

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
February 18, 2010**

Members in attendance were Chairman Russell Noll, Vice Chairman Robert Sloss, Renee Spaide, Marshal/President Stanley Hildenbrand and Fire Chief Tom Mattingly. Gilbert Duncan was absent. Also in attendance were Thomas Drevanyanko, Erin Flanagan, Louise Knight, Dave Rinehart 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 7:15 P.M.

II. Old Business

A. Update from Superior Water Company regarding Township concerns

Superior Water Company representatives, Louise Knight and Dave Rinehart, provided information regarding their efforts to respond to Township concerns. Major items addressed included the following:

- Chief Mattingly noted problems with the fire hydrant located at the Heather Place
- Marshal Hildenbrand inquired about the fire hydrants located on Maugers Mill and when would the pressure level be increased for them.
- Mr. Rinehart stated that the Gilbertsville water line upgrade had not been completed but should be in the next couple of weeks.
- Chief Mattingly stated that some of the fire hydrants were covered with snow and that perhaps an ordinance was needed regarding the clearing of snow by property owners off of the fire hydrants located on their property.
- Mr. Sloss inquired as to who would be doing the inspection when the water line was completed.
- Chairman Noll asked when would the new Gilbertsville water line be in service. Ms. Knight responded that the new water line was 98% completed and that weather permitting Superior wants to have this new line in service as soon as possible. She added that the Gilbertsville water line upgrade will improve the water pressure in the Township. She added, however, that they were not certain that these improvements will significantly improve the water pressure for homes located on Hanover. She further stated that during the Wolf Run Project Superior unsuccessfully requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provide funding for the installation of water pressure tanks on Hanover Drive and Heather Place. Ms. Knight added that the proposed Bachman Tract needs to be developed in order to insure

that the water pressure problems in these areas are satisfactorily resolved.

- Superior emphasized that they were seeking an automatic fix to the water pressure problems as opposed to relying on having someone call to state that the water pressure was low. Ms. Knight added that Superior was installing a remote SKADA System.
- Mr. Rinehart stated that Superior focuses on providing water to a fire hydrant during an emergency.
- Ms. Knight reiterated that the development of the Bachman Tract was the long-term solution to resolving the Township's water pressure problems. She added that Superior did not have the approximately \$1 million in funding to install water pressure tanks at each needed location if the Bachman Tract was not developed.
- Superior stated that they were working on having the back-up pump to come on faster when the SKADA System was installed. They added that they were hopeful that the SKADA System would be installed by March or April 2010.
- Vice Chairman Sloss inquired as to whether a Pressure Regulator as opposed to a Pressure Pump would help to efficiently and less expensively resolve the Township's water pressure problems. Mr. Rinehart responded that this endeavor had been studied but that it had been determined that utilizing a Pressure Regulator would not resolve the water pressure problems.
- Mr. Drevanyanko stated that the water pressure was not consistently adequate at his home. He added that water pressure problems had occurred early in the morning.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Spaide moved that the January 21, 2010 Fire Committee meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Vice Chairman Sloss seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

IV. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Mattingly provided the Operational Report for the month of January 2010. Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 16 calls and 16 calls for the year to date
- There was 1 structure fire
- There was 1 accident with injuries
- There was 1 trash fire
- There were 0 automatic fire alarms
- There were 6 Fire Police only calls
- There were 0 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 4 times
- Mutual aid was received 7 times

- There were 0 scratched calls
- Three municipalities were served
- Time in service was 14 hours and 48 minutes and man hours totaled 104.5 hours
- In-House Training was provided
- Chief Mattingly stated that the HazMat call was in response to fuel being spilled onto a road by a truck
- It was noted that the structure fire was located in a chimney and that the trash fire was near the Pottsgrove Middle School.
- Chief Mattingly stated that the new fire truck was officially placed in service on February 8th

B. Membership Report

In January 2010, there was one new applicant, one investigation and no memberships were approved. There were 34 active members, seven non-Fire Fighters and 22 inactive members.

C. Treasurer's Report

Chief Mattingly reported that the month end balance for January 2010 for the Fire Company's Savings Account was \$2,505.82 and the Checking Account was \$2,186.23. The amount of funding currently in the Fire Truck Fund was \$14,948.05.

- It was noted that the Form 990 Income Tax was being reviewed and that this month reflected Exelon's financial contribution.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne noted that the January 31, 2010 Fire Fund report stated that there was \$49,034.72 in net revenue over expenditures. Total Real Estate Taxes received as of January 31, 2010 were \$894.11 or .9% of the budgeted amount. Chief Mattingly that the two older fire trucks would necessitate the Township having to expend funds for their repair. He added that they were looking at refurbishing the Spartan Tanker. Mr. Layne noted that the two CD's totaling \$100,000 had been used for the new fire truck and that there had been an expenditure for vehicle insurance. Vice Chairman Sloss emphasized that funds might be needed between now and when tax revenues begin arriving in March and April 2010. He suggested that the Truck Fund be utilized to cover Fire Fund cash shortfalls until March or April. Chairman Noll suggested that the Township utilize funding from the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), if possible, and not funds from the Truck Fund. Following additional discussion on this matter, the Committee requested that Mr. Layne check with the appropriate staff to determine if the TAN funds could be utilized to cover funding shortfalls in the Fire Fund. Vice Chairman Sloss reiterated that the 2010 Fire Fund budget would be tight especially with there being a fire truck loan payment totaling \$36,000 being due in December.

E. Fire Relief Fund

The Fire Relief report for January 2010 was the following: the month end Checking Account balance was \$16,842.17, the Money Market closing balance was \$59,272.12, Certificates of Deposits were \$56,351.87 and \$52,048.33 and the total for all accounts was \$184,514.49. Chief Mattingly noted that the \$16,783.25 expense was for the new fire truck.

V. New Business

A. Memorandum of Understanding/Proposed Revised By-Laws

The Committee discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the proposed revised By-Laws. Ms. Spaide stated that the Board of Commissioners was concerned with maintaining their eyes on the cash expenditures from the Fire Fund since these were tax dollars. She emphasized that there was a good relationship between the Township and the Fire Company. Mr. Layne stated that Commissioner Herbert Miller had informed him that he would not agree to the establishment of a new board that did not include two Commissioners and the Township Manager. Following some additional discussion on this matter, Chief Mattingly expressed concern that the Fire Company had not approved the proposed revised By-Laws. Chief Mattingly also stated that the Fire Committee would remain if the MOU was in or not in place. Chairman Noll stated that he did not want the Fire Committee to go away and that it would operate in the advisory manner that the Township's Planning Commission and other committees operate. He added that the Fire Company could make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners regarding this matter at their March 15th or April 5th meeting.

B. Corporate Fund Drive

Chairman Noll read a letter from Giant stating that they would not provide requested funding to the Fire Company at this time.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:47 P.M. Chief Mattingly 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,
March 18, 2010**