

**Special Meeting  
Town of Preston  
August 3, 2009**

This special meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ellery Adams at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Robert Stacey and Bill Willis.

Attendance: First District Congressman Frank Kratovil, J.O.K. Walsch, President of Caroline County Historical Society, Bill Mills, Harold Moxley, Wendy Adams, Bob Lorenz, Gary Waltemeyer, David Owens, Abby Schmidt of the Times-Record, Officer April Black and many other people.

Ellery asked Congressman Kratovil about the funding for Dover Bridge. Congressman Kratovil said funding has been secured. He then said he requested one million dollars for the funding.

Ellery also talked about Linchester Mill on its way to restoration thanks to Michael McCrea and many other people. He said the impossible dream is to finish the project and get the mill wheel turning. To do that, we always run into roadblocks to obtain permits, etc. J.O.K. Walsch gave an overview of what was there when the Historical Society purchased it. They have invested approximately \$400,000. of which about half was donated. He said the pond is owned by the County and has strongly supported the effort to rebuild the pond. The cost would be from \$1.7 million to \$1.8 million. He was advised that federal regulations would not allow the mill to be rebuilt for many reasons, including fish spawning. He thinks we need a federal exemption to rebuild Linchester pond.

Ellery then mentioned the Hurlock to Preston tourist train. He said the railroad has agreed to give all but 2,000' into Hurlock. He said Mr. Dave Owens, the President of the corporation, is present and this has been in the works for years. The train runs right alongside the Mill. Caroline and Dorchester Counties have supported this concept. Dave Owens then brought everyone up to date on the project. He said the railroad company wants to keep 2,000' to put propane cars on. The State is working with the Maryland Delaware railroad to keep it. He says if they retain 2,000', it is enough to keep the train from going into Hurlock. He says Maryland Dept. of Transportation is the one holding the project up. Congressman Kratovil says he and his staff will look at the issue, investigate it, and see what the options are. Mr. Owens said that money is not the issue right now, but they are trying to get the track. Congressman Kratovil said he will follow up on the matter.

Ellery mentioned the next item has to do with money by the Town Manager. Mimi said our median household income is what determines if we can receive monies from Maryland and the federal government. Our median household income is \$48,125. and the borderline under which you can receive government funds is \$44,854. She asked if there is any way the Town can get money, especially from the stimulus fund. She said she called the D.N.R. and was turned down. Congressman Kratovil said he created an amendment that would require a certain percentage of money to go to wastewater treatment updates for municipalities under a certain population to have some of the money to go to smaller areas. He suggested talking to his staff to see what options there are. The revolving fund money is an option to look at.

Congressman Kratovil said his reason for attending this meeting was to introduce his staff; to determine what our issues are and to try to help us resolve them; plus, to give an overview of the healthcare issue. He said different proposals are moving through the House and Senate. He is part of a group called "Blue Dog" democrats. He said they were not ready for the proposal to come to the floor, mainly due to the cost. He says he is looking at the facts and wants to do it right no matter how long it takes.

He was asked why he and other representatives are exempt from the proposed plan, and he said they are not exempt. They have the option to join the new plan or remain in their existing plan.

At that time, he had to leave due to another meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Johnson