

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

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

I. Call to Order

Due to the later arrival of Chairman Noll, Vice Chairman Sloss called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the November 20, 2008 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Chief Mattingly 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 November 2008. Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 17 calls and 146 year to date
- There were 2 structure fires
- There were 3 accidents with injuries
- There was 1 trash fire
- There were 6 automatic fire alarms
- There were 4 Fire Police only calls
- There were 0 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 2 times
- Mutual aid was received 6 times
- There were 0 scratched calls
- Three municipalities were served
- Time in service totaled 27 hours and 53 minutes and there were 219.22 total man hours
- Pumper and Driver Training and Drafting Water Operations were provided

The Committee discussed the major fire (e.g., 1337 N. State Street) that had occurred since the last meeting. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that there had been some negative comments stated on the *Mercury's* segment of the internet regarding Upper Pottsgrove's response to that fire. He also stated that the Gilbertsville Fire Company had been very supportive during this fire event. Vice Chairman Sloss stated that he did not see the negative comments on the internet that were noted by Marshal Hildenbrand. Following additional discussion regarding this matter, Ms. Spaide 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 there were no changes in the information provided for the December 2008 Membership Report from the November 2008 Membership Report.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the Treasurer's Report would be provided at a later date by the Fire Company Treasurer.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the November 30, 2008 Township Balance Sheets and Fire Fund payment approvals by the Commission in December 2008 for the review of the Committee. Mr. Layne stated that the unappropriated fund balance for November 30th was \$59,238.58 and that the total liabilities and equity were \$112,631.65 for November 30th. Mr. Layne added that the Fire Fund Tax income percentage was 99.6%. Following discussion on the benefits of setting aside funding towards the purchase of needed firefighting apparatus, a motion that was proposed by Vice Chairman Sloss to designate \$50,000 towards this endeavor in the same manner that was done in 2008 was tabled due to the fact that pertinent discussion regarding the utilization of this funding would occur later in the meeting.

E. Fire Relief Fund

No report was provided.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue involving Superior

Although there was no new update provided on the fire hydrants water pressure issue involving Superior, it was noted that requested fire hydrant testing data from both Superior and the Pottstown Borough Authority had not been provided. Therefore, the Committee requested that Mr. Layne contact Township Solicitor Charles Garner and ask him to provide a letter to both Superior and the Borough Authority regarding this matter.

B. Information on leasing options for new fire truck

Chief Mattingly stated that the application for leasing a new fire truck had been forwarded to Laurel Mountain Leasing. The proposed terms of the lease were for 10 years, a 5.39% interest rate and an annual payment of \$36,207. He added that with the 2% PEMA State loan the projected lease payment would be \$3,660.82 per month. He further stated that the projected cost for the new truck is \$450,000. Mr. Lightcap stated that due to the present economy and the banking industry, Laurel Mountain Leasing requested that \$50,000 be deposited in a CD at Allegheny Valley Bank (Allegheny) of Pittsburgh upon signing and that an additional \$50,000 CD was to be deposited by January 30, 2009. He added that the CD provided to Allegheny would be applied toward the lease cost of the vehicle. Vice Chairman Sloss requested that the Township contact

Allegheny to determine if the 5.39% interest rate could be reduced. Mr. Layne was requested to contact Laurel Mountain Leasing in order to provide them with the requested documentation for this lease application.

C. Training

Marshal Hildenbrand commented that there would be information provided in the Fire Company regarding proposed and needed firefighter training.

D. Tax Exempt Status Application

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that there was no update since his last report on this matter.

E. Memorandum of Understanding

It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recommended for discussion by the Board of Commissioners in 2009.

V. New Business

A. Holiday Gathering

It was noted that the Fujiyama Steak House would be the location for the Holiday Gathering for the Fire Company that would begin at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 21, 2008.

B. Future Equipment Replacement

Vice Chairman Sloss emphasized that the Township should remain cognizant of the fact that much of the existing firefighting equipment would need to be replaced one day in the not too distant future.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 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,
January 15, 2009**