

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

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

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

II Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hildenbrand moved that the February 15, 2007 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Mattingly provided the activity report for February 2007 for Fire Company Number 1. Highlights of his report included the following:

- There were 16 calls for the month
- There were 2 structure fires
- There was 1 accident
- There were no automatic fire alarms
- There was 1 investigation
- There were 5 Fire Police only calls
- Mutual aid was provided 4 times
- Mutual aid was received 7 times
- There were no scratched calls
- Four municipalities were serviced
- Time in service totaled 23 hours and 49 minutes
- Total man hours was 99.95

Ms. Spaide inquired as to whether the West End had provided mutual aid. Mr. Hildenbrand responded that they had done so.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that in February one application had been accepted and one rejected and that two new applications had been submitted for background checks. Total membership increased by one member since last month.

C. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports for January and February were distributed to the Committee. Report highlights included a February 1, 2007 starting balance of \$5,372.19 and February 28, 2007 ending balance of \$5,568.99.

D. Fire Relief

No Fire Relief Report was provided.

E. Fire Protection Tax Fund

Mr. Layne stated that the February 1, 2007 balance was \$10,635.16 and the February 28, 2007 ending balance was \$10,889.09. He added that receipts during the month of February totaled \$2,538.43 and disbursements were \$2,284.50. Vice Chairman Sloss emphasized the importance of the Committee having monthly budget data that tracks day-to-day financial activity.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue Involving Superior

The Committee discussed the letter that had been provided by Superior in response to the Committee's request for documentation from Superior that proper fire hydrant testing and flushing had been done. There was a consensus by the Committee that the Superior letter was inadequate and did not provide the information specified by the Committee. Mr. Layne was requested to contact the State Fire Commissioner and Superior regarding this matter.

B. 2007 Priorities – Update and Review

Mr. Layne distributed copies of a Power Point presentation that was provided at a 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) Workshop that he had attended in Reading. He pointed out that the purpose of AFG was to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and fire-related hazards. He emphasized that this would be a very competitive grant process and that we would have to be able to justify our priority needs. Although Marshal Hildenbrand stated that a listing of priority needs was being developed, he did state that our priority needs at the present time appear to be large apparatus items, such as a Pumper and a Brush Truck.

C. Master Plan

Vice Chairman Sloss stated that the purpose of the Master Plan was to develop a plan for the operation of the Fire Company for the next 20 years. Marshal Hildebrand stated that the future of Volunteer Firefighting did not look promising. He added that the requirements and standards for becoming and remaining a Volunteer Firefighter were becoming much more restrictive. He cited the addition of academic standards, certifications, etc.

V. New Business

A. Weather Alert Exercise

Mr. Layne stated that the Township had participated in a Weather Alert Exercise earlier that day that was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Emergency Management Agency and the Montgomery County Public Safety Department. He stated that 17 Township staff and residents had participated in this two-hour exercise.

B. Automatic Fire Alarms

Copies of a proposed ordinance that would prohibit false alarms and establish a false alarm procedure were distributed and were discussed by the Committee. There was a consensus that this was a sound ordinance but that the funds provided from the fines for false alarms should go to the Fire Tax Fund and not to the Township's General Fund. Therefore, Marshal Hildenbrand moved that funds

provided from the fines assessed for false alarms should be provided directly to the Fire Tax Fund and not to the Township's General Fund. Chief Mattingly seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

C. Fire Company Computer Software

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he had ordered computer software for the Fire Company totaling \$2,995.00 and requested that this item be paid for by the Fire Tax Fund. He commented that the software was received today and that it would upgrade the existing software.

D. 501© (3) Designation

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Tax Exempt Form for the Fire Company had not been completed. He added that this effort had been initiated by Commissioner Pete Dolan. He added that the By-Laws had been revised to allow for the 501 © (3) status.

E. Miscellaneous Items

- It was noted that the copy machine and fax located in the Fire Company should be repaired.
- The Chain Saw had been sent back to the manufacturer for repairs.
- The AEDs needed to be upgraded.
- There will be an Easter Flower Sale on April 6th and 7th and an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7th. Also the Police Department will provide fingerprint services and Booster Seats that Saturday.
- The location of the new fire hydrants provided by Superior needs to be updated to identify their location and whether they are operational.
- Ms. Spaide noted that the Fire Company was being operated efficiently.
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VI. Public Comments

- There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 P.M. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Submitted by Jack Layne, Township Manager

The next Fire Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. Thursday, April 19, 2007.