

**Upper Pottsgrove Township  
Fire Committee Meeting  
March 15, 2012**

Members in attendance were Chairman Pete Dolan, Vice Chairman Robert Sloss, Renee Spaide, Keith Kachel, President Bill Marsden and Stanley Hildenbrand, Fire Chief. Also in attendance was Jack Layne, Township Manager.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Spaide moved that the February 16, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Vice Chairman Sloss seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**III. Report**

**A. Operational Report**

Chief Hildenbrand provided the February 2012 Operational Report.

Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 14 calls in February and 31 calls for the year to date
- There were 0 structure fires
- There were 2 accidents with injuries
- There was 1 trash fire
- There were 4 automatic fire alarms
- There were 2 Fire Police only calls
- There was 0 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 3 times
- Mutual aid was received 0 times
- There were 4 Fire Police scratched calls

Four municipalities were serviced. Time in service was 5 hours 37 minutes and the total man hours were 23 hours. Monthly training included Continued Driver/Pump Training and Individual MCFA Courses. In-House training and driver/pumper/tanker training were also provided. Chief Hildenbrand stated that only one of the four automatic fire alarms was a false alarm. Chairman Dolan expressed his concern that the Township should allow for no more than one false alarm per year. He added that it was unfair to the volunteer firefighters to have them respond to false alarms. Vice Chairman Sloss inquired as to why there were four Fire Police scratched calls. Chief Hildenbrand stated that there was a shortage of Fire Police and that the scratched calls were for mutual aid and none in the Township. He added that the current crew is not making the calls on a consistent basis. Chief Hildenbrand stated that there were 25 active firefighters. Chief Hildenbrand noted that a CDL license was not needed to be qualified for driving fire apparatus. Chief Hildenbrand stated that each active firefighter had a pager and that an average of five firefighters responded to emergency calls and that there was a listing of 15 firefighters that actually made the fire calls. He stated that once the pager is returned by the firefighter they may continue to serve as a member of the Fire Company but would no longer be on active status as a

firefighter. Mr. Kachel noted that the firefighting gear was stored in the fire house. Chairman Dolan requested that Chief Hildenbrand begin to routinely report on the number of active and non-active firefighters, how many had pagers, how many responded to calls, etc. Chief Hildenbrand added that there were no calls when he was the only firefighter available. Chief Hildenbrand stated that the one call for Special Services was a request for assistance to move a patient.

**B. Membership Report**

President Marsden reported that there were four new applicants, three under investigation and one was approved.

**C. Treasurer's Report**

President Marsden reported that the month end balance for February 29, 2012 for the Fire Company's Savings Account was \$2,549.48, the Checking Account was \$17,933.01, the Truck Fund was \$28,488.07 and the Property Fund was \$10,014.16. The Auxiliary Report for February 2012 had a Savings Account balance of \$408.74 and a Checking Account balance of \$505.10. Vice Chairman Sloss requested that the amount of total donations received to-date by the Auxiliary be provided to the Committee. It was noted that \$145.67 in Hoagie Sales would be reflected on the next report. Vice Chairman Sloss added that he would like to see the balance sheet for the Auxiliary and a cost breakdown for last year. Ms. Spaide stated that she was aware of the items that the Auxiliary had sold, such as Easter Flowers.

**D. Fire Fund Budget Update**

Mr. Layne distributed copies of the January 31, 2012 Fire Fund Report. He stated that the Unreserved Balance for the Fire Budget was \$20,362.27 and that he would continue to closely monitor the Budget.

**E. Fire Relief Fund**

The Fire Relief Report for January 2012 showed that the checking account had an ending balance of \$14,631.46, a Money Market closing balance of \$119,186.81, a total CD Account balance of \$53,268.44 and total assets of \$187,086.71. The Fire Relief Report for February 2012 showed that the checking account had an ending balance of \$12,497.92, a Money Market closing balance of \$119,200.98, a total CD Account balance of \$53,284.23 and total assets of \$184,983.13. Vice Chairman Sloss asked why the cost was over \$2,000 to repair a glow plug. Mr. Marsden responded that this is the cost to repair these items for large fire apparatus.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Miscellaneous Items**

- Chairman Dolan stated that he would be meeting with Charles Garner, Township Solicitor and Chief Hildenbrand next week on the matter of charging a fee for responding to accidents. He added that they will be reviewing charging for responding to haz-mat incidents.
- Chairman Dolan stated that he met with Police Chief Moffett regarding the purchase of flares. Chairman Dolan suggested that perhaps these items could be placed in next year's Fire Fund Budget and purchased from the Fire Fund since the Fire Company uses the bulk of the flares procured and

then have the Police Department reimburse the Fire Company for the flares utilized.

- Chairman Dolan stated that he recently received correspondence from Louise Knight of Superior stating that they would begin the process of coding the fire hydrants in the Township. He added that the water flow issue is still a concern with the fire hydrants. He further stated that the Township, New Hanover and Gilbertsville share similar concerns involving Superior.
- Chairman Dolan stated that Chief Moffett was reviewing the false alarm matter. Chairman Dolan reiterated his suggestion that only one false alarm be permitted during one year.

**V. New Business**

- Mr. Marsden stated that the Tanker would need extensive repairs.
- Mr. Marsden suggested that we check on the status of the PEMA loan payment.
- There was a brief discussion on whether to utilize the same grant writer for the next FEMA grant application.

**VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 P.M. Chief 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,  
April 19, 2012**