

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
Fire Committee Meeting
June 3, 2014**

Members in attendance were Chairman Martin Schreiber, Vice Chairman William Marsden, Jeremy Wozniak, President, Jeff Levengood, Fire Chief, Commissioner Renee Spaide and Planning & Zoning Administrator Michelle Reddick.

Call to Order - Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance – The members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Reports

- A. **Operational Report** – Chief Levengood provided 69 YTD.
- B. **Membership Report** – Two new members who are non-residents of the community.
- C. **Treasurer’s Report** – The Treasurer’s report noted the following month end balances for May 30, 2014 for the Fire Company accounts:
(1) Saving Account - \$612.38; (2) Checking Account - \$12,491.68; (3) Truck Fund - \$31,412.62; and (4) Property Fund - \$10,059.30.
- D. **Fire Fund Budget Update** – A copy of the April 30, 2014 financial report for the Township’s Fire Fund was provided for review. Chairman Schreiber advised that the vehicle lease payment does not show, but noted that he believes the payment was not made until May. Mr. Wozniak expressed concern that the maintenance repair budget is already expended at 86.7 percent.
- E. **Fire Relief Fund** – President Wozniak provided the financial report dated April 30, 2014 showing total relief assets at \$164,246.39 which includes \$36,237.01 in the checking account, \$74,447.53 in the money market account and \$53,561.85 in the CD.

Old Business

- A. **Ambulance Update** – Chairman Schreiber advised the new ambulance coverage is up and running.
- B. **Relief Property** – No update.

- C. Social Media Policy** – Chairman Schreiber advised that Keith Kachel is working on this matter and will provide a draft policy for review.
- D. Trail Vehicle**- Chairman Schreiber advised that he spoke with Mr. Taylor regarding purchasing a vehicle the Fire Company could use to access Township open space in the event of a medical emergency. Mr. Taylor had agreed to have the Open Space and Rec Board review this matter; however, this was not discussed at the last Open Space and Rec Board meeting. Chairman Schreiber agreed to look into this matter.

New Business

- A. Proposed By-Law Changes** – Mr. Wozniak advised that the Fire Company ratified changes to their by-laws at the May meeting. Those changes are as follows:
- (1) Article 12, Section 3** is amended to read “When the polls open, each active member in good standing in the company must sign in and show a valid membership card or otherwise prove eligibility to vote in order to vote. Members wishing to vote must have attended six (6) company meetings or 25% of emergency calls or training activities in the election year. After voting, the ballot shall be presented to the inspector to be deposited in the ballot box”. He explained that this change adds a requirement for members to attend meetings, emergency calls and/or training in order to vote. A motion by Spaide, seconded by Levengood, to recommend the proposed change to the by-laws. All aye votes.
- (2) Article 5, Section 2** is amended to read “An active member in good standing must have attended at least six (6) regular meetings in the past two (2) years to hold an elected office in the Company”. Mr. Wozniak explained that this change requires attendance at meetings in order to hold an elected office. A motion by Wozniak, seconded by Spaide, to recommend the proposed change to the by-laws. All aye votes.
- (3) Article 11, Section 13** – Mr. Wozniak explained that this a new section to be added and it reads as follows: “All nominees that have been nominated to an elected office must have not received disciplinary action greater than a sixty (60) day suspension during the previous eight (8) years, starting from the October company meeting”. Commissioner Spaide expressed concern regarding the eight (8) years and said she thought it was too long.

Article 11, Section 13 (cont'd.) - A motion by Wozniak, seconded by Levengood, to recommend the proposed change to the by-laws. Aye votes: Wozniak, Levengood, Marsden and Schreiber. Nay vote: Spaide. Motion carries.

(4) Article 12, Sections 6 and 7 - Mr. Wozniak explained these two changes are new sections to be added. Article 12, Section 6 reads “The offices of Fire Chief and Fire Police Captain may only be voted on by members designated as active firefighters or fire police. “Active” shall be defined as responding to at least 25 per cent of emergency calls and/or training events with the company, as a firefighter or fire police officer, during the election year”. Article 12, Section 7 reads “The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary may be voted on by any company member that otherwise meets the requirements of voting eligibility”. A motion by Spaide, seconded by Wozniak, to recommend the proposed changes to the by-laws. All aye votes.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – A motion by Spaide, seconded by Levengood, to adjourn at 7:50 pm. All aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Reddick
Planning & Zoning Administrator

**The next Fire Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on
Tuesday, July 1, 2014.**