Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee meeting was held by Webex Conference in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Committee members present in the Borough Council room were Chairman James Bair, Councilman David Quarry and Councilman David Fortson.

Members virtual were President Johnathan Hyde and Councilman Terry Green.

Members present in the Borough Council room were Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown, Mayor David Wessels, Chief of Police Jeff Buckley, Code Enforcement Officer James Morris, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Chairman James Bair said that he has Larry Luliche Sr, Regional Account Manager for Knox Box calling in at 3:15 PM.

Guest present in the Borough Council room was Shaun Magill from the Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue.

Chairman James Bair called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Code Enforcement Officer’s report.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris asked if there were any questions on his report?

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris then updated everyone on the Blair Building and Huntingdon Electric.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris reported that the Blair House was issued citations and they are now starting to comply with the borough. James said their plans are to start around February 15, 2021 and be completed sometime in March 2021.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris reported that the clean-up is going well and they have an investor that wants to purchase this. James said the plans are for a warehouse and Apartment building.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Chief of Police report.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said they have started their annual MOPEC updates and there is a class in Everett, PA that some will be going to.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley reported that all of the Police officers have either already received their COVID shot or will be getting it.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley updated everyone on the new Police officer Jedidiah Dishong. Jeff said that Jedidiah has passed all of his testing with the Borough, standards at Indiana University and will be in training from Monday, January 11, 2021 thru June 11, 2021. Jeff said that he will be home on weekends and will see him in the Borough office. Jeff said that when he is done, then he will be with other officers.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said that since we had to get him into this class, Mayor David Wessels swore him in on January 4, 2021.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said that we will have one person retire in February 2021, and we will be shorthanded until Jedidiah completes his training.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Mayor’s report.

Mayor David Wessels said that on the Park Mobile system, he was leaving this to the discretion of the Chief of Police Jeff Buckley and Borough Manager Chris Stevens to see if this is still feasible or not for the parking or traffic pattern.

Mayor David Wessels said if this is feasible, he would like to have this advertised for around Mayfest.

Chairman James Bair said that we need to get this information out to the public.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Borough Manager’s report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens wanted to thank the County Commissioners for giving Huntingdon Borough $65,000.00 COVID Cares money. Chris said that this is for the 1st responders and this will be applied to the Police Officers’ salaries. Chris said that this will help with the Borough budget.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to the Fire Companies report.

Chairman James Bair reported there were 28 calls in December 2020 and the year to date was 353.

Chairman James Bair proceeded to Old Business.

Chairman James Bair asked about the Speed control devices.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that he was holding off Budget wise to see where we stand.

Chairman James Bair said that since we are waiting on Larry Luliche Sr. to call in we will proceed to New Business.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens reported that the Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue is purchasing a new ladder truck. Chris said this will be a governmental loan and the fire companies attorney is already working on the paperwork. Chris said that the attorney is also working with Rich Wilson on this. Chris said that the Borough will not be financially responsible for this. Chris said the ladder truck will be finished in 14 months.

Larry Luliche Sr. called in at 3:16 PM.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that the Public Safety needs to support this by a resolution or ordinance. Chris said that Rich Wilson will let us know.

Chairman James Bair said this will need placed in the newspaper and will be brought up at the next meeting.

Chairman James Bair called on Larry Luliche, Sr to talk about the Knox Box systems.

Larry Luliche, Sr., spoke on the Knox Box and Fire Codes and this would be the 1st responders access. Larry said this would be an added safety feature to property owners.

Larry Luliche Sr. said that the register will order the product by responders jurisdiction and the Program Coordinator will receive an email of purchase with address of where to be installed. Larry said the end user will install and call the fire company to come out and lock the box.

There was a discussion on what the ordinance should have in it.

Larry Luliche Sr. said there are different means like alarm systems, sprinkler systems and should include anything that will help in the long run.

The committee asked about maintenance and cost.

Larry Luliche Sr. said there is no maintenance and the cost is over $400.00 delivered.

Shaun Magill asked if the fire company and police can have the same key.

Larry Luliche Sr. said these are two separate entities. Larry said that you will register the Knox Box and the fire department will be the main active responders. Larry said there should be an excel spreadsheet made with names and numbers.

Larry Luliche Sr. said he would start out with new constructions being 30% and 70% being retrofit. Larry said that schools should be the number one target.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said that vital information can be placed in the Knox Box.

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown said we need to take care of this for the future on making a resolution.

Mayor David Wessels said we could include list of larger calls to places and go by square footage and make the threshold reasonable.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said that commercial building should have this.

Chairman James Bair said that commercial buildings, schools, new constructions, square footage properties plus for anyone to have. James said that this will probably help with insurance purposes.

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown said we need to send out a letter to see who wants this.

Shaun Magill said that the larger buildings needs to be enforced to have this.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said this would be a positive public relations campaign.

Chairman James Bair called on Code Enforcement Officer James Morris for his input.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris said that this is a good thing and it is common sense to have this and said we should include 3 apartments or more in one building. James said that we could do a workshop on this and we need to be careful on how we approach this.

Mayor David Wessels said if we could find the money, and if the public complies with the safety ordinance, we will pay for the Knox Box. David said we need to look at low income and special needs.

Councilman David Quarry said we should move forward on this and form a committee. David said to have Borough Manager Chris Stevens, Chief of Police Jeff Buckley, Councilman James Bair, Code Enforcement Officer James Morris and Shaun Magill on this committee and bring back something to the next month’s meeting.

After no further business the Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary