

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
January 6, 2014**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Doug VanDerveer at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Nelson Anderson, Jerry Stallings, Gary Waltemeyer, Robin Wooters and Town Manager Kim Gadow. Attendance: Valerie Brey from Cub Scout Pack 461, Russell Dukes, Robert Lorenz and Mike Bradley.

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented, seconded by Nelson and unanimously approved.

Doug introduced Valerie Brey from Cub Scout Pack 461. Valerie requested permission for Cub Scout's to attend the next meeting and site the Pledge of Allegiance. She also wanted them to get involved in some community service acts. Some ideas were discussed and suggestions were made.

Police Report: Doug read the police report for December 2013:

- 130 hours assigned with a total of 26 assignments
- 87 calls for service
- 1 report taken
- 23 traffic stops
- 20 traffic violations – 0 citations and 18 warnings – 2 SEROS – 0 must appear
- 0 arrests

Public Works Report: Dale submitted the following report for December, 2013:

- Pumped 1,671,900 gallons of water
- Discharged 2,751,940 gallons of wastewater
- Had taken Christmas decorations out and put them up on Main St.
- Had to replace several photo cells on the electric outlets to make them work properly.
- Had repaired the fence at the retention pond on Main St.
- Had taken our air supply tank to be filled and re-certified.
- Had a sewer complaint on Division St. even though it was not a town problem had cleaned the sewer line just to be sure.
- Cleaned and painted the welcome sign on Choptank Rd., could not re-do all the lettering; however the part we could do was an improvement.
- Had taken down the welcome sign on Harmony Rd. We are working on it also. It should be back in place soon.
- Had to replace a light at the welcome sign on Main St.
- Cleaned the wood that was damaged at the old town hall from a previous leak.
- Had taken all the fire extinguishers to town hall for inspection.
- Read all the water meters in town.

- Had repaired a speed limit sign on Fooks Ave. that had been knocked down.
- Had also found a speed limit sign and a couple of street signs missing. Had ordered replacements and will install them when they come in.
- Had made covers for the basement windows at old town hall. We installed them for extra protection.
- Had also cleaned approximately 2,000 feet of sewer mains in town.

Administrative Report: Kim submitted the following report for December, 2013:

- Responded to phone/visitor inquiries
- Sent out violation notices for Cary Malkus
- Typed and prepared quarterly newsletter to go out with water bills
- Prepared and mailed water bills
- Worked with Tezla to connect scanner to server
- Prepared, typed, and sent invites for January CCAM dinner
- Processed:
 - water/sewer payments
 - real estate taxes
 - accounts receivables
 - accounts payables
 - building permits
 - daily mail
 - deposits
 - payroll
 - bank statements
- Contacted Tri-Gas to set up account and order oil for old town hall
- Worked with contractors, residents and building inspectors regarding building permit applications
- Corresponded with the following:
 - webmaster regarding website updates
 - Cary Malkus referencing resident code violations
 - Andy Garey regarding rental of fire hall for CCAM dinner
 - Caterer for CCAM dinner
 - Delmarva Power regarding resident question and Christmas lights
 - Resident regarding water pressure complaint
 - Department of Social Services ref: child support letter we received
 - Barbara Nichols to update her on the status of the repairs of the old town hall
 - Harry Smith regarding status of maps for comprehensive plan
 - Caroline County to schedule “meet and greet”
 - Humane Society regarding town address and dog license collection
 - C. C. Sheriff’s Department about law enforcement compact
 - C. C. Tax Office regarding providing tax information to residents
 - Various title companies for monies owed to the Town

Planning & Zoning Report: Bob Lorenz submitted the following report for November 2013:

1. Dollar General-John Camp (developer for Dollar General) and Bob toured the Preston area for possible sites for a new store (they need approx. one acre 43,560 sf) John showed an interest in 3 or 4 sites. To date we have heard nothing yet.
2. Verizon Communication Tower- A person from Verizon called the Town mentioning their desire to erect a communication tower somewhere in Town. He may consider the water tower. Dale will speak with him. At this time P & Z does not know the status.
3. Sidewalk Crumbs Cupcakes 147 Main Street- Chris Waters –surveyor-sent in the required information, drawing, and permit to SHA as noted in the P&Z minutes of Sept 2013 para 3, to date we have not heard from SHA. The drawing Chris has submitted indicates the proposed sidewalk that is offset by approx. two feet with a curb and grass strip. It also requires the relocation of the fire hydrant and the utility pole. The offset and grass strip are inconsistent with the townscape of Main Street. Nowhere on Main Street does this exist. P & Z is not in agreement with this design from SHA. It is out of keeping with P & Z code, the comp. plan and the townscape. We strongly request the plan be revised to continue with the rest of Main Street. It is clear SHA (engineer out of Baltimore) is not familiar with Main Street Preston.
4. Sidewalk to the Bank- The sidewalk to the Bank has been completed. Bob spoke to Tom Revelle about the stone pile in the church parking lot. It was to be removed some time ago by the contractor. Tom gave us his permission to make it go away and we did. Thanks Dale.
5. The revisions to the P&Z code are nearly completed. The revisions were approved in January 2013. When revisions have been finalized, Bob would like to “proof” them before we make copies and put the new code on line. At this time the status of the Comp. plan and the Septic Tier system mapping are unknown.
6. The new Dover bridge will be 40 ft. wide; the present bridge is 24 ft wide. It will be a fixed span approx 48 ft. above average high water and 2020 ft. long. It will take approx. three years to build at a cost of 50 million dollars with additional miscl.costs of 4. million dollars. Located downstream next to the present bridge which will remain in its open position. Construction should start this summer 2014. The high pressure gas line must be relocated to the other side of the road.
7. The Livery Stable 167 Main Street – A realtor called and asked if it was possible if someone could live in the house and operate a business. The answer is yes, but it depends on the type of business. P & Z will review when we have more details.
8. Trees in the Right of Way (ROW) - There is an issue about trees in the ROW or between the curb and the sidewalk. This is true for Tidewater Farms. In some instances the tree root system is raising up the sidewalk creating a tripping hazard. The homeowner

cannot remove, prune, or alter the tree in question. (Forest Conservation ordinance passed in 2003). The commissioners are working to resolve this issue. It is the position of P & Z in the future not to allow trees in the ROW, eliminate the grass strip between the curb and sidewalk, and in any future developments including in cul de sacs require sidewalks with a min. width of five feet.

9. Mold on homes- Many homes in town have mold growing in the exterior siding which is distracting from the appearance of the house. Would like the town to notify the residence to have it removed.

10. The property at Main and Maple (Norris Taylor) has been seeded and grass is growing. However there are some issues that have been ignored. The site contains 7,625 sf. Storm water management kicks in at 5,000sf. The site is crowned in the center, which means storm water is directed to the sidewalk and to the old Town building (which has a basement). Water is collecting at the rear of the property and next to the house, its trapped. Not sure what will happen when the silt fence is removed.

11. We still need one more members to serve on the P & Z Board. Need one new member for Zoning Board of Appeals.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 7: pm.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Jerry to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Jerry to donate \$50.00 to the Baywater Animal Rescue in memory of Peggy Dietrich, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved.

Doug opened the floor up to the public. Russell Dukes announced the new president of the Preston Fire Department is Mike Bradley. Also on behalf of the Preston Volunteer Fire Department Russell Dukes wanted to thank the Town of Preston for the donation that the town sent to them.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by a motion made by Jerry, seconded by Nelson and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Pindell

