

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Committee was held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. Members in attendance were Chairman Martin Schreiber, France Krazalkovich, Tom Mattingly, William Marsden, Don Raudenbush and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis. Also present was Keith Kachel.

Pledge of Allegiance – Those in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by T. Mattingly seconded by D. Raudenbush to approve the minutes with one change that the Operational Report was provided. Motion carried with F. Krazalkovich abstaining.

Reports

- A. Operational Report** – In May there were 90 calls year to date with one field fire and 4 tanker assists. In June there were 105 calls year to date. Martin Schreiber pointed out that one member went through the County Fire Academy and is now qualified for interior firefighting. This is quite an accomplishment as it is over 200 hours of training.
- B. Membership Report** – They accepted one (1) new member; they are not a resident but they do live nearby. The Board discussed non dispatched calls and insurance. There is one (1) junior member pending and one (1) member has been terminated.
- C. Treasurer's Report** – D. Raudenbush presented the Treasurer's Report.
- D. Fire Fund** – The Board reviewed the Fire Fund Budget. M. Schreiber suggested that the Township look to Steely to see how their prices for bonding compare to the current vendor.
- E. Fire Relief** – They are working on updating the Fire Relief information. Due to some personnel turnover statements were lost as well as passwords, etc. They are in the process of cleaning this up.

Old Business

- A. By-laws** - An Organizational Chart was presented that would be included in with the By-laws. K. Kachel asked in regards to the Board of Directors if two people made a quorum how did they vote. It was decided to change this to two (2) voting members. Initially the President will appoint the members of this Committee. The Chief and President will sit on the Committee but will not vote. Motion by T. Mattingly seconded by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to approve the By-laws and Organizational Chart to be sent to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval.
- B. SOP's** – T. Mattingly reported that they are up to Section VI. They will start rolling out what has been completed at the next Company meeting.
- C. Radios** - It was suggested that the Township call and tell the County that we are picking them up the first week of August. There was disappointment expressed that the radios still not received.
- D. Training** – Darrius Lobello has been taking classes and got his interior certification. The Pottstown Fire Chief stopped by to advise that they will be having classes that our

Company will be invited to. M. Schreiber feels that they are trying to rebuild bridges. He pointed out that the Police Department has started to do recognitions and awards at Commissioner meetings and thinks that the Fire Committee should also do this. Members are recognized at their Annual Picnic but it is not as formal.

- E. Tax Credit** – F. Krazalkovich has seen model ordinance. C. Lewis pointed out that the County has a task force that is studying the situation. K. Kachel pointed out that a lot of Municipalities that do it use safer money. It was suggested to the Board that they re-read the model ordinances for the next meeting.
- F. Replacement of Fire Committee Member** – A resident is still needed. The Board discussed options. It was suggested that it be put on the website and Facebook.

New Business

- A. Fire truck** – Smiley Fire Services brought out an F-550 for the Fire Company to look at. It made it up and down hard drives that other pieces of equipment were unable to get up in the past. Parts are very accessible. They would like to replace the non-compliant open cab truck. A Truck Committee is looking at specking it out. It has a plastic body with a life time warranty. It would last over thirty years. M. Schreiber pointed out that if we get a FEMA Grant we cannot sell the old one, it must be taken out of service. The grant covers 80% of the cost of the vehicle. The Board discussed possible financing options. F. Krazalkovich asked what the life of the truck would be in comparison to the financing. The life expectancy is well over 30 years. There is a three hundred day lead time on the truck. C. Lewis will check if they are a Co-stars vendor and if not is the contract that it falls under in Texas adequate. It was also pointed out that the air packs are outdated; they are \$3,000 to \$4,000 apiece. It was suggested that the cost of these also be included in the truck loan. The truck holds 300 gallons of water and 30 gallons of foam. Macungie has the same truck and it was suggested that members of the Fire Company go up and see it and talk to the members about whether or not they like it.

Executive Session – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 7:51 pm to discuss matters of personnel. They reconvened at 8:07 p.m. at which time they adjourned by motion of F. Krazalkovich seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager