

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
September 20, 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, Scott Wagner and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Noll called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Sloss moved that the August 16, 2007 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved with three abstentions.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

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

- There were 10 calls
- There was 1 structure fire
- There were 3 accidents
- There were no automatic fire alarms
- There were no investigations
- There were no vehicle fires
- There was 1 trash fire
- There was 1 helicopter landing
- There was 1 Haz Mat incident
- There were 2 Fire Police only calls
- Mutual aid was given 3 times
- Mutual aid was received 2 times
- Four municipalities were served
- Time in service was 11 hours and 50 minutes and there were 59 total man hours
- Monthly training consisted of Pump and Driver training

It was noted that the Haz Mat Incident was an open mercury container at a local school and the trash fire was a controlled burn.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that for August there were two applications approved, two new applications submitted and one being investigated. There are 32 active members.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand noted that the August 31, 2007 Fire Company balance was \$6,421.27 and income included \$170 for one pool fill-up and a \$25 donation for an insurance report. It was also noted that \$20,000 in grant funds had been received from the State for the purchase of fire hoses.

D. Fire Relief Fund

Mr. Wagner provided the August 2007 financial report for the Fire Relief Association. The checking account ending balance was \$4,338.25 and there was \$412.53 expended for the repair of the traffic unit. He stated that the State Aid for Relief allotment had been released for 2007 and the amount totaling \$32,302.05 would come to the Township.

E. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the June 30, 2007 Balance Sheet for review. Vice Chairman Sloss requested that updated financial activity information be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Layne responded that he would do so and that the reconciliation process had impacted on our ability to provide information that was precise and timelier.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

Mr. Layne distributed a letter from the Superior Water Company (Superior) regarding their most recent fire hydrant flow testing efforts in the Township. Ms. Spaide stated that she thought she might have seen some of the testing taking place in the Township. Mr. Layne stated that he and the Township Solicitor, Charles Garner, would be in contact with Superior around September 28th to insure that the engineer's report on the fire hydrant testing be provided to the Township. Mr. Iatesta stated that the Fire Committee should recommend that the Board of Commissioners request that Superior provide fire hydrant flushing and pressure testing services on any new fire hydrants placed in the Township by Superior prior to them being utilized by the Township. Vice Chairman Sloss asked if Superior had advertised in the local newspaper that fire hydrant testing would occur in the Township on September 17th.

B. 2007 Priorities-Update and Review

Chairman Noll stated that the 2007 Priorities have been identified and that we are moving forward.

C. Master Plan

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Master Plan was close to completion.

D. Building Siren

There was extensive discussion regarding the fact that the building siren rings approximately 15 times when there is a fire emergency in the Township and that this is far too many times. Comments regarding this matter included the following:

- That the siren should ring no more than seven times.

- That the siren should ring from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. not until 10:00 P.M. as it presently does.
- Mr. Layne stated that he would contact the Electrician, Mr. Pufnock, who had recently looked at the siren regarding the reduction of the number of rings and reduction of the time period when the siren would be utilized.
- Vice Chairman Sloss and Mr. Bealer asserted that the siren was not needed due to the fact that most of the fire firefighters utilize radios, pagers and cell phones.
- Chief Mattingly stated that he felt that the siren was needed.
- Ms. Spaide stated that she felt that the siren provide a comfort level that our fire fighters were responding to fire-related emergencies in the Township.
- Vice Chairman Sloss added that the siren should be utilized for special emergency operations.
- Mr. Wagner suggested that the siren be turned off until the problems identified were resolved.
- Mr. Iatesta stated that the siren should be turned off by the next Fire Committee meeting if the problems are not resolved by then.
- It was suggested that other electrical firms be contacted if Pufnock could not respond satisfactorily.

V. New Business

- Vice Chairman Sloss recommended that the proposed 2008 Budget for the Fire Committee be discussed at the next Fire Committee meeting. Items that he requested information for this Budget discussion included the status of the vehicular loans and the amount the Township pays to Superior and the Borough Authority for the water for the fire hydrants.
- Chief Mattingly stated that a recent Boot Drive had raised \$590.00 towards paying for the painting of the yellow fire truck. He added that Gilbertsville Auto Body had provided a price quotation of between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for the painting of this vehicle.
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he was working on completing and submitting the tax exempt information for the Fire Company. He stated that he had recently spoken with Commissioner Pete Dolan regarding this matter.
- Marshal Hildenbrand and Chief Mattingly acknowledged that there were no outstanding reports that needed to be submitted by the Fire Company.

VI. Public Comment

- Mr. Wagner suggested that the 2008 Budget have a line item for capital investment in order to insure that funding would be available for future fire capital needs.
- There was a consensus that funding should be sought for improving the front of the building.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Iatesta moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 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,
October 18, 2007**