

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
May 15, 2008**

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Noll called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Spaide moved that the April 17, 2008 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Mattingly provided the Operational Report for the month of April 2008. Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 9 calls and 39 year to date
- There were 2 structure fires
- There were 0 accidents
- There were 3 trash fires
- There were 2 automatic fire alarms
- There was 1 Fire Police only call
- There was a ½ accident with injury and ½ HazMat incident
- There were 0 investigations
- Mutual aid was given 1 time
- Mutual aid was received 4 times
- There were no scratched calls
- Two municipalities were served
- Time in service was 5 hours and 20 minutes and there were 29 Man Hours provided
- In-House Training, Pumper operations and driver training was provided

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that for May 2008 there were four new applications that were received, four were being investigated and two were approved. He added that the May report noted that there were 34 active members, 20 non Firefighters, 8 inactive members and 93 life members.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand distributed the April 2008 Treasurer Report. There was an April 30th ending savings account balance of \$16,413.91 and an ending checking account of \$3,720.84. Marshal Hildenbrand also noted that \$125 was raised during the Fund Drive for that period. Marshal

Hildenbrand noted that the \$11,189 cost for the painting of the Fire Truck by D&D Collision would be taken from the savings account. It was noted that the lettering on the Fire Truck would be paid out of the Maintenance Line Item of the Fire Fund.

Marshal Hildenbrand added that the \$22,000 State Grant designated to the Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company was presently in the State Controller's Office and therefore should be received soon.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the February 29, 2008 and March 31, 2008 Township Balance Sheets and Fire Fund payment approvals by the Commission in April 2008 for the review of the Committee. Mr. Layne stated that despite the fact that the Fire Fund had a positive February and March unreserved fund balance, these funds would have to be closely monitored. Vice Chairman Sloss expressed concern that the April report was not provided. Mr. Layne stated that this report was not provided due to the fact that the date of the May Fire Committee meeting was before the next Board of Commissioners' meeting when this report would be provided.

E. Fire Relief Fund

The April 2008 Fire Relief Fund report showed that there was a closing Checking Account balance of \$31,939.68, closing Money Market balance of \$32,587.83, a Fire Academy balance of \$712.00 and a total of \$173,817.670 for all accounts.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

No update had been provided by Superior. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Fire Company had attempted to fill up the Tanker on Maugers Mill and that there was not much pressure. Following a brief discussion on this matter, the Committee requested that the Township check to see if the fire hydrants presently rented by the Township from Superior and the Pottstown Borough Authority could be purchased.

B. Selection of citizen representative to the Fire Committee

Applicants for the Citizen Representative to the Fire Committee attending the meeting were interviewed by the Fire Committee. Following the completion of the interview process by the Fire Committee, Chief Mattingly moved that Gilbert Duncan be recommended to the Board of Commissioners for filling the Citizen Representative opening for the Fire Committee. Vice Chairman Sloss seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

C. Information on leasing options for new fire truck

The Committee discussed the highlights of the presentation provided at the last meeting by Laurel Mountain Leasing and Continental Fire & Safety, Inc. Mr. Layne inserted that although there were many benefits to leasing the proposed fire truck, it should be emphasized that no lease documents should be signed prior to obtaining notification regarding the status of the FEMA grant application for this fire truck. He, along with Marshal Hildenbrand, added that documentation could not be signed for leasing or

purchasing the proposed fire truck in order to remain eligible for receiving this grant. It was noted that FEMA grant notification would probably be in the fall of 2008. Chief Mattingly added that there had not been a final cost determination on the proposed fire truck.

V. New Business

Ms. Spaide stated that as the Township Commission representative to the Pottstown Area Council of Governments (COG) she had attempted to emphasize the benefits of municipalities sharing products, services, etc. She stated that at the COG meeting she had stated that the Township had made a concerted effort, i.e., police, toward regionalization but that the municipalities that were contacted opted not to work with Upper Pottsgrove in this endeavor. Marshal Hildenbrand noted that we must consider that the firefighters are volunteers. Ms. Spaide added that at least we could look at purchasing gasoline as a group due to its high cost.

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Fire Company would have fundraising events on July 5th. These events would be a pig roast from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Heather Place Park and a Coyote Run concert that evening at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall. He stated that the cost for the pig roast would be \$12.50 and \$17.00 for the concert. He added that the one ticket for both events would cost \$27.50.

Marshal Hildenbrand added that a Flea Market would be held in the Fire Company bays and parking lot area on July 26th.

Vice Chairman Sloss stated that there should be clarity provided as to whether the proposed recent revisions to the By-Laws should come before the Board of Commissioners.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 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,
June 19, 2008**