**Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee meeting was held by Webex Conference.

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman James Bair at 3:00 PM.

Committee members present were Chairman James Bair (Council Room), Councilman David Quarry (Home on Computer) and Councilman David Fortson (Home on Computer).

Members present were President Johnathan Hyde (Council Room), Councilman Terry Green (Home on Computer), Mayor David Wessels (Council Room), Chief of Police Jeff Buckley (Council Room), Code Enforcement Officer James Morris (Council Room), Borough Manager Chris Stevens (Council Room) and Borough Secretary Richard King (Council Room).

Guest present were Megan Neugebauer (Home on Computer) and Claire Holzner (Home on Computer).

Chairman James Bair thanked all of the Fire Departments and Maintenance Department that helped with the fire.

Chairman James Bair recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Megan Neugebauer said that she and Corey were sorry about what happened last night with the fire and appreciates all the help that was given.

Megan Neugebauer thanked everyone for their time. Megan spoke on the kittens and rumors that were going around. Megan said that she has been feeding the cats and has reached out to other organizations for help. Megan said that the cats were trapped and then taken to be neutered, vaccinated and then released. Megan said she has paid for all of these and has the vouchers if anyone wants to see them.

Megan Neugebauer said that between March and October of 2018 all the cats were fixed and released. Megan said there were 54 cats and 10 of these remain in her yard, where she feeds, waters and shelters them and no one has complained to her about the odor. Megan said she has given them medical attention if they needed it. Megan said that the Medical and food was at here expense with no help.

Megan Neugebauer said the cat that is causing all of the problems is located at 1622 Washington Street. Megan said that this cat gets on everyone’s porches.

Megan Neugebauer said that she has been to the 1500 block of Penn Street building and has not noticed any smell, feces or odor. Johnathan Hyde said that he has not noticed any smell or odor.

Megan Neugebauer said there is another cat problem on Holland Avenue and she has spoken to a person and they will take care of this and want to work with the Borough.

Claire Holzner said that what Megan has done is appreciated and everything she has done is at her own expense and time.

James Bair said that he appreciates them coming to us and telling us what they are doing.

Megan Neugebauer said that she has all of the documentations if anyone would like to see them.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Chief of Police report.

Jeff Buckley spoke on the fire and said that the ATF and State Police are investigating this. Jeff said the insurance adjusters will be on site.

Jeff Buckley said they will be securing the site with chain link fence and it will be going thru the parking lot.

Jeff Buckley thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for their fast response in getting the people out of Blair House.

Chris Stevens said there are 58 people that are homeless. Chris said that the Center for Community Action and the Red Cross are there to help.

James Bair asked if we should get some type of lighting down there.

Jeff Buckley said we will not be issuing parking tickets this week but next week we will be enforcing the no parking sign areas.

Jeff Buckley requested an Executive meeting to discuss an item of contract issue.

Chairman James Bair said that this is further down the agenda and we will get with him.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Mayor’s report.

Mayor David Wessels said that with everything going on with the COVID-19 that the Parking solution is on hold.

Mayor David Wessels mentioned about the fundraising efforts and the displacement of tenants.

David Wessels asked how long this would take for these buildings.

Jeff Buckley said he should know tomorrow and it could be rather quickly. Jeff said that with the vibration of the train, rain and wind could bring the building down. Jeff said we had a fire storm on Penn Street blowing huge pieces of material and some landed on the VFW’s roof and started a fire.

Chris Stevens said that PennDOT and HRI have signs already in place for their project so this will help with the safety in case the building falls. Chris said this should be a quick recovery.

Chairman James Bair said that he did have a Fire Company report but did not have it with him. Jim reported that the Fire Company is doing a tremendous job and they are doing fundraising like a Chicken BBQ events.

Chairman James Bair proceed to Old Business.

Jim Bair said we are going to put on hold the speed control devices due to financial status.

Jim Bair said he has nothing new on the Knox Box.

David Fortson said to Jim Bair and Jeff Buckley that the Fire Company and Police Officers are a blessing to have.

**Executive Session was called at 3:25 PM.**

**Executive Session ended at 3:38 PM.**

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris arrived at 3:38 PM.

Chairman James Bair called on the Code Enforcement Officers report.

Jim Morris asked if there were any questions on his report. There were none.

Jim Morris then went over his report.

Jim Morris reported that DEP has approved the Juniata College Lounge.

Jim Morris reported that DEP has approved Westminster Woods Solar Light Panels.

Jim Morris said that 911 has been getting phone calls about properties and the landlords are not notified about these calls and don’t know anything about what is going on.

Jim Morris said that we should give the landlords a courtesy call and let them know what is going on.

Jim Morris said that he has put all the apartment rental information in a book and gave it to the Chief of Police and this was helpful. Jim said that he also gave this information to the County for a head count. He said he will be updating this on a regular basis.

Johnathan Hyde said he has had calls pertaining to the Rental Application and asking for too much information.

Jim Morris said that this was the first application that has all of the information and when he sends out again he was going to eliminate some of the requested information. Jim said that about every 2 or 3 years, he will send out the full application again.

Chairman James Bair asked Jim Morris to update the committee on the fire situation.

Jim Morris said that the insurance adjusters were contacted.

Jim Morris said that people were calling in and asking what we need to help.

Jim Morris said there will be a chain link fence put up with 3 gates to secure that area. Jim said there will be locks on these gates. Jim said that additional fence is coming from State College and should be here tonight sometime.

Jim Morris said that G & R Excavating is here and working up estimates to tear down.

Jim Morris said the Electric, Gas and Water has been shut off.

Jim Morris said the owners of the Blair House are coming down from Portland Maine.

It was suggested that maybe since this is an historical building that maybe we should save some of the bricks.

The Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary