

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Committee was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7 p.m. Members in attendance were Chairman Martin Schreiber, William Marsden, George Harmansky, Don Raudenbush, Tom Mattingly, Township Manager Carol R. Lewis, France Krazalkovich and Fire Marshall Ricky Brendlinger. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Martin Schreiber.

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

Reorganization – France Krazalkovich nominated M. Schreiber for Chairman. George Harmansky nominated F. Krazalkovich for Chairman. Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to close the nominations. Roll call vote for M. Schreiber: G. Harmansky – no; W. Marsden – yes; M. Schreiber – yes; F. Krazalkovich – yes; D. Raudenbush – yes and Tom Mattingly – yes. Vice-Chairman – D. Raudenbush nominated France Krazalkovich for Vice Chairman. Motion by T. Mattingly, seconded by M. Schreiber to close nominations. The nomination of F. Krazalkovich for Vice Chairman passed unanimously. F. Krazalkovich nominated C. Lewis for Secretary. C. Lewis nominated Don Raudenbush who declined the nomination. The appointment of C. Lewis for Secretary was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2017 – Motion by W. Marsden seconded by T. Mattingly and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of November 9, 2017 as presented. F. Krazalkovich abstained as he was not present.

Reports

- A. **Operational Report** – T. Mattingly presented the Operational Report for the month and for the year. Calls are a little down from last year. The training hours are in-house hours and don't include hours for members that are taking classes at the Fire Academy. M. Schreiber commented that accidents are down possibly due to the Police Department stepping up enforcement. There were no accident or fire fatalities in 2017. F. Krazalkovich asked in regards to the tax credit is 1,074 training hours the goal. T. Mattingly advised that they didn't really set a goal but they train every week. They discussed the kinds of classes available through various sources.
- B. **Membership Report** – M. Schreiber reported that they voted in one resident for Fire Police and one other member. Another member failed their probation.
- C. **Fire Fund Budget Update** – The amount spent on worker's comp was questioned. C. Lewis wills double check the GL numbers to make sure that they are correct.
- D. **Fire Relief** – G. Harmansky reported that the audits are on-going and discussed the process.

Old Business

- A. **Safety Committee** – VFIS has videos on compliance and the Worker's Comp web site does as well. It was discussed having some training on harassment in the work

- place. M. Schreiber inquired as to having Darius Lobello be a driver as he is under twenty one (21). He was advised that there needs to be a general policy that they're not supposed to drive unless there is no one else available.
- B. **Tax Credit** – The Board discussed different ways of implementing the tax credit and what the neighbors are doing. They discussed Real Estate vs. EIT tax and questioned why the State just didn't implement one from the beginning. F. Krazalkovich recommended making it \$1,000 EIT as you can only claim what you make. The Board next discussed reciprocity and who offers it around us. Lastly they discussed the criteria for qualifying and the tracking which is done by the Chiefs. M. Schreiber suggested setting it to 200 hours and assign hours to activities and going with a point value. Motion by C. Lewis seconded by F. Krazalkovich and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they pass a tax credit for EIT at a maximum of \$1,000 with a reciprocity clause. And also to recommend that they pass a Resolution that the criteria in order to qualify for the tax be set at 10% of emergency response calls or 40 hours of participation in training and drills or 36 hours of volunteer administrative duties such as fund raising, facility or equipment maintenance and bookkeeping or 20 hours of involvement in other projects or 15 years of active service. M. Schreiber abstained from the vote.
- C. **Grants** – VFA has three (3) grants out right now for trucks, firehouse and safety. The Fire Company discussed these grants and the fact that they have never gotten any federal grants. Our fleet is 18 ½ years and qualifying fleets need to be 23 years on average. The safer grants on the other hand are almost guaranteed and the Fire Company would like to apply for that for air packs. The concern of the Fire Company is that there are no parts if the truck breaks down and it is currently not NFA compliant. Getting the new truck sooner makes the community safer. The Board discussed the timing of the grants and the fact that the dealer is holding the price to the end of the month. Motion by T. Mattingly, seconded by G. Harmansky to purchase the truck now at \$331,175. The motion passed with C. Lewis and F. Krazalkovich voting nay. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by C. Lewis and unanimously carried to apply for a safer grant to purchase twenty (20) air packs at approximately \$100,000. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by W. Marsden and unanimously carried to apply for a firehouse grant for epoxy for the floors and a possible exhaust system.

Public Comments – Fire Marshall Rick Brendlinger reported that they're using Berks Fire and Water as a boarder company for the fire from the other night. He advised that he needs a letter to approve re-visitation of sites from the township for investigations. He commended the Fire Company on their job in assisting with investigations last year and advised that he will be running a class soon. He is going be following through with his technician certification. He needs to join another organization and take a class. PAII is \$100 for the year and \$90 for the book.

Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by W. Marsden and unanimously carried to authorize the payment of \$125 for organizations and \$100 for the book as long as he pre-approves the classes with the Township Manager.

Executive Session – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 9:07 pm. They reconvened at 9:13 pm with no action.

Adjournment – Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by C. Lewis and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager