

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
July 6, 2009**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ellery Adams at 7:08 p.m. Also present was Commissioner Robert Stacey, Commissioner Bill Willis, and Mimi Willis.

Attendance: Kathleen Barry, Dan Divillio of the Times Record, Attorney Walter Palmer and Chief Marcus Trise.

There being no corrections on the minutes of the previous meeting, Ellery then said the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Ellery read Ordinance amendment to Section 4.5.5.C.1 of the Town Code deleting the words “and maintenance” in the first line of that paragraph, and adding the following sentence at the end of that paragraph: “The costs of maintenance of the building drains and building sewers from the public sewer (main) to the point(s) of use shall be borne by the property owner.”

Ellery then read a prepared statement regarding the state of the Town of Preston as of July, 2009. He pointed out that the State and County has had to lay off and reduce salaries, but the Town of Preston ended the fiscal year in the black and was able to give raises to every employee. The Town is financially in good shape and has an effective, professional and forward looking Police Dept. and the Public Works Dept. has two full-time, motivated employees who are constantly upgrading their relevant education and improving operations. Preston’s Park and Recreation committee is working with renewed vigor and looking for volunteers. The Town Office and Police Dept. are anticipating a move soon to the new facility on Backlanding Rd.

Public Works Report: Ellery asked Commissioner Robert Stacey to give the Public Works report submitted by Dale Whitley, who said he:

- cut grass
- removed dead trees by the transfer station
- sprayed all the sidewalks in town for weeds
- cleaned out storm drain at Chambers and Wright Sts.
- covered a storm drain next to Backlanding Rd. so the carnival patrons could safely walk over it.
- read all the meters in town for the quarterly billing.

Ellery then stated he needed to get approval of the minutes of the second reading of the budget. The Commissioners agreed unanimously to approve the minutes.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Trise gave the Police Department report for June, 2009, including:

- completing a week of UCR training to help with the proper crime reporting to the FBI.
- a computer server was installed to help with file management and the future needs of the police dept., which will be paid for from a Homeland Security grant.
- the police K-9 training is still ongoing with excellent results. The K-9 has completed many tracks for the purpose of locating people/missing children.
- there were no major issues this year from the Carnival.
- 1 accident
- 5 arrests
- 15 citations issued
- 15 calls for service

Unfinished Business: Ellery mentioned:

- the total spent on the new Town building as of today is \$67,305.33
- he said Mr. Wesley Jones is to install the heavy part of the electrical work and he is working with Delmarva Power.

- also Fred Abbott and his crew have been approved to finish the concrete work on the porch, sidewalks and catch basin. Robert said he had to do a little more work on the handicapped ramp also to bring it up to code.
- he said a notice was mailed out for Concerts in the Park: Bittercreek this Saturday, featuring blue grass; Three Penny Opera August 22nd, featuring geezer rock; and Warren Brey with “Bluesprint” on Sept. 5th.
- he said he sent a letter out soliciting sponsors and two have replies; one of them being the Times-Record; and the other being Provident State Bank.
- the horseshoe tournament has not been scheduled but can be used for fun.
- Parks and Recreation committee is still looking for volunteers.
- Mimi brought up the Ordinance to reply the Town for the new building. It was put on hold. Ellery suggested we let it ride for now.
- Commissioner Willis then asked what we are planning to do with the existing building. Ellery said the first thought was to sell it and let it help pay for the new building. It was also suggested to be used for a museum or library.
- Ellery asked Mimi to report on grant money. She said she discussed Preston’s inability to get grant money with Representative Jeannie Hadaway and she said she would check into it for us. She said St. Michaels and Oxford get grant money and their median household income is quite high. Preston’s median household income from the 2000 census is \$48,125.; St. Michaels’ is \$32,578.; Oxford is \$52,054.
- Mimi reported she called Congressman Kratovil’s office to have him come to a Town meeting on August 3rd and was told we are on the list and he will be making his own schedule.
- Ellery said Railroad Avenue has been paved with blacktop millings and everyone is happy.
- he got a call from the President of the Lions Club and asked the Town to pave their road for them. The building belongs to the Lions Club and the lot does not. He suggested we receive more information regarding ownership.

New Business:

- the June billss were approved for payment unanimously, including \$4,878. for electric work to Wesley Jones and \$4,800.+ to Fred Abbot for concrete work. A motion was made by Bill Willis, seconded by Robert Stacey and unanimously approved.
- Mimi told the Commissioners about the new forms required by the auditor where the Commissioners must sign and acknowledge they have reviewed all bills being paid.
- Mimi discussed the ad to be put in the paper for volunteers for the Parks and Recreation committee, which was unanimously approved.
- Mimi advised that the auditor said the minutes must state that Myron Cherry is Ellery’s son-in-law and is a hired laborer for the new building.
- Ellery advised the Town has a meeting scheduled with Tim Fluharty regarding windmills on July 8th at 10 a.m.
- he thanked Kathleen Barry for the work she does for the Town.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson

On June 22, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Willis 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) , to discuss personnel matters. All three Commissioners voted for closure

A closed meeting was held June 22, 2009 at the Preston Town Hall, from 8:01 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Willis and Robert Stacey, and Mimi Willis were present. The meeting was closed under OMA Article 10.508(a)(1) to discuss personnel issues The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

On June 22, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., the meeting was reopened by Commissioners Ellery Adams, Bill Willis and Robert Stacey. Ellery advised that the closed session was to deal with raises for the employees for fiscal year 2009-10 and all employees were awarded raises. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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