

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
January 15, 2007**

Members in attendance were Chairman Russell Noll, Vice Chairman Robert Sloss, Kenneth Iatesta, Renee Spaide-Hoffman and Fire Marshal/President Stanley Hildenbrand. Fire Chief Tom Mattingly was absent. Also in attendance was Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Noll called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II Approval of Minutes

Ms. Spaide-Hoffman moved that the December 21, 2006 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Vice Chairman Sloss seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 1 abstention.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

Marshal Hildenbrand provided the activity report for December 2006 for Fire Company Number 1. Highlights of his report included the following:

- There was 1 structure fire
- There were 2 automatic fire alarms
- There was 1 helicopter landing
- There were 5 Fire Police only calls
- Mutual aid was provided 5 times
- Mutual aid was received 5 times
- There were no scratched calls
- Three municipalities were serviced
- Time in service totaled 13 hours and 56 minutes
- Total man hours was 75.24

Vice Chairman Sloss asked about the structure fire and Marshal Hildebrand responded that it involved a trailer. He asked about the photograph in the *Mercury* that showed a Fire Fighter awaiting water at this fire event. Marshal Hildebrand stated that the Fire Fighter was simply waiting for a Tanker to be moved into position to begin providing water. He also inquired about the automatic fire alarms. Mr. Iatesta stated that he would provide additional information on this matter later in the meeting.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that in December there were no new applications, no applications were investigated and no memberships were approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that the starting balance on December 1st was \$5,250.86 and the ending balance on December 31st was \$5,504.78. Net income was \$253.92 and net expenses were \$0. There were no transactions. He added that check number 3579 was for the girl with cancer.

D. Fire Relief

No report was provided.

E. Fire Protection Tax Fund

Mr. Layne reported that as of December 31, 2006 revenues totaled \$86,489.82 while expenditures totaled \$69,314.40 leaving a net fund balance of \$17,175.42. Vice Chairman Sloss recommended that the Township contact Congressman Charles Dent's office regarding the availability of Federal funding for communication equipment.

IV. Old Business

B. Fire Company By-Laws

The Committee began discussion on the proposed Fire Company By-Laws. Chairman Noll stated that the proposed By-Laws had been approved by the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting. Marshal Hildebrand noted that Article VIII – Meetings Section 1 should be revised to read "...meetings of the Company shall be held on the second (2nd) Wednesday of each month..." It was noted that Fire Chief Tom Mattingly was satisfied with the proposed revision to Article XIII Operational Committee Section 2. Vice Chairman Sloss expressed his concern with Article VI Section 2. Following additional discussion on this matter Ms. Spaide-Hoffman moved that the proposed Fire Company By-Laws be approved with the correction being provided in Article VIII Meetings Section 1 changing Fire Company meeting days to the second Wednesday. Mr. Iatesta seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

B. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue Involving Superior

Mr. Layne distributed copies of the January 11, 2007 letter from Superior stating that Superior had installed the remote pressure sensing equipment in the Maugers Mill Booster Station. The letter stated that this installation provides for additional high service pumps to come on line as the pressure in Gilbertsville Road drops, which provides for a greater volume of water to be available at the Booster Station inlet. Marshal Hildebrand stated that they would like to test the fire hydrants as soon as possible. The Committee requested that Superior provide them with a report showing fire hydrant testing and fire hydrant flushing.

V. New Business

A. 2007 Priorities

Marshal Hildebrand stated that he is still in the process of prioritizing the 2007 priority listing for the Fire Company. He stated that the first priority was the procurement of a new Fire Pumper. He added that the existing Fire Pumper needed new tires.

B. Automatic Fire Alarms

Mr. Iatesta distributed copies of correspondence from Solicitor Charles Garner and an ordinance utilized by Pennsburg Borough regarding automatic fire alarms. He stated that Pennsburg provides a service fee for false alarms.

C. Miscellaneous Items

- Ms. Spaide-Hoffman emphasized that the Fire Company pursue efforts to obtain financial support from the developers in the Township.
- Mr. Iatesta inquired as to the status of the upstairs kitchen. Marshal Hildebrand stated that the kitchen was in good shape. There was some discussion about the condition of the existing stove.
- Marshal Hildebrand stated that a new flag was needed for the building.
- Marshal Hildebrand stated that exterior lights were needed in front of the building with sensors. It was suggested that the Public Works Department staff look at replacing these lights and the installation of sensors.
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VI. Public Comments

Marshal Hildebrand stated that Mr. Henry Bealer had informed him that it was alright to utilize the alarm when necessary during the day but not at night.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide-Hoffman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Marshal Hildebrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Submitted by Jack Layne, Township Manager

**The next Fire Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. Thursday,
February 15, 2007.**