

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Committee was held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. Members in attendance were France Krazalkovich, William Marsden, George Harmansky, Don Raudenbush, and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by D. Raudenbush second by F. Krazalkovich and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of August 9, 2018 as presented.

REORGANIZATION – Motion by William Marsden to nominate George Harmansky for President. Motion by George Harmansky to nominate France Krazalkovich for President. Motion by G. Harmansky second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to close the nominations. On the nomination of G. Harmansky for President; W. Marsden voted aye and the remainder voted nay. On the matter of the nomination of F. Krazalkovich; W. Marsden voted nay the remainder voted aye. F. Krazalkovich nominated D. Raudenbush as the Vice Chair. Motion by G. Harmansky second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to close the nominations. The nomination of D. Raudenbush as Vice Chair was unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 7:06 p.m. the Board adjourned into Executive Session for matters of personnel. They reconvened at 8:22 p.m. G. Harmansky recused himself from the personnel action. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by C. Lewis and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of Paragraph E. - Violation of Social Media Policy. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of Paragraph 4 – Chain of Command. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of Paragraph D1 also related to the Social Media Policy. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by W. Marsden and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of D2 – Violation of the SOG's. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of D3 – Obligations of Firefighters. Motion by F. Krazalkovich second by C. Lewis and unanimously carried to grant the appeal in the matter of A – SOG's regarding Conduct. Motion by C. Lewis second by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to lessen the discipline to 180 days suspension in the matter of Paragraph D – Conduct and Discipline. Motion by C. Lewis seconded by W. Marsden, to lessen the discipline to 180 days suspension in the matter of Paragraph C – SOG's Conduct and Discipline. A roll call vote was taken: W. Marsden – aye; C. Lewis – aye; D. Raudenbush – nay; F. Krazalkovich – nay. The appeal was denied and expulsion affirmed. T. Mattingly is expelled from Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company No. 1. He is to turn in all equipment and is not permitted on the property or at events. Any infraction could result in criminal trespass.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF – G. Harmansky advised that the membership voted to present the name of Deputy Chief T. J. Wojton to be appointed to Chief. F. Krazalkovich asked if there were any qualified members. W. Marsden replied that there is one (1) with

qualifications. Alex Zentmeyer asked to be considered for the position of Chief. He was an active member for five (5) years and served as Assistant Chief under Chief Levensgood and Mattingly. He took a leave of absence but has a plan to get the company back on track. He feels the biggest issue is between the Governing Body and the Fire Company. He feels the reputation of Station 79 is less than stellar. G. Harmansky asked for how long he had been inactive? A. Zentmeyer replied that it had been two (2) years. G. Harmansky asked how he had changed or developed over that time. A. Zentmeyer replied that he feels he is more level headed and more stable. He has served with the Phillies Fire Company. F. Krazalkovich noted that Joe Groth has given a verbal recommendation for Alex Zentmeyer. He pointed out that this appointment would only be for two (2) months until the election. Motion by C. Lewis second by W. Marsden to appoint T. J. Wojton to the position of Chief per the wishes of the members of the Fire Company. G. Harmansky noted that T. J. also does not meet the qualifications. D. Raudenbush – nay; F. Krazalkovich – nay; W. Marsden – aye; C. Lewis – aye; G. Harmansky – aye. The motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP – D. Raudenbush commented that a comment has been made that membership is down 70% but this is not true. They had gone through and removed members that have not paid dues. They have about twenty four (24) active members at this time

TREASURER’S REPORT – D. Raudenbush then presented the Treasurer’s Report.

FIRE FUND – They are in process of closing the PEMA Grant. The new grant is open and they plan to apply once again for debt reduction.

CONSIDER PROPOSED REVISIONS OF FIRE COMPANY BY-LAWS – A proposed By-Law change was brought to the Fire Committee by the Fire Company. The change would bring the Terms of Office and the MOU and the By-Laws the same. Motion by G. Harmansky, seconded by D. Raudenbush and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioner that they approve the changes to the By-Laws.

NEW BUSINESS – F. Krazalkovich noted that he is in receipt of a letter from Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company No.1. He read the letter which will be included in the minutes. G. Harmansky explained that there was a letter from the Board of Directors to Trace Slinkard alleging that Martin Schreiber was making inquiries regarding the investigation insinuating they were intimidated. F. Krazalkovich read the letter from Keith Kachel which will be included in the minutes. R. Spaide asked if the entire Fire Company agreed to the letter. G. Harmansky noted that it was unanimously voted on by all of the members who were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT – **RUSSELL NOLL** asked if life time members are required to pay dues. They are not.

MARTIN SCHREIBER asked how many sets of gear were handed out at this time. There are fourteen (14). He noted that eight (8) of those sets have been used.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - William Marsden noted that they received the VFIS Study. In it, the average call time for Upper Pottsgrove was eight (8) minutes and twenty two (22) seconds. There was also a finding in the report that there are no programs to educate elected officials on what the Fire Company does. C. Lewis asked if that time met the National Standards. W. Marsden replied that it does; the National Standard is nine (9) minutes and has been met by the Fire Company 100% of the time. F. Krazalkovich asked how the Fire Company ranked. They were eight (8) from the bottom. He noted that this is not the first time that there have been issues. On June 21, 2012, a section of the minutes under New Business states: Chairman Dolan stated that he is concerned with the reputation of the Fire Company and suggested someone be hired to evaluate ways to improve the reputation of the Fire Company. Chairman Dolan stated that he would contact a person that should help to improve the reputation of the Fire Company by doing a peer review. He also read excerpts from the June 19, 2012, meeting under New Business where Chairman Dolan discussed a proposal to provide peer review studies on the Fire Company by Dr. William Jenaway.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. and reconvened at 9:17 p.m. F. Krazalkovich commented that in regards to the member status of Erin Galamba, who was then Flanagan, in the minutes of August 19, 2010, on page 3 under Personnel the minutes stated that R. Spaide made a motion to uphold the decision that Miss Flanagan be expelled from the Fire Company but that she would be allowed to reapply and to submit a request to become a member of the Fire Company. This motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion by G. Harmansky second by C. Lewis and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager/Treasurer