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Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to Order on January 8th, 2019 at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Arturi, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief 2018*; John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief 2019*
Anthony DiVincent, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief 2018*; Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief 2019*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Amber Hechinger, *Fire Dept. Clerk*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT: All are present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: *led by Chief Speranza*

MINUTES: Previous month's minutes have been dispersed.

DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES; *provided by Christopher Mogen, presented by Amber Hechinger:*

• Passaic County Community College (Dispatcher Course - FF. S. Hill)	\$400.00
• FireFighter One, LLC (Various Supplies [Ice Rescue Responder Package, Enspire Fire Decontamination Wipes, V-Watch 2.0 Personal Voltage Detector, Gas Detection Package, Bump Test & Calibration Equip.]):	\$6,994.05
• FireFighter One, LLC (TEGGEN PPE Gear)	\$1,620.00
• FDR Hitches (5-8 Step Pin Kit & Hose):	\$23.79
• Penguin Management Inc. (Jan – June 2019 E-Dispatch Service):	\$888.00
• HFD (SantaRun – Refreshments & Food):	\$278.89
• EngravingAwardsGifts.com (Annual FF Awards):	\$92.00
Total:	\$10,296.73

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD; *received and presented by Clerk Amber Hechinger*

- Resignation of FF. Robert Luscombe of Company #1 as of January 1st, 2019.
- Notice of Medical Leave of Absence until further notice from George DeGroot of CO#3.
- Notice of Three (3) Month Medical Leave of Absence from William Marra of CO#2.
- Letter of Intent to join Company#2 by Carley Tamburro.
- Letter of Intent to join Company#2 by Christopher Tamburro.



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FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Engine CO. #1; presented by Ex. Assistant Chief John Arturi:

- 24 8-8 alarms; 1 1-1 alarms; 0 RA alarms; 0 drill(s) for a total of 25 alarms. Engine 1 held 0 additional trainings.
- **Engine 1 Officers for 2019:**
 - John Trippicho, *Assistant Chief*
 - John Carlo, *Captain*
 - Kevin Foley, *1st Lieutenant*
 - Frank Audino, *2nd Lieutenant*
- Congratulation to the 2019 Officers; Good luck and be safe on behalf of Ex AC John Arturi.
- Engine 1 received cab lights from Fire & Safety to replace the existing lights.
- Radio 121 is missing the channel-selector button.
 - Button fell off but is easy to repair.
- FF. Robert Luscombe has resigned effective January 1st, 2019.
- FF. Kennedy remains on medical leave and is doing well.
- Ex. AC Arturi will be having surgery within the next two (2) weeks.
 - He will advise AC Trippicho.

With above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Tower CO. #2; by Ex. Assistant Chief Anthony DiVincent:

- 24 box alarms; 0 still alarm; 0 mutual aid(s); 0 drills; 0 additional trainings; 0 snow stand-by for a total of 24 alarms.
- **Tower 2 Officers for 2019:**
 - Ronald Walker, *Assistant Chief*
 - Travis Lodder, *Captain*
 - Rebecca Morton, *1st Lieutenant*
 - Dennis McCarvill, *2nd Lieutenant*
- **Drivers for 2019:**
 - Victor Tamburro
 - Brian Vanderhook
 - David Maher
 - John Marsch
- **Alternative Drivers for 2019:**
 - William Marra
 - Anthony DiVincent
 - Jason Crawford
 - Evan Woods
 - Andrew Skae



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- Ex-AC Anthony DiVincent wishes the new Officers good luck for 2019 and expresses his appreciation to serve on the Board of Fire Commissioners for the past two (2) years.
- Aerial testing was completed on December 22nd, 2018.
 - No major issues to report
- Final LOSAP Report for 2018 has been handed in to the Clerks.
- Received Medical Leave of Absence from FF William Marra from January 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2019.
- Received two (2) letters of intent to join Company #2 from Carley and Christopher Tamburro
 - Both have been active juniors of Company#2
 - Requested two (2) application packets. [*Packets received from Clerk Amber Hechinger, 1/8/19*]

With above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Engine CO. #3; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:

- 24 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 0 Chief's Call(s); 2 mutual aid(s); 0 drill(s) for a total of 27 alarms. Engine 3 held 0 additional trainings due to Christmas Tree sales.
- **Engine 3 Officers for 2019:**
 - Joseph Longo, *Assistant Chief*
 - Dominick DeGroot, *Captain*
 - Michael Van Lenten, *1st Lieutenant*
 - Darryl Foca, *2nd Lieutenant*
- Engine CO. #3 would like to wish the Department and their families a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

With above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Engine CO. #4; by Assistant Chief Peter Van Der Velde:

- 24 box alarms; 5 still alarms; 0 radio calls; 0 drills for a total of 29 alarms. 2 mutual aids to Glen Rock and 1 to Fair Lawn have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- **Engine 4 Officers for 2019:**
 - Peter Van Der Velde, *Assistant Chief*
 - Devin Hughes, *Captain*
 - Gerry Flanagan, *1st Lieutenant*
 - John Hurley, *2nd Lieutenant*
- Engine 4 needs cord reel to be looked at by Fair Lawn DPW.
 - Chain came off the reel
- One new member, Christopher Cerde, will be resigning from the Department.
 - His letter will be read at the next Fire Board.

