

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
November 21, 2013**

Members in attendance were Chairman Pete Dolan, Vice Chairman, William Marsden, Jeremy Wozniak, President, Renee Spaide, Keith Kachel and Jeff Levengood, Fire Chief. Also in attendance was Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Reports

A. Operational Report

Chief Levengood provided the October 2013 Operational Report. Highlights of this Report included the following:

- There were 10 calls in October and 76 for the year to date
- There was 1 structure fire
- There were 4 accidents with injuries
- There were 0 trash fires
- There was 1 automatic fire alarm
- There were 2 Fire Police only calls
- There were 0 vehicle fires
- Mutual aid was given 3 times
- Mutual aid was received 2 times
- There were 0 scratched calls

Two municipalities were served in October. Time in service was 5 hours and 56 minutes and the total man hours were 52 hours and 77 minutes. Chief Levengood stated that the accidents with injuries were consistently documented. President Wozniak noted that the recent small forest fire in the Continental Road area could have been much worse if the Township Fire Company had not responded when they did. Chief Levengood expressed disdain for the fact that the fire hydrants in Upper Pottsgrove provide less gallons of water than in New Hanover Township. It was noted that Superior had not painted the fire hydrants as they had promised.

B. Membership Report

Vice Chairman Marsden stated that there was one Firefighter and one Fire Police person accepted. He added that the Firefighter lived in Upper Pottsgrove.

C. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report noted that the month end balance for October 31, 2013 for the Fire Company's Savings Account was \$302.13, the Checking Account was \$10,359.72, the Truck Fund was \$31,394.37 and the Property Fund was \$10,047.49.

D. Fire Fund Budget Update

Mr. Layne distributed copies of the October 31, 2013 Fire Fund Report. He stated that the 99.8% of the budgeted Real Estate Tax funding had been received. He cited the fact that the only Operating Expense line-item that was over budget was the Vehicle Insurance because a portion of the costs in this line-item should have been placed in the Property and Casualty Insurance line-item.

E. Fire Relief Fund

President Wozniak stated that the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Audit Reports for the Fire Relief Fund were being reviewed by the State Auditor.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Spaide moved that the October 17, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kachel. The motion was approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Opticom Traffic Signal Preemption Equipment

Chairman Dolan stated that this item must be focused in 2014 to insure that the Township takes action on this matter.

B. Update regarding the discussion regarding the availability of Township ambulance services

Chairman Dolan stated that the Ad Hoc Committee had recently met and interviewed the Goodwill and Gilbertsville ambulance companies. He stated that the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee was for the residents in the Township to be able to utilize the ambulance firm that was located closest to their homes. He stated that he discussed this recommendation with the Board of Commissioners and that they would continue discussion on this matter during their December 16, 2013 meeting. Ms. Spaide noted that her parents had a concern with Gilbertsville due to the fact that this firm had not responded to call for ambulance service they had made in the past. Chairman Dolan stated that although Goodwill had over 7,000 calls for service last year only 250 of those calls were for Upper Pottsgrove residents.

V. New Business

- President Wozniak noted that if a brake rotor had not been located for the fire truck needing repair the cost for repairing this vehicle would have been approximately \$20,000. There was discussion on the need for the Township to have adequate funding available to pay for needed vehicular repairs. Mr. Kachel noted that one item, i.e., for a switch repair, cost \$1,000. Chairman Dolan stated that he would discuss this matter with the Board of Commissioners during their December 16th meeting. Chief Levensgood discussed the benefits of one day acquiring a Quick Attack Truck that could more easily access Township open space areas and would cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000. There was discussion that an increase in the Fire Fund Tax might be needed to resolve this lack

of funding concern. President Wozniak added that the need for additional funding in the Fire Fund was primarily a result of the substantial increase in the cost for Worker's Compensation coverage. Chief Levengood stated that the Fire Company would continue to submit grant applications for funding for needed new fire apparatus.

- There was discussion regarding the scheduling of the Fire Committee meetings in 2014. Chairman Dolan requested that this matter be discussed at the next Fire Committee meeting.

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 8:24 P.M. President Wozniak 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,
December 19, 2013**