

## **Minutes of the meeting held on September 04, 2012.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with a salute to the flag and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst, Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief John Marsch, Engine Company 3: Capt. Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5: Asst Chief Brian Warner.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Warner to dispense the previous Minutes while a second Motion was made by Asst. Chief Arturi.

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Van Ek and second from Asst. Chief Warner that the following bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration of payment.

### **BILLS**

AT&T	\$47.85	Verizon	\$53.85
Verizon	\$53.85	Campbell Supply Co.	\$2,337.89
AAA Emerg. Supply	\$1,624.00	Campbell Supply Co.	\$5,500.00
Fire Fighter One	\$220.00	All Hands Fire Equipment	\$588.00
Verizon Wireless	\$126.84	The Home Depot	\$1,450.00
Fire Fighter One	\$8,796.00	Campbell Supply Co.	\$2,889.00
AAA Emergency	\$5,500.00		

Asst. Chief Marsch inquired as to the \$5,500.00 blank purchase order for Campbell Supply.

Chief Speranza stated that this is a drawn down purchase order for future vehicle repairs.

## **Communications:**

- A medical note was received from Dr. Robert Buis for FF Robert Tagliabue releasing him from his care and can return to active duty effective, 08 31 2012.
- An endorsement was submitted by Engine Company # 4, endorsing Borough Chief Speranza for the upcoming 2013 Chief's election.

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Aruti reported for the month of August 2012, Company 1 responded to: 25 box alarms, 1 still alarms, 0 chiefs call, 0 radio alarms, 0 mutual aid call, 0 standby's, 4 training's and held 0 drill , for a total of 30 alarms.

Engine 1's is sluggish when ascending inclines.

On September 08 & 09, 2012 the SLAP program will be at the training center. Anyone that is available to be there, please do so as it will be appreciated.

Aside from the above Engine 1 is in fair working order and all members are in good standing.

### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of August 2012, Company 2 responded to: 23 box alarms, 0 still alarm, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 3 Mutual Aid call's, 0 standbys, 0 training's, and held 1 drill for a total of 27 alarms.

Asst. Chief Marsch advised that the July's alarm count was revised to reflect 24 box alarms and 3 mutual aid calls for a total of 27 total alarms.

The Officers and members of Company 2 expressed thanks to all of the members that had attended Jack Baum's 50 years of service award presentation.

Vendor Campbell Supply has located the issue with the check engine light. It was the turbo sensor that needed to be replaced.

The Truck, equipment and all firefighters are in good working order.

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of August 2012, Company 3 responded to: 25 box alarms, 1 drill (s) 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarm, 0 standby, 1 mutual aid and held 1 training's for a total of 28 alarms.

Vendor Campbell supply, completed the brake repairs, corrected the loose wire issue with the a/c unit and adjusted the front suction valve.

The members of Engine Company 3 would again extend thanks to Jacob Baum for his 50 years of service.

Engine 3 will have 7 members available for convention week.

Aside from above all firefighters and equipment are in working order.

### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of August 2012, Company 4 responded to: 23 box alarm's, 1 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 1 training, 0 standby's, 3 Chief's call, 0 Mutual aid calls and held 1 drill for a total of 29 alarms.

Engine 4 is still having electrical issues that still need to be addressed.

The water leak of the booster tank was located on the upper left corner of the tank. The repair time required would be a 2 week time period.

The large diameter hose discharge is still leaking & needs to be repaired.

FF Robert Tagliabue has returned to active duty.

Engine 4 received (4) lengths of red 1 ¾, (2) lengths of tan 1 ¾, and (1) length of forestry hose.

Requested was additional lengths of hose and (1) large SCBA mask.

(2) Stream lights were sent out for repairs.

Aside from above all members and equipment are in good working order.

### **Company #5**

Asst. Chief Warner, reported that for the month of August 2012, Company 5 responded to: 26 box alarms, 1 boat assignment, 0 extrication, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0

Mutual aid alarms, 0 standby, 0 training (s), and 2 drills for a total of 29 alarms.

Requested (1) windshield saw.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

### **Borough Chief Speranza Report:**

During this week's financial review, the Departments budget had to be adjusted to insure we had enough funds for vehicle maintenance repairs. As a result the Engine 1 pump repairs have been postponed and the funds allocated for same were placed back into the vehicle maintenance lines. This would insure pending repairs and future repairs could continue. This transfer of funds is detrimental to stay afloat as we are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and we are running out of funds. This was an also directly related to the significant increase in fire response activities.

A meeting will be held for members and officers of Company 5 on Monday September 10, @ 7:30 pm. Any member that cannot make it is to contact Chief Speranza directly.

September 11, 2011- full dress uniform at 6:30 pm behind Rescue 5.

September 12, 2012 Lieutenant Drill scheduled (tentative)

September 12, 2012 Department meeting (vote for LED sign). Only those that have a 33 1/3 %are eligible to vote. Both vendors will be available to answer questions.

September 17, 2012 Department Training Center work detail 7:30 PM.

September 18, 2012, officers will be attending

Thanked all of the members that assisted in the Safety Town program, the Fire Prevention Program at Kinder Care and the Leadership Camp program.

We are being forced to adopt a social media policy.

The tribute of Lights will take place again at the Liberty Park. The lights will commence at dusk until 4:00 am. Those who want to attend will need to discuss with Chief Speranza.

### **Dates to Remember**

**September 09 2012 - OSHA Physical 9:30 am at Headquarters**

**September 11, 2012- 9/11 Memorial/ 6:30 pm- Full Dress**

**September 12, 2012 – Department Meeting**

**September 12, 2012 Lieut. Drill (tentative) 7:00 pm**

**September 17, 2012 – Training Center- Dept Work Detail – 7:30 pm.**

**September 24, 2012 –OSHA Physicals 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

**October 06, 2012- Hawthorne Day / Fire Prevention All Day begging at 9:00am**

## **COMMITTEES**

**Communication Division:** Responded to 8 alarms, held 4 meetings / work session(s), 2 Driver's training, 1 drill for a total of 15 alarms.

All members and equipment are in working order.

**Fire Prevention:** Notified Department that the Lafayette Dry Cleaners did not complete the task of cleaning the dryer vents / duct work. Summons will be issued.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** No report at this time.

**Junior's/ Explorer Program:** *No report at this time.*

**Safety Officer's:** Next Meeting will be held on September 27, 2012. It was also noted that Rescue 5's Safety Officer has not complied with the Accountability Board.

**In School Program:** No report at this time.

**Van Hook Scholarship:** No report at this time.

**Open House:** No report at this time.

**Mutual Aid Meeting:** No report at this time.

**Hawthorne Day:** No report at this time.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Chairman George DeGroot stated the next meeting will be on September 24, 2012 at Company #3. It was requested that the members that attend will need to be permanent members. Discussions were held with the Presidents and the Asst Chief' as to fund raising & event planning. A report will follow after next meeting. Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

**Memorial Park:** No report at this time.

### **Old Business:**

Company 1: Requested the North Haledon & Bloomingdale OSHA physical dates and times.

*Chief Speranza will provide same once they are available.*

Company 2: Inquired as to the tone alerts that have not been transmitting the alarms.

*Chief Speranza stated it is dispatcher issues not protocol issues.*

Noticed that the sign vendor specs are 2 totally different specifications.

Clerk Tripicchio explained that vendor Butler signs were requested to provide a detailed estimate to answer all possibilities and questions from the Department members.

The later vendor (Signorama) had a scaled down spec sheet and needs to be as detailed at Butler Signs in order to compare.

*Chief Speranza stated that both vendors will be available to review their products on September 17, 2012.*

Company 3: No report at this time.

*Company 4: Requested a current radio inventory to see if we can fix some issues that the radio are having.*

Company 5: No report at this time.  
Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

#### **New Business:**

Oath of Office: None

Company 1: No report at this time.  
Company 2: No report at this time.  
Company 3: No report at this time.  
Company 4: No report at this time

Company 5: The Training Center's doors are almost complete.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time

#### **Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: No report at this time.  
Company 2: No report at this time.  
Company 3: No report at this time.  
Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: FF Jason Goodrich's son is having another surgery. Thoughts and prayers for his family.

Chiefs Report: Thanked Asst. Chief Marsch for the installation of the steel railing at the Training Center.

***Chief Speranza temporarily closed the Fire Board session and opened the meeting to public.***

Frank Orisi stated that Jacob's Baum's daughter expressed gratitude for the Department presentation to Jacob Baum. In addition, Jacob Baum was ecstatic to see all members both old and new at his 50 year award presentation.

Ex. Chief Victor Tamburro mentioned that he had spoke to Borough attorney Michael Pasquale as to the last Chief's Election. Pasquale stated that it was not legal yet since it was not protested it stood as it was.

*Chief Speranza stated that Attorney Pasqual told him that the election was appropriate as no one was endorsed and was in accordance to past practices. Chief Speranza added that in 1999 he recalled that Ex-Chief Tamburro stated that all endorsements had to be in by September.*

Ex-Chief Tamburro stated that that was done for the one time based on the circumstances at that time. He also added that this was also done so that the secretary could print the ballots prior to the election. Tamburro then asked the Board to send a letter to counsel Pasquale due to the discrepancy. He also added that the cost was \$1,000.00 to print and that the then Board Secretary had to print various ballots for various election scenarios.

*Chief Speranza stated that the Ordinance provided the frame work and our by-laws supplement the explanation. Further the Ordinances allow the Department to also follow Roberts Rules.*

Ex-Chief Tamburro stated that Roberts Rules specifies the election process and allows ballots to have write-in. He explained that having write in's, would allow a qualified member to print stickers and add them to the ballot.

*Chief Speranza disagreed by stating that endorsement prevented write in's as anyone could run for Chief and the election would have no order. Further, Robert rules states were are not an open social club, but rather a closed social club governed by the rules and past practice. As for writing a letter to the Borough counsel Pasquale, Chief Speranza will contact him to schedule a meeting with the Asst Chief's.*

Ex Asst Chief ("Ex-AC") Kevin Foley asked the Board clarification of endorsements.

*Chief Speranza stated that past practice allows to govern current processes, and that being said endorsements are required they had to be in by September's Fireboard.*

Ex-AC Foley stated that that was never clarified when he inquired prior to September Fireboard.

Asst Chief Arturi stated that it was his understanding and what he was told was that you did not need endorsements and now it has changed.

*Chief Speranza stated you always needed endorsements. Chief Speranza also stated that he does not trust the Borough Council or Borough attorney so he stated he will write a letter to the counsel Pasquale outlining past practice and Robert Rules so that we have a definitive answer.*

Asst. Chief John Marsch asked if the Department has a written election process.

*Chief Speranza stated that the Department is elections are governed by the Borough Ordinances that are "framework", Department By Laws, Robert Rules and Past Practices thus no write ins are allowed.*

*Chief Speranza stated as per Robert Rules you have to be endorsed to go onto the ballot and again write in's are not allowable.*

Ex-Chief Tamburro stated that Robert Rules again allows write in's.

Capt. Van Der Velde asked Ex-Chief Tamburro if he was planning on running again.

Ex-Chief Tamburro stated that he was not but, was asking for clarification.

Ex-AC Foley asked about term limits as he felt 16 years in any one position stagnates the Department.

*Chief Speranza stated there are no term limits. As to stagnation there have been many programs enacted since he has been Chief. He mentioned the Explorer (Junior's) program expanded & we have a roster of 124 members.*

Asst .Chief Arturi stated he had proposed term limits when he was on the By Law Ordinance Committee yet it never came to fruition and we should reconsider same.

Ex AC Foley asked to clarify the issues with Company 5.

*Chief Speranza he needs to get Company 5 back on track.*

EX AC Foley asked if it was a threat or truthfulness as to what was said by Chief Speranza.

*Chief Speranza stated that there have been ongoing issues that he needs to step in and fix. This is his Department and he has to assist Company 5. He stated that this is not a social club yet it is life safety that he has concern about. Chief Speranza added that there is a lack of participation when responding to alarms and or trainings and this is not acceptable.*

Asst. Chief Warner interjected and asked Chief Speranza if this could be discussed after Fire Board.

Ex Asst Chief (“Ex-AC”) Mark Smith asked if Rescue 5 members had Fire Fighter 1. Ex AC Smith then suggested perhaps those that don’t should be removed from front lines.

Asst. Chief Warner advised they all have Fire Fighter 1 in addition to Rescue School training.

*Chief Speranza stated it is not the Officers of Company 5 it is their members.*

Asst. Chief Warner stated again if this could be discussed at a later date as he is being blind-sided by these statements.

*Chief Speranza stated this has to be addressed and not pushed aside yet it is up to the Officers of Company 5 to address these issues.*

FF Gerald Flanagan interjected and asked if they conduct truck checks.

Asst. Chief Warner stated that they do on a weekly basis.

Ex Ac Chief Foley inquired that he inquired with the Clerk as to the percentages for the Communication Division.

*Chief Speranza stated that both the Clerk and he secure the information from the Communication Division and report accordingly.*

Capt. Peter Van Der Velde inquired if the also get clothing allowance.

*Chief Speranza stated that all members get benefits provided that they make their percentages.*

Joseph Meltzer (“Metzler”) asked Chief Speranza why have drills if the members of Company 5 don’t respond.

*Chief Speranza he is hopeful this will grow Company 5 to be what they were designed to be an elite group.*

Metzler also added perhaps that Rescue 5 apparatus can be used at the Chase Academy to train.

*Chief Speranza stated that we cannot initiate confined space, or high angle rescue tactics at this stage. Rescue was designed for specific Rescue operation and the Departments RIT team. Currently Wyckoff is the Departments RIT team. They train at a higher level than most RIT teams and have been certified in many Rescue scenarios.*

Metzler asked out of the 124 members, how many are Rescue 5.

Asst. Chief Warner stated he has 21 members on his roster.

Meltzer added that Asst Chief Warner was side swiped by the Chief's antics.

*Chief Speranza it has been a long time coming and it came out now.*

Ex AC Foley asked if Rescue 5 could take a refresher heavy Rescue course.

Asst. Chief Warner stated refresher is available if need be.

Metzler added that he has spoken to Robert Shannon and he is doing better.

Ex –AC Foley asked why Fire Lawn didn't call Engine 4 to the border line fire and if we are responding to Wyckoff and if any mutual aid town had any issues with us when we respond for mutual aid.

*Chief Speranza stated we have no issues with any mutual aid town. Fair Lawn has 16 pieces of equipment and are generally self sufficient. He spoke to the Fair Lawn Chief who stated they had it under control and that is why they did not call us.*

Asst Chief Nelson recalled that back in 1989 where Fair Lawn pulled down Engine 4's fire alarm box for assistance. He added that Engine 4 could have put water on the fire before the 1<sup>st</sup> Fair Lawn Engine arrived as it was close to their fire house.

Ex AC George Degroot stated that the dispatched and police called for Hawthorne yet it was quickly changed to Fair Lawn. He also stated that the owner lives in Hawthorne and did not know why Engine 4 was not called.

*Chief Speranza stated he has no control over mutual aid Chief's and their decisions.*

Ex Asst Chief Foley asked what are Glen Rocks positions as we used to work with them in the past.

Chief Speranza stated that Glen Rock and Hawthorne will work once again together due to their limited man power.

Frank Orisi asked about the times for the OSHA Physical on September 09, 2012.

*Chief Speranza stated they are between 9:30am to 11:30am on September 09, 2012.*

*Ex AC Foley asked if the 9/11 Memorial is in full dress.*

*Chief Speranza stated that the program kicks off at 7:00 pm and is in full dress. He also stated that the County has ceased the 9/11 program.*

*Chief also stated that the Warburton Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue will be closed for repairs.*

*AC Arturi stated he would find out for the Department that actual days and hours.*

Capt. Van Der Velde stated that that intersection will be a 4 way stop and also that Tuxedo Avenue and May Street would be another closure.

AC Arturi stated that school's will also be open and to be careful when responding.

No other requests were made from the floor; the meeting was re-opened to the Fire Board.

Chief Thanked all that had responded to the Downes dumpster fire.

A Motion was made by Asst. Chief Warner second by Asst. Chief Marsch that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Tripicchio*  
Board Secretary