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

Guest present were Joseph Thompson, Dave Fryer, Joe Chambers, Sue Reed, Chris Querry, Ginny Gill, Daniel Peightal, Barbara Servello, Jack Servello, James Grissinger, Tim Furlong and Lisa Good.

Members present were President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Code Enforcement Officer James Morris, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown recognized the guest present and ask for their comments.

Jennifer Clark said that when school lets out, kids drive down to 18th Street and over to Washington Street and they are speeding down Washington Street. Jennifer said that someone is going to get hit and killed. Jennifer said there are serious issues with kids being around and out on the street.

Chief Streightiff said the police department is out and patrolling the streets. Chief said that there were 75 traffic citations issued in February and 24 warnings were given.

Chief Streightiff said the police department is also doing bus stop violations. Chief said if we are not aware of situations than we can’t address these.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said she has been out observing this with High School kids and this should be addressed with the school also.

Chief Streightiff said if there is an issue with a kid, then they make contact with the school and the parents on the issues.

David Fryer said he sees the 15 Street discussion under old business.

David Fryer said he would like to know what the urgency is or necessity is for this change.

David Fryer said this would be a big impact on the residents and the church and would like to see this Ordinance be rescinded.

Ginny Gill handed out a paper on nullifying the proposed two-way traffic pattern on 15th Street and the proposed changes do not take in consideration the following:

* There are approximately two dozen children who regular gather and play
* The children are learning to ride their bicycles, and skateboards
* They are throwing a football or kicking a soccer ball
* Students at Sill Business Incubator are riding their skateboards, scooters, bicycles and walking up Maple Alley wearing earbuds and they neither see nor hear approaching traffic.
* School Buses, 18-wheel delivery trucks, UPS vans, and regular traffic already fill the one-way street.
* Parking on both sides of 15th Street is vital for apartments and family homes.
* Elderly members of the church would be intimidated by traffic crunches as they park, load, and discharge passengers.
* There is already a traffic situation at the intersection of 15th & Mifflin Street

Ginny Gill said she has been a resident for 48 years at 15th & Mifflin Street and has seen changes over the years. Jenny said that she would like to see 5 inch letters painted on the road stating there are stop signs ahead.

Ginny Gill said she has a petition that was signed by 43 people and submitted this petition.

Ginny Gill said there are around 2 dozen kids in the area now and would like to see this Ordinance be rescinded.

Joe Chambers said that trimming the branches back on Mifflin Street does work some.

David Fryer ask if there was a traffic study done in this area.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we are not rushing into this, that we need to have lighting, flashing lights or flashing stop signs.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that with new businesses going in on 14th Street, we are going to look at the safest possible way in dealing with this.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that he and Mayor Yoder had talked with PennDOT and we don’t need to do a traffic study.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said there is a lot of speeding on Moore Street also.

Pastor Barb Servello said that with the church’s business and the handicap space, she ask where are the handicap people to park. Barb said that this interferes with the business of the church.

Pastor Barb Servello ask what does this benefit by doing this.

Lisa Good said that she first wanted to thank Borough Council for what they have done already.

Lisa Good had shown pictures to the Borough Council and ask why this potential change when there are children.

Lisa Good said this is a quiet one-way street and said she had changed her way of looking at things.

Sue Reed said that she was a member of the church and she goes 14th Street and up and ask why are we changing this.

Jack Servello said that he travels 14th Street and he has no issue with going from the Weis Market to Moore Street and turning down.

Jack Servello said that kids these days need educated.

Karl Lang ask why was this changed before.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said it was changed due to the accidents and speeding problems.

Councilman David Fortson said that he would have stop signs at every intersection coming down Moore Street and Washington Street.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on the Code Enforcement Officer’s report.

James Morris went over his report with the committee.

President James Bair ask James Morris to give an update on the Blair House Building.

James Morris said they are in the last phase and the wall will be removed.

James Morris then said that you will see some of the equipment move away.

James Morris said that after this is cleaned up, we will look at the foundations and they will stay for now. James said that since this is on a hill, he doesn’t want them to be removed because of water and mud running down.

James Morris said that when the foundations are removed, they will place top soil, grade, and seed the areas and after this he looks for this to be up for sale.

James Morris said that because of safety purposes, he would like to have the two street remained closed.

James Morris said that we might want to get more bricks, that people want these. James said the 2 truckloads that we already have, that the people are going up and taking them already, when they should not be doing this.

James Morris said that after everything is cleaned up, he will look at the sidewalk then.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff went over his report with the committee.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that we could not get a traffic control enforcement grant on our own that we have gone with Blair County and this also includes Mount Union. Chief said that there is no cost for this that we are reimbursed for any expenses occurred.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that he or Officer McBride would talk to the High School about educating the students on speeding after school.

Chief Charles Streightiff said the 2 Detectives are being trained hard.

Chief Charles Streightiff said he is still waiting on the Local Law Enforcement Grant they have received, and this will be for radio’s for officers, and cars, a new server, Drone program and the Chief said that he has received $1,500.00 from the Huntingdon Moose Lodge towards the Drone.

Chief Charles Streightiff reported on K9 Vader and said that he has already broken his probation status.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that he would like to recognize Criminal Investigators Detective Kagarise and Detective Border for their work they have done.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Chief Charles Streightiff said to the guest present, that he would like for them to write to their local representatives on supporting Radar for Municipal Police.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on the Mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder had nothing to report on.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on the Borough Manager’s report.

Chris Stevens had nothing to report on.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on the Fire Companies report.

Tim Furlong said the fire department handled 47 incidents in February, which were mostly brush fires.

Tim Furlong said the expenses for February amounted to $71,665.43.

Tim Furlong said they did a Chicken BBQ and sold 350 meals

President James Bair told the fire companies representatives that on St. Patrick’s Day, the street will be closed from 4:00 PM till 8:00 PM.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on old business.

David Fryer ask if there was a statute of limitation on revoking an ordinance.

Vice-President David Fortson said any Ordinance can change anytime as long as it brought to the proper meeting.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

Executive Session was not called for.

After no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary