

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Committee was held on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Members in attendance were Chairman Martin Schreiber, Keith Kachel, Don Raudenbush, Renee Spaide, Jeffrey Levensgood and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis.

Call to Order - Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at which time the members present pledged allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Minutes – A motion by R. Spaide, seconded by Don Raudenbush, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015, meeting as presented. K. Kachel abstained and noted that he was not present at the December meeting.

Reports

- A. Operational Report** – M. Schreiber reviewed the Operational Report. There was a lift assist during the storm. M. Schreiber stated the Fire Police did a great job during the storm.
- B. Membership Report** – Two new members have joined the Fire Company.
- C. Treasurer’s Report** – Provided.
- D. Fire Fund Budget Update** – The Committee reviewed the Fire Fund and discussed the cash carryover from last year and the purchase of new radios.
- E. Fire Relief** – No report.

Old Business

- A. Hydrants** – Superior Water and been taken over by Aqua. The manager advised them that items we would like to discuss with the new owners are getting copies of the reports of the pressure tests, notification of planned improvements to the system, and advanced notification of flushing activities.
- B. MOU and Company By-Laws** – C. Lewis reported that the Board of Commissioners has agreed to the Memorandum of Understanding and advised that we will get a clean copy to be signed. The By-Laws were read in December; however, M. Schreiber read them again. A motion by K. Kachel, seconded by J. Levensgood and unanimously carried to approve by-law 1 related to article 5. In regards to by-law 2 J. Levensgood felt the additional responsibilities should not go to just one person, but the Chief and President should work together on it. It was agreed that someone needs to be ultimately responsible. Motion by D. Raudenbush seconded by Renee Spaide to approve by-law change #2. The motion passed with J. Levensgood voting Nay.
- C. Route 100** – C. Lewis reported that everything has been submitted to the county and they were working on it.
- D. Safety Committee** – M. Schreiber will take over the formation and meeting of the safety committee. C. Lewis will get him the paperwork.

New Business

- A.** There was a discussion with regards to a pregnant firefighter and whether it is considered discrimination if she is not allowed to perform her duties. The Committee also discussed how to handle in the future.

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- B. Public Works Building** – Representative of the fire company looked at the public works building and said it would be possible to house them over there but they would need handicap accessibility and opticon for crossing Sr 100.
- C. Radios** – It was suggested that vfh radios be put in the police cars so they can communicate with the fire company during storms and emergencies. It was also suggested that the Public Works Department participate as well.
- D. Grant** – D. Raudenbush applied for a \$15,000 grant. They received \$13,789.78. Motion by C. Lewis second by K. Kachel and unanimously carried to release the money for the purchase of the ranger. The money will be reimbursed when the grant monies are released. J. Levensgood will get a quote for a trailer. Motion by J. Levensgood second by K. Kachel and unanimously carried to outfit the ranger.
- E. Hose & Ladder Testing** – Hose testing will be \$.23 per foot and ladders would be \$2.50 per foot. The board discussed purchasing vs new and where the payment would come out of.

Board Comments – J. Levensgood reported he met with two (2) truck manufacturers regarding the specs for a new truck.

Public Comment – A. Zentmeyer requested clarification as to the duties of the President vs. the Fire Chief. It is a grey area that requires give and take. The Fire Company responded to seven (7) calls, the Public Works only showed up to two (2). They did not plow the parking lot. A member came and plowed the parking lot that E. Updegrove did not finish. The Fire Company would like to thank E. Updegrove and the Township for plowing.

Executive Session – At 7:54 PM the Committee held an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 8:27 PM.

Adjournment – A motion by R. Spaide, seconded by K. Kachel and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager