, Abby Schmidt of the Times Record, and Officer Gary Black.. Ellery pointed out that in the minutes of the previous meeting the name Bryan should have been Bryant. The minutes were approved with that change.

Police Dept. Report: Officer Gary Black gave the Police Department report on behalf of Chief Trise, who was unable to attend, for May including:

- a K-9 dog named Turbo was donated to the Police Dept. He is not an aggressive dog but is trained for tracking.
- there were two arrests, one for domestic violence and the other for theft and forgery
- 15 calls for service
- 8 reports involving personal property crimes
- 30 citations issued
- an E-ticket reader was installed in one of the patrol vehicles and the other vehicle will have an E-ticket reader installed this month. It is an automated system that will help with the issuing of citations.

Public Works Report: Ellery advised that Mr. Stacey is not present due to his recent surgery. He then asked Commissioner Bill Willis to give the Public Works report submitted by Dale Whitley, who said he:

- Cleaned out 200' of the sewer on Main Street
- because the sewer plant has been shut down for the month, the chambers were cleaned and the last collection manhole before the lagoon was pumped down.
- installed two speed limit signs on Chambers St.
- the Town's water was tested for heavy metals this month and the results were very good.
- sprayed the shoreline of the lagoon and the railroad tracks by Sisk's for weeds
- scraped and graded Railroad Avenue
- replaced a fuse in the speed alert sign
- put some crusher run at Maple and Railroad to repair a hole.
- removed dead trees by the post office and park
- trimmed the trees in Tidewater at the request of the post office.
- put flags out at the welcome signs and lowered the town flag to half mast for Memorial Day.
- flushed 3 hydrants in town to help freshen the water supply.
- installed 100' of a new sewer line.
- cut grass

Ellery said they were also a big help on the new building; helping to handle materials, etc.

Unfinished Business: Ellery mentioned:

- Caroline County collecting the Town's taxes for \$2,200.00 per year. He said at our last meeting it was believed we could do it ourselves for \$300. to \$400. and we had a motion and unanimous approval to do it ourselves based on that assumption. Since then, it was brought to my attention some perforated, oversized, special paper would be required. Mimi then said we would have to compute how much to charge for a service fee for people who pay their real estate taxes semi-annually. We have to get with our auditor to determine what kind of service fees and interest to charge those who pay semi-annually. Mimi said she believes the cost would be \$1,000. to \$1,500. this year for the Town to handle the billing. Ellery said it may be simpler just to let Caroline County handle it this year. Mimi said she would like to get in touch with the auditor to see what is involved. Ellery then made a motion to rescind last month's action and leave this to the discretion of the Town Manager for this year, seconded by Commissioner Bill Willis and carried. Ellery asked Mimi to let them know what she finds out in her investigation.
- the new town building has come to a stand still for the last 3 weeks because neither he nor Mr. Stacey was able to work.
- there is a \$5,000.00 limit on our charge account at Lowe's. He suggested paying on the account a couple of times a month. Bill Willis made a motion to pay the Lowe's bills as they come in until the building is completed, seconded by Ellery, carried.
- he said at this point they are ready for electric service to be installed and to put in floor joists for second floor storage areas. Mimi said she got a couple of quotes for security systems, before the drywall and

electrical systems are installed. Ellery said when they reach that point, he will contact some of those who quoted.

- balance of funds spent on the new Town building as of today: \$66,202.14
- Ellery asked Mr. Palmer if the new ordinance for sewer lines has been completed and Mr. Palmer said it has not, but he will bring it to the work session.
- one of the Planning and Zoning members, Mr. Ashley Sard, has moved out of Town, and Mr. Nelson Anderson has been approved as his replacement and has been sworn in.
- there are two bids on Railroad Avenue paving: East Coast Excavating-\$7,300.; Dorchester Dumpin-\$6,700. Commissioner Bill Willis made a motion to accept the bid from Dorchester Dumpin, seconded by Ellery and carried. Ellery then asked Mimi to contact Mr. Turner of Sisk and Son.
- as an update of the tourist train, a feasibility study was mailed off today as required.
- regarding Monday hours, Michelle Barry came in last month on Monday from 3 to 6 p.m. Mimi said there was one visit one day for the Police Dept. and 3 or 4 visitors today due to the turn off notices. Ellery suggested a sign be posted advising the location of the Police Dept. and he also moved to rescind the action taken last year concerning the late hours on Monday and go back to our old schedule effective immediately, seconded by Bill Willis and carried.
- Ellery asked Mimi if our real estate tax rate is \$0.36 per \$100. and our budget is based on the same. Mimi said that is correct and our constant yield is \$0.35. She said he may want to set up another meeting on the budget to incorporate any changes.
- Ellery asked Mimi who was still serving on the Parks and Recreation Board. Mimi said no one is on the Board at this time and she has never heard from Mr. Blanchfield. He said he would like time to contemplate the situation. He wants to determine how the regulations are set up. Mimi said she would get them for him. Ellery suggested an ad in the paper stating "volunteers wanted".

New Business:

- The May bills were approved for payment unanimously.
- The Maryland Attorney General's office has issued an order that all municipalities issuing building permits must collect \$50.00 per new home effective January 1, 2009 and send it to Maryland Guaranty Fund Fee monthly.
- Ellery said Mimi is trying to get us some stimulus money from MDE. Mimi said she thinks they are trying to get the Town to borrow the money for the water line on Main St. It must be signed and returned by June 5th and we would be borrowing over \$1,000,000. Ellery said he does not believe our water line needs replacing. He said the problems are in the laterals. Instead of millions, we are talking thousands of dollars. He suggested getting an estimate to install one from Dale, including parts and labor. Perhaps they could replace 6 a month or 1 a week. There are 103 connections on Main St. and at 1 a week it will take 2 years. Commissioner Willis was in agreement.
- Mimi said State Highway is going to call and let her know exactly when they are going to do the repaving. Also, regarding the stop light, there was an issue with Messick Avenue. They are proposing a 3-way stop light instead of a 4-way stop light and Messick Avenue will have a constant red blinking light.
- Ellery said the Town has been asked to plant a tree at Linchester Mill this Saturday while honoring the veterans. A plaque will be placed showing our donation. Mimi asked Ellery if Dale should pick up a tree. Ellery said yes, an oak would be the strongest.
- Ellery mentioned the warranty on the sign which we purchased last year. Mimi said it costs \$1,200.00 per year. Bill Willis said he is not a fan of extended warranties. Ellery said to take no action on the matter.
- Mimi gave a report on the 2010 Census. In March of 2010 they are going to start the count and would like it put on the website. If we have any migrant workers living in town, they need to be counted. She suggested it be put on the Town sign and that they go to the bank and talk to them regarding the migrant workers. Kathleen suggested the information be put on our web site in Spanish. Mimi will see if she can locate the information in Spanish.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson