

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
May 21, 2009**

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Noll called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the April 16, 2009 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Vice Chairman Sloss seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Operational Report

Marshal Hildenbrand provided the Operational Report for the month of April 2009. Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 11 calls and 41 year to date
- There were 0 structure fires
- There 2 accidents with injuries
- There were 2 trash fires
- There were 0 automatic fire alarms
- There were 4 Fire Police only calls
- There were 2 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 3 times
- Mutual aid was received 1 time
- There were 0 scratched calls
- Four municipalities were served
- Individual Fire Academy Courses, Haz Mat Awareness and Helicopter Landing training were provided

B. Membership Report

Marshal Hildenbrand reported that in April 2009 there were 32 Active Members, 20 Non Firefighters and 15 Inactive Members. He stated that there were 2 new applications, 2 being investigated and 1 membership approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

Marshal Hildenbrand distributed the April 2009 Treasurer's Report. The Savings Account had a beginning balance of \$5,429.16 and an ending balance of \$5,430.28. There were no expenditures in the Savings Account in April. The beginning Checking Account balance for April 2009 was

\$16,478.74 and the ending balance was \$16,817.91. It was noted that the \$89.00 for dues reimbursement was the reimbursement to Scott Wagner for dues he had paid for Fire Police personnel. The beginning balance for the Truck Fund was \$8,573.40 and the ending balance was \$9,905.88.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne provided the April 30, 2009 Township Balance Sheets and Fire Fund payment approvals by the Commission in May 2009 for the review of the Committee. Mr. Layne stated that there was an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$103,525.32 and that the unappropriated fund balance year to date was \$65,187.97. It was also noted that the second check for \$50,000 had been authorized for submittal to Allegheny Valley Bank for the new fire truck in May. He added that expenditures were being closely monitored. Mr. Layne further stated that total fund expenditures as of April 30th were 33% of the budgeted fund total.

E. Fire Relief Fund

Mr. Wagner provided reports for April 2009. The month end Checking Account balance for April was \$46,115.30, the Money Market closing balance was \$27,759.69, Certificates of Deposits were \$55,567.08 and \$50,716.67 and the total for all accounts was \$180,258.58.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Issue Involving Superior

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that he had been recently contacted by the Superior Water Company stating that the fire hydrant located near the Fire Company was not to be used for filling swimming pools due to the potentially large volume of water that would be used and its possible negative impact on nearby water pressure levels. Marshal Hildenbrand stated that this recent call from Superior was contrary to the previous information provided by Superior that allowed for pool filling from this same fire hydrant. There was general agreement that Marshal Hildenbrand could utilize this specified fire hydrant for future pool fills but that the number of gallons utilized for this purpose should be noted.

B. Information on leasing options for new fire truck

Marshal Hildenbrand stated that the construction of the new fire truck was proceeding along fine. He stated that the chassis construction was ahead of schedule. He further stated that the fire truck was on target for a November 2009 delivery date.

V. New Business

- There was a consensus after a brief discussion that the proposed revised letter developed by Chairman Noll be utilized for soliciting funds for the Fire Company.
- Chairman Noll provided a recent *Pittsburgh News* article entitled "Fire Chiefs urged to ID Arsonists in their Ranks". Chairman Noll stated that this article further supports efforts to provide a sound background check on firefighter applicants. Vice Chairman Sloss

noted that it was unfortunate but necessary that these background checks be done.

- Chairman Noll stated that the Volunteer Fire Fighter Tax Credit legislation recently went into effect.
- Chairman Noll noted that it appeared that maintenance work was done recently on a personal vehicle in one of the Fire Company bays. He added that personal vehicles should not be in the Fire Company bays.

VI. Public Comment

- Mr. Wagner stated that he had met with West Pottsgrove Township fire personnel to discuss how to best handle emergency situations, accidents, etc. that may occur at the State Route 100 and State Road intersection for the recently constructed Upland Square Shopping Center. Following a brief discussion on this matter, Mr. Layne stated that he would coordinate a meeting with West Pottsgrove and Upper Pottsgrove police, fire and public works personnel to insure that there was ample clarity and proper protocol with respect to the responses to emergency situations at this intersection.
- Marshal Hildenbrand stated that background checks had been done on most of the drivers of Township fire vehicles. He added that these background checks would also be done on those driving vehicles having blue lights. He further stated that there were approximately 15 drivers that are qualified to drive the larger vehicles.

VII. Adjournment

Marshal Hildenbrand moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 P.M. Vice Chairman Sloss 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 18, 2009**