

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
March 19, 2009**

Members in attendance were Chairman Russell Noll, Vice Chairman Robert Sloss, Renee Spaide, Gilbert Duncan, Fire Chief Tom Mattingly and Marshal/President Stanley Hildenbrand. Also in attendance were Louis Knight and Dave Rinehart with the Superior Water Company, Scott Wagner with Fireman's Relief 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 7:10 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Spaide moved that the January 15, 2009 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Marshal Hildenbrand seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

III. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue Involving Superior

Vice Chairman Sloss questioned how the Township is made to pay a rental fee for fire hydrants when he believes that the fire hydrants are owned by the taxpayers.

Ms. Knight and Mr. Rinehart responded to inquires and concerns regarding the fire hydrant service provided by Superior to the Township. Their responses to these inquiries and concerns included the following:

- Ms. Knight stated that Superior received funding for its operations from developer contributions, loans from the bank, shareholder equity contributions, etc.
- Ms. Knight added that 25% of the full cost for the services provided for each hydrant comes from the rates charged to the public.
- Ms. Knight stated that Superior proposed to install a new water line on Gilbertsville Road.
- Marshal Hildenbrand expressed his concern as to status of the gas line on Gilbertsville Road, while this water line installation project is taking place.
- Ms. Knight stated that new protocol on lost and unaccounted waster has been established by the Delaware River Commission and that reports would be needed from the Township regarding this matter.
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that fire hydrant flushing reports for each fire hydrant were needed by the Township.

- Mr. Rinehart stated that he was not adverse to color coating the fire hydrants in order to indicate the water pressure for that fire hydrant.
- Ms. Spaide reiterated that fire hydrant flushing reports were needed and that water pressure testing reports for the fire hydrants were also needed by the Township.
- Vice Chairman Sloss emphasized that adequate water pressure was essential in order to be able to adequately fight fires.
- Ms. Knight stated that Superior would provide a new 12" water line on Gilbertsville Road that will provide a 25% to 50% improvement in service provided.
- Ms. Knight stated that Homeland Security was an issue as well.
- Vice Chairman Sloss reiterated his concerns with the fire hydrant rental fee.

IV. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Mattingly provided the Operational Report for the months of January and February 2009. Highlights of these Reports included the following:

- In January, there were 12 calls and 12 year to date
- In February, there were 8 calls and 20 year to date
- In January, there were 3 structure fires
- In February, there were 2 structure fires
- In January, there 2 accidents with injuries
- In February, there were 0 accidents with injuries
- There were no trash fires in either month
- In January, there were 2 automatic fire alarms
- In February, there was 1 automatic fire alarm
- In January, there were 2 Fire Police only calls
- In February, there was 1 Fire Police only call
- There were 0 vehicle fires in either month
- Mutual aid was given 2 times in both months
- Mutual aid was received 3 times in January and 5 times in February
- There were 0 scratched calls in both months
- Three municipalities were served in both months
- Time in service totaled 10 hours and 1 minute and there were 76.58 total man hours in January and time in service totaled 7 hours and 41 minutes and there were 48.15 total man hours in February
- Haz-Mat Operations and individual Fire Academy Course training was provided in both months

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that there were no changes in the information provided for the February 2009 Membership Report from the January 2009 Membership Report.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand distributed the January and February 2009 Treasurer's Reports. The Savings Account had a beginning balance of \$5,235.83 and an ending balance of \$5,426.97. There were no expenditures in the Savings Account in January. The beginning Checking Account balance for January 2009 was \$4,766.15 and the ending balance was \$4,276.43. The beginning balance for the Truck Fund was \$1,495.03 and the ending balance was \$1,600.36.

The February Saving Account had a beginning balance of \$5,426.97 and ending balance of \$5,428.01. There were no expenditures in the Savings Account in February. The beginning Checking Account balance for February 2009 was \$4,276.43 and the ending balance was \$4,902.29. The beginning balance for the Truck Fund was \$1,600.36 and the ending balance was \$3,070.69. There was a \$1,470.00 donation provided for the Truck Fund.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the February 28, 2009 Township Balance Sheets and Fire Fund payment approvals by the Commission in March 2009 for the review of the Committee. Mr. Layne stated that there was an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$103,525.32. He added that expenditures were being closely monitored.

E. Fire Relief Fund

Mr. Wagner provided reports for January and February 2009. The month end Checking Account balance for January was \$64,841.23, the Money Market closing balance was \$27,710.09, Certificates of Deposits for \$50,288.26 and \$55,352.83 and the total for all accounts was \$198,192.41. The month end Checking Account balance for February was \$63,014.44, the Money Market closing balance was \$27,726.07, Certificates of Deposit for \$50,435.40 and \$55,454.06 and the total for all accounts was \$196,629.97. It was noted by Mr. Wagner that the Auditor General had not provided a signed hard copy of the Fire Relief Fund audit. Mr. Wagner noted that the Auditor had verbally informed them that there were no findings after his audit. Mr. Wagner also stated that it has been difficult to obtain requested information over the past couple of months from the Fire Academy due to internal problems at the Fire Academy.

V. Old Business (Cont.)

B. Information on leasing options for new fire truck

Chief Mattingly stated that he and Marshal Hildenbrand had met with Marion representatives at their location in Wisconsin to review the plans and proposal for the new fire truck. He emphasized that the meetings with

Marion went very well. He stated that there may be some changes in the pricing. He stated that he went through the Stripper Sheets and that there were 14 minor changes to the truck chassis and 31 minor changes to the body portion of the truck. He added that the Marion manufacturing facility was immaculate. He stated that the proposed delivery month for the truck was November 2009.

VI. New Business

- Ms. Spaide recommended that the Fire Company raise funding for purchasing green reflecting signs for Township house numbers. She added that the homeowner could purchase the signs.
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that there would be an Easter Flower Sale during the bake sale during the April 10th through April 12th weekend. He added that the Easter Egg Hunt would be on Saturday, April 11th.
- Mr. Noll recommended that a corporate letter be provided for requesting funds for the truck fund.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 P.M. Mr. Duncan 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,
April 16, 2009**