

**Regular Meeting  
Town of Preston  
May 5, 2014**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Doug VanDerveer at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Nelson Anderson, Robin Wooters, Gary Waltemeyer, Jerry Stallings and Town Manager Stacey Pindell. Attendance: Steve Hildenbrand, Lieutenant Baker, Andrew Sharp from Star Democrat, Albert French, Marvin Brown, Catherine Brown, Emmett Hacker, Austin Dickinson, Brent DeGroat, Geoffrey Simmons, Calvin Passwater, Jacob Dickinson, Jeffrey Frase, Justin Ross, Josh Arscott, Edie Ross, Griffin Clough, Mathew Lunar, Robert Lorenz and Town Attorney Walt Palmer.

Commissioner VanDerveer swore Jerry Stallings in as Commissioner. Nominations for election of a President and Vice President were taken. Gary nominated Doug for President, unanimously approved. Doug nominated Jerry for Vice President, unanimously approved.

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

**Police Report:** Lieutenant Baker read the police report for April 2014:

- 125 hours assigned with a total of 25 assignments
- 141 calls for service
- 4 reports taken
- 96 traffic stops
- 127 traffic violations – 33 citations and 87 warnings – 7 SEROS – 2 must appear
- 0 arrest

**Public Works Report:** Nelson read the Public Works report submitted by Dale Whitley for April, 2014, who said the public works department:

- Pumped 1,883,500 gallons of water
- Discharged 2,725,250 gallons of wastewater
- Finally able to repair an electrical problem we've been having with the speed alert sign. Hopefully we can start using it more often.
- Had replaced a water meter on Car-O-Lin Ct. We tested it and found the flow to be inadequate.
- Had repaired a water leak on Choptank Rd.
- Had repaired a water leak at 217 Main St.
- Had repaired a water leak at the intersection of Chambers St. and Mill St.
- Had replaced a broken tail light cover on the dump truck.
- Had shut off the water on Car-O Lin Ct. and Noble Ave so the contractor working at the school could make a new water tap for the school. While we were shutting

down the water, the stem on one of the shut off valves sheared off and became inoperable. We will have to replace it later.

- Had to disconnect the water line to 224 Main St. for demolition. We found the water line was shared with 226 Main St. We could not turn the valve off so we dug it up and heated it with a torch to get it to operate. Unfortunately this caused a leak that could not be repaired right away. So for now the water is off at 226 Main St. (home is vacant) until we can replace the shut off valve.
- Had a severe hydraulic leak on our tractor repaired.
- Had an inspection from our insurance company this month and are awaiting the report.
- MDE sent an inspector to record the levels of our lagoons. They are very high.
- Had cut grass, sprayed weeds and weeded all over town this month.

**Administrative Report:** Stacey submitted the following report for April, 2014:

- Responded to phone/visitor inquiries
- Sent out violation notices for Cary Malkus
- Worked on budget preparation for the upcoming FY
- Met with LGIT representative regarding audit
- Prepared for election including: contacting judges, and preparing paperwork
- Mailed letters to applicants regarding Town Manager position
- Prepared and mailed cut off notices for water bills
- Sent MSRA weekly reports
- Sold boat ramp permits for Caroline County
- Sold dog tags for Caroline County Humane Society
- Processed:
  - water/sewer payments
  - real estate taxes
  - accounts receivables
  - accounts payables
  - building permits
  - daily mail
  - deposits
  - payroll
  - bank statements
- Corresponded with the following:
  - Various title companies, attorney's and real estate agents for monies owed to the Town
  - Chief Cox from Denton PD regarding offer on patrol cars
  - MD Dept. of Budget Management regarding a benefit question
  - Representative from the Preston Fire department regarding SHA form for the parade
  - MSRA representative regarding submitted forms
  - Representative from the March of Dimes regarding SHA form for walk-a-thon

- Walt Palmer regarding MDE violations
- Provident State Bank regarding signature cards
- Caroline County Board of Elections regarding voter registration list

**Planning & Zoning Report:** Bob Lorenz submitted the following report for March 2014:

1. Sidewalk at Crumbs Cup Cakes 147 Main Street –No progress on the installation of the new sidewalk. Have not heard from the surveyor or the contractor. The building appears to be vacant.
2. A letter was sent to Preston Auto Group atten. Dave Wilson concerning repairs to the sidewalks on Main Street, we have not received a response yet from PAG.
3. Preston Elementary School – Construction has started. Whiting Turner is the contractor. They have a site office located in the parking lot next to the tennis courts. They have been assigned a temporary address which is 116 Noble Ave.
4. The annual planning and zoning report was reviewed and approved. The town manager will mail the report to Maryland Dept. Planning attention David Dahlstrom.
5. We reviewed the e-mail received from David Dahlstrom of MDP titled “Funding now Available for Bikeways, Pedestrians and Trail Projects”. At this time we decided not to pursue this any further.
6. It was announced at the last town meeting, 7 April; Preston now has an official Historical Society similar to Federalsburg Historical Society. It will include the town, and the entire 21655 zip code area. They are currently looking for a “home”. There are several houses and three churches that should be considered as historical structures since they are over 50 years old and have played a sufficient roll in the history of our town.
7. It was mentioned at the last town meeting the town manager Kim Gadow has resigned her position as of 15 April 14.
8. A member of P & Z noticed someone/business using the Gadow Autobody Shop building. There were no signs or identification on the use of the premises. I e-mailed the town manager asking for any information concerning this. The response I received was less than professional.
9. Rosemarie had volunteered to review our new revised code book. Her comments known as Rosemarie’s “nits”. She found very little and noted it was well written. Bob will finalize the “nits” and then submit the code books to the commissioners for their review.
10. We have not heard anything concerning Verizon since the lease was signed. We should approve the location of the building and the fencing.
11. 224 Main Street – The property has been purchased by Dave Wilson (Preston Automotive Group). A demolition permit has been issued by the Town. The property is zoned R-1 Residential. The properties on either side of 224 Main Street are also zoned R-1 Residential.

**The next P & Z meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7: pm.**

The next Town work session will be held on Monday 28 April 2014 at 7: pm

The next Town meeting will be held on Monday 5 May 2014 at 7: pm

**New Business:**

- A motion was made by Jerry to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved.
- Gary made a motion to donate \$50.00 to Mid-Shore Community Foundation for South Caroline Youth basketball, seconded by Robin, unanimously carried.
- Doug discussed the \$800.00 offer made on the K-9 car, the Commissioners decided to counter with \$1,200.00 - \$1,500.00 for both patrol cars. A motion was made by Jerry to accept the counter with \$1,200.00 - \$1,500.00 for both or \$800.00 for one patrol car as presented, seconded by Nelson and unanimously approved.

Jerry mentioned we will be doing Preston's Day to serve again this year. Jerry also mentioned that we will be doing the school supply drive and the food drive again this year.

Doug opened the floor to the public. Emmett Hacker wanted to thank the Commissioners for the support that they receive from the town. Bob Lorenz mentioned there are several buildings at Linchester Mills that the Historical Society may be interested in.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Pindell