

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
April 19, 2007**

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

I. Call to Order

Due to the later arrival of Chairman Noll, Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

II Approval of Minutes

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

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

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

- There were 14 calls for the month
- There were 2 structure fires
- There were 2 accidents
- There was 1 automatic fire alarm
- There were no investigations
- There were 3 Fire Police only calls
- Mutual aid was provided 4 times
- Mutual aid was received 5 times
- There were no scratched calls
- Four municipalities were serviced
- Time in service totaled 14 hours and 55 minutes
- Total man hours were 57
- Monthly training: hose practice, driver training, air pack refresher
- Training schedule: tour of intermediate school fire alarm system

Chief Mattingly stated that several discrepancies were identified during the unofficial inspection of the Pottsgrove Middle School. It was suggested that in the future that the Fire Marshal provide official fire safety inspections of the Pottsgrove Middle School.

Chief Mattingly stated that the Fire Company's Chain Saw needed to be repaired for a cost of \$525. He stated that the cost of a new Chain Saw would be \$1,850. Following further discussion on this matter, there was a consensus by the Committee that the Chain Saw should be repaired at a cost of \$525.

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Power Line Arching involved the falling of a power line in Lower Pottsgrove and the second case involved a problem at the Farmington Avenue traffic light.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that in March two memberships were applied for, background checks were not provided and that no new memberships were provided.

C. Treasurer's Report

No Report was provided.

D. Fire Relief

No Report was provided.

E. Fire Protection Tax Fund

Mr. Layne stated that the March 1, 2007 balance was \$10,889.09 and the March 31, 2007 ending balance was \$19,729.92. He added that receipts during the month of March totaled \$12,594.75 and disbursements were \$3,753.92.

Marshal Hildenbrand requested that the Township provide him with copies of the fuel bills accrued by the Fire Company prior to their being paid.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue Involving Superior

The Committee discussed the information that Mr. Layne had distributed to the Committee stating the following: Superior would begin fire hydrant testing in the Township on May 1st and end on May 11th, a notification of this testing occurring would be placed in the local newspaper and that flow testing would begin on May 11th and continue until completed. There was a request that the firm providing the flow testing services for Superior be identified. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that a map showing the location of all the old and new fire hydrants in the Township was needed. There was a consensus that a report was needed from Superior verifying the fire hydrant test data.

B. 2007 Priorities – Update and Review

Chief Mattingly stated that the priority items needed by the Fire Company were a new Pumper, a Mini-Pumper/Brush Truck and a Thermal-Imaging Camera. Mr. Layne stated that a new flag was being provided for the Fire Company building.

C. Master Plan

Marshal Hildenbrand distributed copies of a draft Master Plan. Vice Chairman Sloss recommended that the Committee members review this proposed Master Plan and be prepared to discuss it at the next Committee meeting.

D. Automatic Fire Alarms

Mr. Iatesta stated that a proposed Automatic Fire Alarm ordinance had been presented to the Board of Commissioners. He suggested that this proposed ordinance be reviewed by the Committee and be considered for approval at the next meeting. He noted that that the Committee had recommended that funds obtained as a result of this ordinance be provided to the Fire Tax Fund.

E. 501© (3) Designation

There was a consensus by the Committee that Commissioner Dolan be requested to assist the Fire Company in their endeavor to obtain tax exemption status.

F. Background Checks

Marshal Hildenbrand requested that a letter be provided from the Committee to Chief Ross requesting that the Police Department do background checks on Fire Company personnel.

V. New Business

A. Homeland Security Grant application

Mr. Layne stated that the Homeland Security Grant application would be prepared and submitted by May 4th. He added that Marshal Hildenbrand and Chief Mattingly were assisting in this endeavor.

B. Miscellaneous Items

- It was noted that parts were needed for the existing Pumper
- Vice Chairman Sloss noted the strategic importance of Cabot Supermetals
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Easter Flower Sale did not provide much funding to the Fire Company.
- Marshal Hildenbrand noted that a major fundraiser would be held later this year.

VI. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

VII. Executive Session

The Committee moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:39 P.M.

VIII. 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,
May 17, 2007.**