

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
January 4, 2016**

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Douglas VanDerveer at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Jerry Stallings, Gary Waltemeyer, Robert Stacey, Nelson Anderson and Town Manager Stacey Pindell. Attendance: Walter Palmer, Katie Willis, *Star Democrat*; Dale Whitely, Superintendent, Carol Steffy, Town Clerk, Steven Hildenbrand, Dawn Becker, Russell Dukes, PVFC, Bob Lorenz, and Lt. D. L. Baker, CCSD.

Meeting minutes:

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

Police Report was presented by Lt. Baker:

- 130 hours assigned with a total of 25 assignments
- 116 calls for service
- 4 reports taken
- 48 traffic stops
- 63 traffic violations – 10 citations and 50 warnings – 3 SEROS – 2 must appear

Public Works Report for December 2015:

- Pumped 1,558,500 gallons of water
- Discharged 2,341,026 gallons of wastewater
- Serviced the town truck
- Hung Christmas decorations on Main St.
- Worked on the Christmas lights in front of the school for the tree lighting on Dec. 4th
- Installed a timer on the tree at the school to regulate the time
- Painted fire hydrants in town and will continue as weather permits
- Cleaned 1,000 feet of sewer mains
- Met with MDE at the town lot on Main Street to help establish the forestation area and the wetland area.
- Repaired a light at the welcome sign
- Cleaned leaves from the drainage ditches on Sunset to help storm water flow
- Helped a contractor locate the sewer line behind 3633 Choptank Rd
- Cleaned up and repaired a ceiling that fell at 172 Main Street. We also serviced the furnace.
- Read all the meters in town

Administrative Report for December 2015:

- Responded to phone/visitor inquiries/email
- Prepared agendas, attended meetings, prepared minutes
- Emails and calls with AECOM representatives regarding study and grants

Processed:

- water/sewer payments
- accounts receivables
- accounts payables
- building permits
- daily mail
- deposits
- payroll

Corresponded:

- With Caroline County Tax Office regarding filing of deeds, outstanding monies owed to Preston

Planning & Zoning Report for December 2015:

Bob Lorenz presented the report:

1. We currently revisiting Section 39 pages 146 to 152 Commercial and Residential Development Design Guidelines of the Zoning Code, as requested by the Commissioners.
2. The Douglas House/Junior Order/Preston Council Etc. at 105 Wright Street is overgrown with shrubbery and in a state of disrepair. The owner should decide to restore the structure or have it demolished. It is an historic building built in 1880.
3. There are two dead trees one at 103 Harmony Road and one at 105 Harmony Road which could be a hazard and should be removed.
4. Dollar General showed some interest on a parcel of ground at Main Street and Payne Road (west corner) For various reasons this site was rejected. At this time it appears there is only one site in Town and that is Main Street at Payne Road east corner. There are two parcels that could be considered by Salvage. (They are not in Town limits).
5. The old Provident bank building 239 Main Street has been sold to Choptank Transport to be used for their accounting department.
6. Preston Gym – 215 Railroad Ave. – Architectural drawings have been submitted, reviewed by MDIA and a building permit has been issued.
7. It has been brought to our attention a strip of land 25' x 261' on Maple Ave./Choptank Rd. in front of Choptank Transport is in question. It appears the County line and the Town line are not the same. P & Z are not sure why. This issue should be referred to surveyor who did the Town's corporate boundary lines.
8. Valero 233 Main Street – Most of the protective post have been knocked over and/or missing along with the forestation signs. There are many tire ruts in the forestation area of Tidewater Farms. We believe the Town should write a letter to Valero asking them to please restore the damage areas behind their building.

New Business:

Pay Bills for December 2015. On a motion of Gary, second of Nelson, and unanimously approved, the Commissioners voted to authorize payment of the bills for December 2015.

AECOM Grant Applications. On a motion of Gary, second of Jerry, the Commissioners voted to authorize AECOM to prepare two grant applications at the cost of \$4,500.00, for wastewater improvements, unanimously approved.

Donations. The Commissioners voted to donate funds in memory of the following officials who have passed:

Cynthia Evey, \$50.00 to the Bethesda United Methodist Church
Beverly Blades, \$50.00 to the Preston Lions Club
Michelle Barry, \$50.00 to Preston Volunteer Fire Department

On a motion of Jerry, second of Bob and a unanimous vote, the donations were approved.

On a motion of Jerry, second of Bob, and a unanimous vote, memorial bricks in their names will also be donated for the Garden at the Wright Park, when that is completed.

Commissioner's comments:

Gary voiced a concern regarding Choptank Transport connecting to the Town sewer. He stated when they asked for a hook up it was for the new building only. He requested this be placed on the next work session. A discussion followed, and this matter will be placed on the January 25 work session meeting agenda.

Commissioners President welcomed Stacey back from her leave. Stacey thanked the Commissioners and staff for all their help while she was out. Doug commended Town Clerk Carol Steffy for her assistance during this time as well.

Bob Lorenz requested that Mr. Palmer review the question of whether the Town can provide services outside of Town.

Jerry stated that Chris Adams prefiled a motion addressing the sprinkler law. The Commissioners will have to check the Bill to see if it applies to Preston.

Dawn Becker again discussed trash behind Valero and the seafood place, and in the forestation area where a path leads to the school. Doug believes the trash is generated when the dumpsters are emptied.

Adjournment. On a motion of Jerry, second of Bob, and a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Steffy, Town Clerk