REGULAR meeting of the Board of Public Safety was held on Thursday, July 14, 2005, at 10 a.m. at the City Building, 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor; Commissioners George Huffsmith and David Sengstock; Police Chief Paul Crowe; Fire Chief Vince Kelly; and City Clerk Robert J. Roberts.

AND FROM THE MEDIA:.Kyle Torok of The Evening Tribune.

ALSO PRESENT: Sgt. Mark Mahoney of the Hornell Police Department.

ABSENT: None.

By Sengstock/Huffsmith:
RESOLVED, that the minutes of the last meeting held June 9, 2005, be approved as read.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

By Huffsmith/Sengstock:
RESOLVED, that the Reports of Fire, Ambulance, Codes and Police be approved and ordered filed.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

By Sengstock/Huffsmith:
RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of $226,501.47 be approved and paid as audited.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

MISCELLANEOUS:

1) REQUEST FOR BLOCK PARTY ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET

By Sengstock/Huffsmith:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Public Safety of the City of Hornell, New York, hereby approves a neighborhood party on South Division Street for July 23, 2005, with the intersections to be blocked off at West Van Scoter and School streets from 7 a.m.-midnight.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

2) APPROVING USE OF TASER USE POLICY OF HORNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Sengstock/Huffsmith:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Public Safety of the City of Hornell hereby approves the Taser Use Policy of the Hornell Police Department.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

ON THE QUESTION: Mayor Hogan noted the Board previously approved the non-lethal use of Tasers in order to subdue individuals who threaten the life and safety of officers and citizens. After training of police officers on the Taser was completed, Mayor Hogan said, information came out in The Buffalo News on Tasers being linked to 103 deaths nationwide. Police Chief Crowe said Tasers have not been identified as being the exclusive cause of those deaths. He explained the benefits of Taser use and said other agencies with the weapon have not had problems. Sgt. Mahoney, the department's expert on Tasers, said training taught police officers how the device worked, the voltage it used, and in which situations it should be used. People struck with the darts fired by the Taser gun "plywood out," or remain motionless, for up to five seconds, which allows time for handcuffing. Officers were taught when to and when not to deploy the Taser, Sgt. Mahoney said. Tasers are ranked by the HPD as a Level 4 weapon, above items like pepper sprays and handcuffs, which the sergeant said indicates a situation has to be serious before it is used. Twenty-two different volunteers were shot at with Tasers during testing, with no problems. Officers are taught to shoot the darts in the back or side of the body, where the bulk of muscle is. The gun fires up to 21 feet away, the sergeant said, and it contains a memory disk that records important information about when the gun was fired. Mayor Hogan said the presentation removed his doubts about the use of Tasers.

3) RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER LASHBROOK

By Huffsmith/Sengstock:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Public Safety of the City of Hornell hereby grants a six-month leave of absence to Police Officer Scott Lashbrook, with his resignation effective Jan. 22, 2005.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

Commissioner Huffsmith credited the Hornell Fire Department for handling its volume of calls. Of 276 ambulance runs in June, the commissioner noted, 205 were for emergencies in and outside the city.

Fire Chief Kelly noted that bids have been sent out for the new ambulance.

Mayor Hogan told Commissioner Sengstock that double lines will be painted on Thacher Street as a traffic-control measure.

By Huffsmith/Sengstock:
RESOLVED, that this meeting adjourn at 10:34 a.m.
Carried – Ayes all (3)
Absent – None

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk