

**Town of Preston
105 Back Landing Road
Regular Meeting 7pm.
Jan. 4, 2021**

Attendees: Doug Vanderveer, Robert Stacey , Nelson Anderson, Savannah Winston, Gary Waltemeyer, Amber Korell, Dale Whitley

Public Attendance: Town Attorney Walt Palmer, Russ Dukes

The regular meeting was called to order by Commissioner Doug VanDerveer at 7:00 p.m.

Comm. Waltemeyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented and was seconded by Comm. Winston and unanimously approved.

Police Report: for December 2020

135 hours assigned with a total of 27 assignments

- 104 Calls for service
- 0 Reports taken
- 62 Traffic Stops
- 88 Traffic Violations
- 0 Arrest

Public Works Report -Dale Whitley

- pumped 1,399,900 gallons of water
- discharged 9,861,762 gallons of wastewater
- got the lights working on the Christmas tree
- hung decorations from utility poles on Main St.
- hauled old gas bottles to Cambridge because we no longer use gas at our treatment plant.
- ran cable from the antennae mast at the sewer plant to a cabinet inside the lab for a wifi bridge.
- installed a utility pole and antennae mount behind town hall for the wifi bridge to the sewer plant. We also ran cable from the pole to the office in the town shop.
- cleaned the DO probe at the sewer plant 3 times.
- worked on the sand filter at the sewer plant several times this month in an attempt to get it working. We pulled the center air lift column out of filter #1 and found it to have several leaks. The bottom is actually starting to separate from the rest of the air supply. We have a request for replacement in at the factory.
- cut off the damaged blade on the box grader attachment and welded a new piece on it and used it to fix railroad ave.
- cleaned and replaced the rate valve on the sand filters 3 times.
- installed a brace on the tank gauge at the sand filters to keep it stable in the wind. It was banging against the railing before being stabilized.
- worked on the road at the entrance to the sewer plant after our chemical delivery drivers complained that there wasn't enough room to turn into the plant for deliveries.

-worked on the Fooks Ave pumping station after it became overwhelmed from the storm on Christmas day. We sent off the control module to be cleaned and repaired. We will replace the air system check valves and compressors and filter when they come in.

-installed the pump at the Tidewater pump station when it came in from the shop after being repaired. Now both pumps are online.

Administrative Report – Amber Korell

- Responded to phone/email & visitor inquiries
- Sent out code violation letters for David George
- Obtained a quote with Tony from BDK on a wireless bridge to the WWTP
- Worked with GMB, AECOM, and Lawyers regarding WWTP
- Pay Request #22 was submitted to MDE for reimb.
- Attended the WWTP progress meeting #24
- Approved and Issued building permits with MDIA
- Approved and Issued Business Licenses-
- Attended our second “Town Managers” meeting hosted by Town of Federalburg this month on 12-3-2020.
- On Dec. 22 we received \$47,000 in reimbursement money for the Park Grant!!
- Worked on State Police Aid Grant- GOCCP next round of paper work will be due 1-15.
- The server’s battery backup went up last week and needs a new battery. BDK was able to find a replacement brand at half the price of the one we are currently using and should be in by next week!
- Verizon Wireless commencement letter has been signed and commencement date of June 2020, we will be receiving payments soon for current and back months.
- In November we had an inspection at 172 Main Street with DLLR (Safety Inspection Unit) as instructed by our insurance company LGIT. The boiler was written up with 3 violations, our PW will disconnect all the piping and electrical to the boiler so it can be determined “inactive” and that would solve the violations with the inspector.
- Southern Corrosion has been in contact about our tower. We were able to get “WELCOME TO” added to our towers repaint for FREE!! The towns people seem to like that wording the best. We need to be thinking about when we take the tower out of service for a couple days, so they can do the touch up paint work on the inside. Then again, this spring for a few weeks’ time to paint the inside entirely.
- Researched burning ordinance verbiage
- Sent out second quarter Water/ Sewer bills
- Work has begun at the Mediation Garden and is looking great!!! CC PR installed a hand sanitizer right in the middle of the walkway paver area, I had the contractor remove that and I will get PW to re install in a better area in the park.
- Attended MRSA “Retirement Coordinator” Training Seminar 12-16-2020
- Sandy and I both attended an online FEMA seminar on floodplains, both received certification.
- Have had conversations with Dawn Malosh about submitting a CCCA grant for PR activities.
- Corresponded with GMB on our WWTP Operation/ I&I issues

- Preston's Christmas Club held their Parade on DEC. 13th @ 3pm, it was VERY well attended.

Planning and Zoning – No Report

WWTP December 7th, Update:

- JCC has continued with the installation of the fence around the new improvements at the WWTP
- GMB has not yet granted JCC substantial completion due to deficiencies within the SCADA system. JCC has had their subcontracted integrator on site in the past month, but has not yet completed these outstanding items. Once these items are completed, GMB will be ready to perform the punch list inspection.
- As you are probably aware, influent flows are still quite high to the WWTP and flow is currently being bypassed into the existing lagoon, using JCC's diesel bypass pump. GMB has requested JCC provide a proposal for the town to purchase a similar pump for future use. In discussion with AECOM, an exploration into the source of the high influent flows is recommended to mitigate the high flow scenarios in the future.
- The facility is currently going through acclimation as the plant is now receiving raw wastewater from the Town. Thus far, acclimation has been slow, which can be partially attributed to the high influent flows, which result in "low strength" influent wastewater. GMB, JCC, and AECOM are in conversation with BioWorks to outline methods to further expedite the acclimation process.
- JCC has submitted a draft payment application #24 which is currently under review by GMB, and is in the amount of roughly \$50,000

Ordinances/Resolutions: None

New Business:

-A motion was made by Comm. Waltemeyer to accept the bills as presented for **DEC 2020**. Comm. Nelson seconded the motion, all approved.

-Pay Request # 23 (NOV. 2020) from Johnston Construction for \$468,210.93

Comm. Nelson made a motion to acknowledge the payment request but will be withholding \$31,000.00 from payment due to liquidated damages (PAYMENT AMOUNT \$438,210.93); Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All agreed

-Comm. Nelson made a motion to approve GMB/TOP AMENDMENT #5 in the amount of \$3,750.00; Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All approved.

-Comm. Nelson made a motion to approve the JCC WORK CHANGE DIRECTIVE #8 in the amount of \$5,912.98 (to be covered by Contingency funds); Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All approved.

-The Commissioners recognized the AECOM AMENDMENT #5 in the amount of \$44,100.00. The council decided to postpone voting on the amendment until the next meeting after obtaining legal advice

-Comm. Waltemeyer made a motion to approve the GMB I&I FUNDING APP PROPOSAL in the amount of \$1.750.00; Comm. Nelson seconded the motion. All approved.

-Town of Preston Commissioners presented PFVC President Russel Dukes with a donation for the FY20-21 in the amount of \$4.375.00.

Comm. Waltemeyer made a motion to go into closed session at 7:30pm to discuss a personnel matter and consult with legal counsel about possible litigation. Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All approved.

-Comm. Nelson made a motion to proceed with Howards suggestion with the limits we discussed in closed session and continue to look into Employee Time Compensation; Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All Approved.

Comm. Nelson made a motion for adjournment at 7:55 pm, Comm. Winston seconded the motion. All approved.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Amber Korell