

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
May 17, 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 Jeremy Wozniak and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Sloss moved that the April 19, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. Spaide seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

III. Report

A. Operational Report

Chief Hildenbrand provided the April 2012 Operational Report.

Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 17 calls in April and 57 calls for the year to date
- There were 0 structure fires
- There were 4 accidents with injuries
- There were 4 trash fires
- There were 3 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 4 times
- There were 2 Fire Police scratched calls

Three municipalities were serviced. Time in service was 22 hours 49 minutes and the total man hours were 105 hours. Monthly training included Continued Driver/Pump Training, In House training and driver/pumper/tanker training were also provided. Chief Hildenbrand stated that none of the false alarms were repeated alarms. He also stated that there were 41 vehicle accidents in 2011 with injuries.

B. Membership Report

President Marsden reported that there was one new applicant for firefighter who was not a Township resident. Chief Hildenbrand stated that he was recently made aware of the fact that State law prohibited the Police Department from doing criminal background checks.

C. Treasurer's Report

President Marsden reported that the month end balance for April 30, 2012 for the Fire Company's Savings Account was \$2,549.91, the Checking Account was \$23,648.81, the Truck Fund was \$33,797.88 and the Property Fund was \$10,017.48. Mr. Wozniak stated that the funds from the sale of the VRA Traffic Unit were found in Deposit 391 and that the PEMA Grant payment had been submitted and received. The Auxiliary

Report for April 30, 2012 showed that there was \$333.80 in the Savings Account and \$843.07 in the Checking Account.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne distributed copies of the March 31, 2012 Fire Fund Report. He stated that the tax revenue received to-date totaled \$41,857.41 of the budgeted amount of \$101,182.

E. Fire Relief Fund

President Marsden stated that the Fire Relief Report for April 2012 was not available and that Mr. Wozniak would provide the Fire Relief Fund monthly reports in the future. President Marsden reported that the State and Federal tax statements were completed and submitted on time.

IV. Old Business

A. Superior Update

Chairman Dolan distributed copies of a letter that he recently received from Superior regarding the flushing and transmission and distribution of the water system with respect to the fire hydrants.

B. Discussion on False Alarm penalties

It was noted that the Committee had previously discussed establishing revised penalty costs for fire alarms. Ms. Spaide made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chairman Sloss, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the existing Fire Alarm Ordinance be reviewed by the Township Solicitor and amended to provide for the establishment of revised penalty costs for false fire alarms, which would be \$100 for a second false alarm, \$250 for the third, \$500 for the fourth, \$750 for the fifth and \$1,000 for the six or more. The motion was approved.

C. Discussion on a proposal to access fees to insurance firms for responding to accidents in the Township

It was noted that the Committee had previously discussed assessing fees to insurance firms for responding to hazardous waste accidents that were caused by the individual cited in the Police Report on that incident in the Township. Ms. Spaide made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chairman Sloss, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Township Solicitor review the existing ordinance regarding the assessment of fees for responding to accidents in the Township and the assessment of Level 1 charges - \$180.00, Level 2 charges - \$300.00 and Level 3 charges - \$425.00 to insurance firms for responding to hazardous waste accidents that were caused by the individual cited in the Police Report on that incident in the vehicle. The motion was approved.

V. New Business

- Chief Hildenbrand stated that the new Workers' Compensation firm for the Township is requiring that various training procedures be implemented.
- President Marsden inquired as to whether a new training location had been identified by the Township. Chairman Dolan stated that

he would bring up this matter at the next Board of Commissioners' meeting.

- Chairman Dolan stated that he came very close to having a vehicular accident with another vehicle the other day that had blue flashing lights and a siren that was activated on the vehicle. Chief Hildenbrand stated that this vehicle was not driven by an Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company representative. Chief Hildenbrand further stated that vehicles having blue lights cannot utilize an emergency siren.
- Chief Hildenbrand noted that the pedestrian trail at Sunset Park was not very accessible to emergency vehicles. Chairman Dolan and Mr. Layne noted that the Sprogels Run Pedestrian Trail, which begins at Sunset Park, is still in the development stage and that there are plans to improve this trail with the procurement and utilization of additional funding.

VI. Public Comment

- Mr. Wozniak noted that noted that someone was dumping old tires at Hollenbach Park.
- Mr. Wozniak reiterated that the PEMA Grant had been applied to principal on the PEMA Loan.
- Chief Hildenbrand requested that the Township contact State Representative Thomas Quigley's Office to obtain a new American Flag for the Township Building.

VII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Spaide moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 P.M. President Marsden 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 21, 2012**