

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
August 16, 2007**

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

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the July 19, 2007 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Layne seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Mattingly provided the activity report for July 2007 for Fire Company Number 1. Highlights of these reports included the following:

- There were 9 calls in July
- There was 1 structure fire in July
- There were 4 accidents in July
- There were 2 automatic fire alarms in July
- There were no investigations in July
- There were no vehicle fires in July
- There were no helicopter landings in July
- There was 1 Fire Police only calls in July
- Mutual aid was given 2 times in July
- Mutual aid was received 2 times in July
- Two municipalities were served in July
- Monthly training consisted of Pump and Driver training and Limerick Drill Practice

Chief Mattingly added that the one house fire occurred in Lower Pottsgrove Township and that the field fire last month was a controlled burn.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that there were three applications, two background checks and one new member. He added that not all the information had been provided for one of the three applicants.

C. Treasurer's Report

Noting that there had no significant financial activity in July, Chief Mattingly moved to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the balance sheet and the expenditures with comparison to Budget for the six months ending June 30, 2007. Following a brief discussion regarding this matter, Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the Fire Fund Budget Update be accepted as presented. Chief Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

E. Fire Relief Fund

The Fire Relief Financial Statement for the month of July 2007 showed a Checking Account balance of \$3,246.42 and a Money Market Account of \$37,551.66. The total for all the accounts was \$145,476.64. Chief Mattingly moved that the Fire Relief Fund report be accepted as presented. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

Mr. Layne stated that the Superior Water Company had provided requested maps identifying the location of the fire hydrants in the Township as well as a listing of fire hydrants. Despite this fact, Vice Chairman Sloss stated that requested Superior fire hydrant testing and flushing documentation had not been provided. Chairman Sloss added that he had yet to witness Superior testing the fire hydrants in the Township. There was a general consensus of the Committee that this is a very serious matter because of relevant safety concerns and that it should be strongly emphasized to Superior that fire hydrant testing and flushing report documentation must be provided to the Township as soon as possible. The Committee recommended that the Board of Commissioners be made aware of the concerns of the Committee regarding this matter. Chief Mattingly added that this matter is critical because ISO rating information was needed by the Fire Company, which in turn may impact on Township insurance rates.

B. 2007 Priorities-Update and Review

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the hoses would be paid for by the \$20,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Chief Mattingly stated that the saw had been repaired. It was noted that the Fire Company copy machine was operating. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that we may apply for grant (e.g., Homeland Security) funding to purchase needed gear. There was a consensus that funding should be requested for the purchase of a generator that could power an entire building. Vice Chairman Sloss stated that the Township appeared to be moving forward towards accomplishing 2007 Priorities. It was further noted that the equipment looked great.

C. Master Plan

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Master Plan was basically complete with the exception of some minor changes and that he hoped to have the Plan at the next meeting.

D. Limerick Generating Station Exercise

Chief Mattingly commented on the recent Limerick Generating Station Exercise based on the observations by him and other firefighters. His comments included the following: some of the Route Alert books need updated maps; there was a lack of communication between those located in the Fire Company upstairs and those in the Administration Offices during the Exercise; there were problems communicating during the Exercise via the 800 MZ radios, pagers and cell phones; when the Radiological checks were done every ½ hour the Police Department did not have a radio; use of the Township radio frequency was recommended; cards for the hearing impaired can only be distributed but not explained to the residents during the 45 minute period allotted for distribution; clarity was needed on wind direction information provided; EOC drills should be held on some Thursday evenings when volunteer Firefighters could participate.

V. New Business

- Chief Mattingly stated that there was a fund drive to raise funding to paint the yellow Fire Truck the same color as the other Upper Pottsgrove Township fire trucks. He stated that although three price estimates would be obtained the initial estimate provided was \$11,000. The Committee requested the support of the Board of Commissioners in this endeavor.
- Marshal Hildenbrand recently contacted Commissioner Pete Dolan regarding the tax exempt efforts for the Fire Company.
- Mr. Layne stated that he would contact an electrician regarding the proposed reduction of the number of siren cycles.

VI. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

VII. Adjournment

Chief Mattingly moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 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,
September 20, 2007**