**Huntingdon Borough Council Special Meeting**

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**

The Huntingdon Borough Council Special Meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Guest present were Lucinda Dell, Jennifer Clark, Russ Miller, Bob Gano, Chuck Streightiff, Jim Port, Carl P Beard and Matt Gibson.

President James Bair called the Special Borough Council meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

The invocation was given by Mayor Thomas Yoder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by President James Bair.

Roll call was taken by Borough Secretary Richard King and the following were present:

President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson and Borough Secretary Richard King.

President James Bair recognized the guest present and ask for their comments.

Bob Gano said he was with G-Force and wanted to give some information on his company.

Bob Gano said he was a retired Pennsylvania State Police Officer and all of G-Force employees are retired Pennsylvania State Police Officers.

Bob Gano said they are trained nationally as School Resource Officers.

Bob Gano said that G-Force works with 7 other school districts.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell asked if in the 7 other school districts, do they have a police School Resource Officer?

Bob Gano said no and is happy to work with Chief Streightiff.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell asked how do you react to situations and the police departments?

Bob Gano said there is a memorandum of understanding, that they would go to the principle and let him or her know that they need to contact the borough police or that the situation can be handled in house.

Chief Charles Streightiff said we are dealing with two different agencies and we must have the memorandum of understanding and job responsibilities.

Bob Gano said that he cannot have this conversation until a contract is signed by the school district.

Councilman Robert Jackson said there are procedures, that if you go to an administrator and tell them to report this and they don’t then what happens.

Bob Gano said there is an internal report that he lets his boss know about the situation.

Russ Miller said that he has not had any problems with school administrators not doing this and said we are all there to protect the children and the school district.

Chuck Streightiff said that he is a retired police chief, and he was involved with the first School Resource Officer in the district.

Chuck Streightiff said that the school district and superintendent should have planned and worked this out before coming to this situation Chuck said there are too many unanswered questions that need answered.

Chuck Streightiff said that he is a tax payer and a grandparent and is very concerned about this.

Carl Beard said that he was invited to this meeting to try and work thru this. Carl said that he was surprised of the agenda. Carl said a contract was signed and now you are rescinding it.

Carl Beard said we need to have a good relationship.

Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown said there needs to be open communications between all involved.

Lucinda Dell said the district did reach out for another School Resource Officers.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that was not true, and mentioned about the 75/25 grant and asked who was paying the 25 percent. Chief said that he did not know they had contacted G-Force until he was at the school board meeting and seen it on the agenda.

Carl Beard said that you will be sending a bad message if you rescind the contract.

Vice-President David Fortson said that you keep talking about good faith and that the superintendent knew she was contacting G-Force, but did not say anything.

Carl Beard said the school board had tabled the contract with G-Force.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said that with the contract agreement signed, that we would cover all schools and then the school district wants to contract for security for two of the schools, that this would be a breach of contract and conflict.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said that this needs to go back to the drawing board, and this was not thought out, there was no memorandum of understanding or communication. Jennifer said we are there to create a safe environment.

Chief Charles Streightiff spoke on his email that was sent to the school district and said that he had 13 officers and with the pay raises, the borough could not afford this.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that we should have sat down and talked about this months ago. Chief said that since some of the school board was at a committee meeting in May, that he has not heard one thing from them.

Lucinda Dell said that the boards desire is to keep the School Resource Officer. Lucinda said that the SRO is at the high school and middle school and the elementary schools are left out. Lucinda said that the desire is to have another SRO. Lucinda said that we must have protection, safety of the staff and students.

Lucinda Dell said it was her understanding that the borough could not afford another SRO.

Lucinda Dell said that we can work this out and make this agreeable to both parties.

Mayor Thomas Yoder asked if the district was still looking at G-Force?

Lucinda Dell said the decision has not been made on G-Force.

**Executive Session was called for contractual issues at 11:36 PM.**

**Executive Session ended at 12:03.**

President James Bair said we had a discussion on the contractual issue in Executive Session and we are now asking for a motion to table to rescind and void the contract with the school district and to have further discussions with the school district.

**Motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to table to rescind the current contract with the school district until there is further discussions with them and second was made by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said there was a proposal on the agenda that he wanted Chief Charles Streightiff to talk about.

Chief Charles Streightiff said the proposal was to keep the current contact of 2023-2024 school year without G-Force, and for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 was for 2 Huntingdon Borough Police Officers as School Resource Officers.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that he would have to open up the Civil Service Commission to hire another officer, advertise, go thru the oral board, physical fitness testing and possibly have to send them to school which takes time and that is why in the proposal for the first year was to keep.

Chief Charles Streightiff said that additional officers will continue to be presents in the schools at no cost to the school district, that he and other officers goes thru the schools every day and will continue to do this.

Lucinda Dell said that this Monday will be the school board meeting.

After no further business, the Huntingdon Borough Special Council meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary