

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
September 18, 2008**

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

I. Call to Order

Due to the absence of Chairman Noll, Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Duncan moved that the August 21, 2008 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

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

- There were 15 calls and 97 year to date
- There were 2 structure fires
- There was 1 accident
- There were 3 trash fires
- There were 0 automatic fire alarms
- There were 4 Fire Police only calls
- There were 0 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 7 times
- Mutual aid was received 3 times
- There were no scratched calls
- Five municipalities were served
- Hydrant Testing, Pumper Training and Driver Training was provided and the training schedule includes continued hydrant testing, blood born pathogens and individual Fire Academy Courses.

Mr. Duncan moved that the Operational Report be accepted as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that for September 2008 there was one new application that was received, one was being investigated and two were approved. He added that the report noted that there were 43 active members, 23 non Firefighters, 8 inactive members and 93 life members.

Mr. Duncan moved that the Membership Report be accepted as submitted. Chief Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand distributed the August 2008 Treasurer Report. There was a August 31st ending savings account balance of \$5,231.46 and an ending checking account of \$23,686.55. Marshal Hildenbrand also noted that \$133.00 had been received from donations.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the August 31, 2008 and July 31, 2008 Township Balance Sheets and Fire Fund payment approvals by the Commission in August 2008 for the review of the Committee. Mr. Layne stated that the unappropriated fund balance for August 31st was \$62,437.86 and \$61,027.44 for July 31st and that the total liabilities and equity were \$115,830.93 for August 31st and \$114,420.51 for July 31st. Vice Chairman Sloss commented that he thought that the Fire Fund was being managed well.

E. Fire Relief Fund

The August 2008 Fire Relief Fund report showed that there was a closing Checking Account balance of \$31,280.62, closing Money Market balance of \$27,627.37, a Fire Academy balance of \$562.00, Certificates of Deposit of \$54,934.62 and \$54,802.99, respectively, and a total of \$169,207.60 for all accounts.

Mr. Duncan made a motion that the Treasurer's Report, Fire Fund Budget Update and the Fire Relief report be accepted as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

Mr. Braglio and Mr. Rinehart responded to questions and concerns raised by the Committee regarding fire hydrant pressure levels provided by the Superior Water Company within the Township. Highlights of this discussion included the following:

- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the fire hydrants that the Fire Company recently tested for having adequate water pressure failed the test.
- Vice Chairman Sloss emphasized that Superior had stated during the last Fire Committee meeting that they had attended that if they had any problems with the fire hydrant water pressure that they should call a specified telephone number and that an instant response would be provided. Vice Chairman Sloss stated that the call was made when it was determined that the fire hydrant water pressure was inadequate but that a quick response was not provided. Vice Chairman Sloss stated that if this had been a real fire then lives might have been at risk.

- Ms. Spaide stated that the Township has been paying for the use of fire hydrants provided by Superior but that this is unfair if the Township is not able to properly utilize what we are paying for.
- Mr. Braglio stated that Superior flushes the distribution main for the fire hydrants twice per year. Vice Chairman Sloss stated that the Township needed to see documentation verifying this statement.
- Mr. Braglio stated that a 12” main would be installed in Gilbertsville Road in the fall. The main will go from Buchert Road into the Township.
- Mr. Layne stated that the successful procurement of Senate Bill 2 State grant funding by the Township for needed sewer and water projects could assist Superior and the Township to improve the level of public water service provided in the Township.
- Vice Chairman Sloss recommended that the Fire Company contact Montgomery County when Superior needs to be contacted regarding water service.
- Mr. Rinehart stated that he would provide a listing of contact persons and telephone numbers for contacting Superior for any problems related to water pressure or service in the Township.
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the fire hydrants need to be properly marked so that Fire Company personnel will know what level of water pressure that should come out of the fire hydrants.
- Ms. Spaide emphasized that the Township should be able to efficiently operate the fire hydrants that they pay Superior for their use.
- Vice Chairman Sloss stated that the universal goal for the water pressure level for every fire hydrant is 1,500 gallons per minute.
- It was noted that the fire hydrants located on Mangers Mill Road did not operate efficiently.

B. Information on leasing options for new fire truck

Chief Mattingly stated that Township Solicitor Charles Garner had reviewed the proposed leasing contract and had identified no problem areas that would preclude us from signing this agreement.

V. New Business

- Mr. Duncan stated that there should be a determination made regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. There was a consensus that the Fire Committee should remain in place and that it should serve as a liaison between the Township and the Fire Company. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Fire Company would like to be self-sufficient and self-supporting. Ms. Spaide stated that perhaps an addendum could be added to the Memorandum of Understanding that would provide the language that is desired. After additional discussion on this matter, the Committee requested that the Township Solicitor, Charles Garner, be contacted to obtain his opinion regarding the status of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the \$22,000 State Grant had been received and that we were planning to submit another proposal for next year for additional grant funding.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 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 18, 2008**