

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
January 5, 2015**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Douglas VanDerveer at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Jerry Stallings, Gary Waltemeyer, Nelson Anderson, Robin Wooters and Town Manager Stacey Pindell. Attendance: Town Attorney Walter Palmer, Andrew Sharp, Star Dem, Bob Lorenz, Lt. Donald Baker, CCSD, Cathy Crowfoot, Russell Dukes, PVFC, Tom Dewey, Terri Golden, JoAnn Hunley, Merv Disharoon, Carol Steffy, Richard Shive, and Donald Willoughby, PVFC.

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

Police Report: Lt. Donald Baker presented the Police Report for December 2014:

- 135 hours assigned with a total of 27 assignments
- 109 calls for service
- 2 reports taken
- 51 Traffic stops
- 65 traffic violations –63 citations and warnings –2 SEROS –1 must appear

Public Works Report. Nelson read the Public Works Report.

- Pumped 1,554,700 gallons of water
- Discharged 2,125,228 gallons of wastewater
- Cut and painted wood trim to install in the meeting room. This was done so pictures could be hung with little effort.
- Put up Christmas decorations on Main Street.
- The power to the Christmas tree was not done by the time the lighting ceremony was scheduled. We contracted the school and had them call their contractor. The power was hooked up just a few hours before it was scheduled to be lit. As far as we know everything went well.
- Dug up and installed a new water meter at Shore Stop while they had the asphalt removed to repair a water leak.
- Repaired one of the outdoor lights at the shop.
- Turned on the heat in all town buildings except the shop. It's not quite cold enough yet.
- Repainted all the trim in the meeting room.
- Read all the meters in town. The water bills should be arriving soon.

Administrative Report: Stacey submitted the following report for December 2014:

- 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
- Processed:
 - water/sewer payments

- real estate taxes
- accounts receivables
- accounts payables
- building permits
- daily mail
- deposits
- payroll
- bank statements
- Contacted Maryland State Highway Department regarding Maple Avenue parking
- Corrospended with the following:
 - webmaster regarding website updates
 - Amy from ASG regarding Highway User Revenue form 1059
 - Various title companies for monies owed to the Town
 - Chesapeake Employers Insurance regarding personnel question
 - Caroline County Tax Office regarding monies owed to town on properties going to settlement
 - CUSI regarding resident accounts
 - Paradise Energy Solutions regarding energy grant

Planning & Zoning Report: Robert Lorenz presented the Planning and Zoning Report for December 2014.

1. Sidewalk at Crumbs Cup Cakes 147 Main Street – On 9 October Bob met with Dan Warrington Builder, Chris Waters Surveyor, and Rochelle Outten from the Maryland State Highway Administration. On 8 December Bob called Chris Waters for the status of the project. He said he called SHA but to date Chris has not responded back. At the meeting of 9 October we were informed it should take approx. two weeks for the permit.
2. A letter was sent several months ago to Preston Auto Group atten. Dave Wilson concerning repairs to the sidewalks on Main Street. (opposite the Auto body Shop north side of Main Street) No response to date from PAG when the repair work will begin. This could be a hazard for children walking to school.
3. The house at 146 Main Street, at Lednum Ave. caught fire several weeks ago. It appears they are going to demolish it. To date no permit has been issued for demolition or renovation of this structure.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- Ordinance Zoning No. 2015-0126 was presented for first reading, read by Jerry Stallings. Ordinance to be adopted on January 22, 2015, to be effective February 16, 2015.
- A motion was made by Gary to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Nelson and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Doug gave a brief overview of the recent activity regarding the proposed restriction of parking along Maple Avenue. Several residents who live along Maple Avenue were present to voice their concerns about this plan, after learning about it through a letter from the Manager. The Fire Company had requested the Commissioners support their efforts to have no-parking on both sides of Maple Avenue. The Commissioners did sign a letter in support of the Fire Company's request, forwarded by the Fire Company to the State.

The Commissioners invited individual comments from the residents.

Tom Dewey asked where he would park. He lives in a household with four cars and a small driveway. He asked what street is next that will have restricted parking.

The Commissioners did express concern that this action would create parking problems for the residents, especially the two properties that have no driveways. Gary stated the Fire Company and Commissioners had met with the State in 2011 for the same reason and the State was not agreeable to the no-parking because of it affecting the residents' parking.

Manager Stacey spoke with Mr. Coppage of the State this date and he had indicated the restriction may not be permitted due to the impact on residential parking along Maple Avenue. One additional signature is required for the approval, and there is a possibility that it will not be approved.

The Commissioners noted the restriction was proposed to assist the fire department equipment coming up and down the street.

Merv Disharoon discussed his concern as he does not have a driveway; he has no curb cut for a driveway. He stated when he wants to sell his property this could affect the sale if there is no parking along Maple.

There was a question as to who has jurisdiction over the matter. Maple Avenue is a State road, and the State has jurisdiction, the residents were advised.

Representatives of the Fire Company, Russell Dukes and Donald Willoughby, were asked to speak to the reason for the request. Russell Dukes stated the Fire Chiefs had brought the request to them, a concern that if a truck is coming down Maple they can't get by, they have to stop. Donald Willoughby stated that the EMS was also in favor of the restriction as well.

Terri Golden asked for whose safety is this restriction intended?

Russell Dukes stated when you are called for an accident or fire call the volunteers try to get there as quickly as they can. When a truck is parked along Maple they may have to stop, and someone's life may be at stake during those few minutes. That's what the

chiefs of the fire company are after, if you can get there a few seconds faster it may save someone's life, he reported.

Terri Golden stated that volunteers fly down that road. Mr. Dukes stated that the volunteers coming to the Fire Station have been told to slow down.

Terri Golden has five adult children, and, company who come to visit, so that they need to have a place to park when they come. She stated Maple Avenue is the widest road in town.

Commissioner Doug stated the minutes shall be drafted and sent in draft form to Mr. Coppage, State Highway Department.

The Manager will contact Mr. Coppage tomorrow to learn who can be contacted in Baltimore, in an attempt to have the approval denied.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by a motion made by Jerry, seconded by Gary and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Steffy, Town Clerk