

**Regular Meeting
Town of Preston
April 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, Esq., Dale Whitely, Superintendent, Dawn Becker, Russell Dukes, PVFC, Bob Lorenz, Kathleen Barry, Bill Willis, Steve Hildebrand, and Sarah Drury, *Star Democrat*.

Meeting minutes:

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

Police Report for March 2016 was read by Doug:

- 125 hours assigned with a total of 25 assignments
- 105 calls for service
- 2 reports taken
- 74 traffic stops
- 88 traffic violations – citations and warnings – SEROS – must appear

Public Works Report for March 2016: Dale presented his report:

- Pumped 1,573,900 gallons of water
- Discharged 3,013,690 gallons of wastewater
- Installed a new fuel tank in the dump truck that had started leaking due to corrosion. Before installation we treated it with rustproofing to help it last longer.
- Repaired all the lights on the sewer machine that were not working. This includes the turn signals, the brake lights and the running lights.
- Installed a new storage box for the fill hose and the attachments. The old box had deteriorated over the years and needed replacing. We were able to build a new one at our shop.
- We had a complaint of a loud manhole cover on Maple Ave. When we investigated we found that a riser that had been welded in when the road was resurfaced had broken loose and was causing a loud noise when a vehicle traveled over it. Since the manhole gives access to a storm drain and not a sanitary sewer we put a cushioning gasket under the cover and put a thin layer of cold patch over it. So far this has worked.
- We put up caution tape to warn people of a porch at an empty house on Main St that was in danger of falling over.
- Repaired the fence and gate at the retention pond at the east end of town.
- Scraped and graded the driveway to the sewer plant
- Cleaned approximately 1,000 feet of sewer mains
- Serviced the town truck

- Commissioner Stacey picked up the gator we bought. Since we got it used we serviced it and made any repairs to it that were necessary. We also installed a rear view mirror. However we have not had a chance to get lights for the back or a flashing light for the top.
- Cut grass at the park and when we started one of our mowers we found that the PTO did not engage. We were able to locate the problem and repair it. So far so good.
- Installed a mini library at the pavilion and found that the door kept blowing open so we put a magnetic latch on it to help when it is windy.
- Read all the meters in town and the bills will be arriving shortly.

Administrative Report for March 2016:

- Prepared and mailed water bills
- Worked with contractors, residents and building inspectors regarding building permit applications
- Responded to phone/visitor inquiries to include researching answers to their concerns/questions
- Sent out violation notices for David George
- Shopped for prizes for P & R Easter Egg Hunt
- Emailed election ad to be placed in the paper
- Attended MSRA workshop in Baltimore
- Processed:
 - water/sewer payments
 - real estate taxes
 - accounts receivables
 - accounts payables
 - building permits
 - daily mail
 - deposits
 - payroll
 - bank statements
- Corresponded with the following:
 - David George referencing resident code violations
 - Chris Rogers regarding engineering report
 - Sue Simmons from C. C. Recreation & Parks regarding Little Free Library
 - Town of Trappe regarding Development Rights and Responsibilities agreement
 - Various title companies, attorney's and real estate agents for monies owed to the Town
 - Webmaster regarding website updates
 - Alarm Company regarding PD alarm
 - C.C. Tax office regarding monies owed to town on properties going to settlement

The Planning and Zoning report was submitted at the work session. The report follows:
Items reviewed:

1. We have reviewed section 39 pages 146 to 152 Commercial and Residential Development Design Guidelines of the Zoning code, as requested by the Commissioners. Steve will present his revisions at the next Town work session.

2. The Douglas House / Junior Order/ Preston Council Etc. at 105 (154) Wright Street. The owner has decided to demolish the building and erect a pole building to store items from the house.

3. A strip of land 25'x261'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. This issue has been referred to the County and a surveyor will try to resolve this issue sometime in May.

4. Velero 233 Main Street - Most of the protective post have been knock over and/or missing along with the forestation signs. There are many tire ruts in the forestation area of the house in Tidewater Farms. The house is up for sale and has been vacant for over a year. We suggest the Town write a letter to Velero asking them to please restore the damage areas behind their building. P & Z has drafted a suggested letter for the commissioners to review and sign. It is currently on hold.

5. The empty lot at 146 Main Street at Lednum Ave. The developer/contractor has submitted new drawings of the proposed house which have been accepted. The house will be sprinklered.

6. Pierson Port-A-Pot, 114 Chambers Street: Has been issued a permit to erect a free standing sign at the corner of Chambers and Mill Street. It will be so located not to impair the visual view of traffic.

New Business:

Pay Bills for March 2016. On a motion of Gary, second of Bob, and unanimously approved, the Commissioners voted to authorize payment of the bills for March 2016.

The work session for April will be held on April 25, to begin at 7:30, due to the election.

Bill Willis discussed that the Commissioner board should be a more diverse group. The ad for a Commissioner was placed in the paper, in the newsletter and in emails as well.

Kathleen Barry expressed appreciation for Dale Whitely's assistance with placing the Community Club's library at the Park.

Bob Lorenz asked if Choptank Transport will be paying an impact fee. They will be paying \$105,000 for capacity charges. The Commissioners had asked the Choptank attorney to approach Choptank for an additional contribution toward the new plant. There has been no report back on this request.

Gary Waltemeyer mentioned that the Town of Trappe has an agreement designed to require developers to contribute towards the Town's infrastructure. The Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement between Trappe and the Developer is 150 pages long; Stacey has a copy.

Ellery Adams discussed water and sewer rates for his apartment units. Doug informed him that the Town is collecting information and may be reworking the sewer and water rate structure.

Adjournment. On a motion of Gary, second of Jerry, and a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Steffy, Town Clerk