

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

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

I. Call to Order

Due to Chairman Noll's work schedule he arrived later in the meeting so Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the May 17, 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

Marshal Hildenbrand provided the activity report for May and June 2007 for Fire Company Number 1. Highlights of these reports included the following:

- There were 9 calls in May and 13 in June
- There was 1 structure fire in May and 1 in June
- There were 2 accidents in May and 3 in June
- There was 1 automatic fire alarm in May and 1 in June
- There were no investigations in May but 3 in June
- There was 1 vehicle fire in May and 1 in June
- There were no helicopter landings in either month
- There were 4 Fire Police only calls in May and 2 in June
- Mutual aid was given 3 times in May and 2 times in June
- Mutual aid was received 4 times in May and 1 time in June
- Four municipalities were served in May and 3 in June
- Time in service totaled 14 hours and 12 minutes in May and 15 hours and 5 minutes in June
- Total man hours were 41 in May and 99 in June
- Monthly training consisted of Pump Practice and Driver training in June

Marshal Hildenbrand added that there were no scratches in either month or Firefighter injuries.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that there were two new members. He also stated that there were 23 Active Members, 17 Non Firefighters, 11 Inactive Members and 93 Life Members.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that for the month of June 2007 that there were no transactions and the starting balance was \$5,767.10 and the ending balance was \$6,221.87.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the expenditures with comparison to Budget for the six months ending June 30, 2007. The report showed that \$79,199.09 had been received in tax revenue. He added that there had been \$26,945.69 in expenditures and an unexpended balance of \$47,789.31.

E. Fire Relief

The Fire Relief Financial Statement for the month of June 2007 showed a Checking Account balance of \$3,662.52, Money Market Account of \$37,551.66 and the total for the CD investments was \$104,952.11. The total for all the accounts was \$146,537.19.

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the Operational Report, Membership Report, Treasurer's Report, Fire Fund Budget Update and the Fire Relief Report be accepted as submitted. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

Mr. Layne reported that he had contacted Superior to obtain written documentation from that firm regarding the status of fire hydrant pressure testing and flushing in the Township. He stated that Superior responded that they would be providing a map by Friday, July 20th depicting the location of each of the fire hydrants located in the Township but that they were still awaiting the report from the engineering firm on fire hydrant pressure testing and flushing. The Committee expressed their discontent with the fact that Superior has not provided a satisfactory response to the requests submitted over the past six months for fire hydrant pressure testing and flushing report information. The Committee emphasized that the fire hydrant pressure must be adequate in order to insure that fires can be safely and efficiently fought by our firefighters. Therefore, Mr. Iatesta moved that the Fire Committee request that the Board of Commissioners provide a letter to Superior expressing their dissatisfaction with the Township not having received requested fire hydrant pressure testing and flushing information. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Vice Chairman Sloss also stated that he would like for the Fire Company to begin doing random fire hydrant pressure testing throughout the Township. Mr. Iatesta stated that if a fire hydrant is out of service due to some malfunction then a covering should be placed over it as well as the Fire Company and Township being notified by Superior that the fire hydrant was out of service.

B. 2007 Priorities-Update and Review

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the hoses that would be purchased with the \$20,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and

Economic Development should be delivered in October 2007. He added that the delay in their delivery was attributed to the fact that the hoses would be tested and stenciled and that he was able to obtain a 60% price discount towards the purchase of these hoses.

Mr. Layne stated that he had spoken directly with Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor regarding the Township's request for funding towards the purchase of a Brush Truck. Mr. Castor stated that his office did not provide funding for fire fighting services or equipment but would consider providing funding requests for law enforcement services/needs. Mr. Layne stated that he had subsequently spoken to Chief Bryan Ross regarding this matter.

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he had recently contacted Commissioner Pete Dolan regarding his assisting the Fire Company in obtaining tax exempt status. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that Mr. Dolan stated that he did not have the information that the Fire Company had supposedly provided to him regarding this matter. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he thought that Mr. Dolan had received this information. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he would obtain the needed documentation in order for this process to move forward and formally submit it. Vice Chairman Sloss requested that Marshal Hildenbrand notify Mr. Dolan that he would be submitting this documentation.

Following a brief discussion on the concerns expressed by neighbors regarding the 14 cycles that the fire siren has each time it goes off, Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he would request that an electrician look at the fire siren to determine if the number of cycles could be reduced to 5.

C. Master Plan

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he would be making some minor additional revisions to the Master Plan.

V. New Business

- There was a consensus that the Fire Company was generally good operational condition.
- Mr. Fausnaught expressed concern about roads, e.g., State Road, being closed without the Fire Company being notified. Mr. Layne responded that PennDOT had temporarily closed parts of State Road this week for road repair and improvement but did not notify the Township prior to beginning this work.
- Chairman Noll stated that he was pleased to see the support for Senate Bill 23 that would provide a \$250 tax credit for active volunteer firefighters. He added that a firefighter must respond to a certain number of calls in order to be classified as an active volunteer firefighter and then he/she could apply for a State Tax Credit when they paid their taxes.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed use of property as a staged fire fighting location, which is owned by Richard Mingey in the

Township. The Committee requested that the Fire Company follow-up with Mr. Mingey regarding this matter.

VI. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 P.M. Marshal Hildenbrand 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,
August 16, 2007**