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Rescue CO. #5; presented by Assistant Chief David Hughes:

- 23 box alarms; 1 still alarm(s); 2 Special Details; 1 drills/training(s); 0 snow stand-by(s) for a total of 27 alarms.
- **Rescue 5 Officers of 2019:**
 - David Hughes, *Assistant Chief*
 - Joseph Pagnozzi, *Captain*
 - Anthony Manzo III, *1st Lieutenant*
 - Brian Patmos, *2nd Lieutenant*
- PO is pending for replacement of front tire.
 - To be scheduled.
- New quote is to be obtained for decision of minimal repair to body damage.
- Multi Meter is out for repair. A temporary replacement is currently being used. [*Ref December 2018 Minutes*]
- PO has been issued for lighting upgrade—Delivered pending installation by Fair Lawn [*Ref December 2018 Minutes*]
- AC Hughes believes the usage of Fair Lawn DPW needs to be discussed.
 - The workmanship as well as the time-frame of work being completed is not satisfactory.
 - Ex. AC Arturi notes an issue with workmanship around the month of September.
 - Chief Speranza will discuss the issues with the Administration before the 2019 Contract is signed with Fair Lawn DPW.
- PO has been issued for winch installation—Installed January 7th, 2019 by Hawthorne Hitch
- The boat is in good working order.

With above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Per the Building Representative of Forest Ave—
 - The corners have been curbed out so an apparatus should be able to make a left-to-right turn from Forest Ave.
 - People continue to park there at night which remains a standing issue. Chief Speranza notes the Police may have to check the area to control this issue or the Borough may need to step in to prevent this.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY; by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Chief Speranza would like to wish the Department members and their families a Happy, Healthy New Year.
- Reminder: The Department's Installation Dinner is Friday, January 11th with a start time of 6:45pm. The program will begin at 7:00pm.
- **Dates to Remember:**
 - Thursday, January 10th: LOSAP is due to Chief Speranza. He would like to get it to Ex. Borough Chief Victor Tamburro within an appropriate timeframe.
 - Sunday, January 20th; 9:30am: Officers ReOrg Meeting at Headquarters.



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- Monday, January 21st; 7:00pm: Dept. Officers are invited to view CODES Software. The vendor will be at HQs to demo the program and answer questions.
- Monday, February 4th; 7:30pm: CEVO Course will be hosted at Headquarters for any interested members.
 - Officers: Please report your headcounts to the Clerks as early as possible so they can be communicated to Jennifer Scully.
- Rescue 5 will receive a new Ice Rescue Package.
- Each Assistant Chief will receive a Voltage Detector.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:** 12 alarms; 4 meetings; 3 work details; 1 truck checks; 1 Mutual Aid to Glen Rock for a total of 21 events.
 - The computers and recording equipment in the Radio Room and FieldComm are in good working order as of December 31st, 2018.
 - Chief Speranza: Thank George and Lt. Manzo for putting up the lighting board.
 - Submitted January 8th, 2019
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**
 - Chief Speranza extends a thank you to all the Auxiliary members who attended the Santa Run.
 - 5-9 Siren does not work.
 - Still missing gas cap from the truck.
- **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 - Tentative meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 10:00AM with Kevin Downes.
 - Final blueprint needs to be given to K. Downes for the Roof Ops building and general maintenance. Hopefully it will be completed by spring.
 - Chief Speranza: Opportunity to purchase a used Door-Prop Simulator from the Academy may be coming to us.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
 - Exempt:
 - Meeting Thursday, January 10th at 7:00pm.
 - Relief:
 - Meeting Thursday, January 10th at 8:30pm
 - Ex. BC Victor Tamburro is working on the LOSAP percentages. Currently is in receipt of Company 2's. Company 3's report was missing some information and AC Longo is aware of the issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: Ex. AC Arturi wants to thank both Company's 1 and 2 for attending the Gang Training Program.
 - a. Chief Speranza requests to have the course ran again in the spring in conjunction with a Drug Program.
- II. Tower Company 2: No old business to report.
- III. Engine Company 3: No old business to report.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No old business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No old business to report.



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NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: No new business to report.
- II. Tower Company 2: No new business to report.
- III. Engine Company 3: No new business to report.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No new business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: Assistant Chief David Hughes brings attention to an issue regarding usage of heavy duty fireworks in the town with a specific reference to heavy usage on New Years Eve on Forest Ave.
 - o He believes the Department and the town should have a public outreach regarding the illegality and the danger that goes with use of heavy duty fireworks, believing it is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously injured or killed.
 - o Chief Speranza will put it in front of the Administration and see what comes out of it.
- VI. Chief Speranza: A proposal to change the format of Fire Board is introduced.
 - o Preferably beginning in February, he wishes to mimic how the Council formats their meetings. IE:
 - i. An agenda item would be presented to the Assistant Chiefs a day before,
 - ii. A Public Meeting Format would be followed
 - iii. Those wishing to speak from the floor would leave their seat and address the Board from the Podium. They would be required to state their name, Fire Company (or association), their reason for their statement, and would have approx. five (5) minutes to speak. They would be typically limited to one (1) statement to which the Board of Fire Commissioners can choose to answer or to defer to a closed session discussion before addressing.
 - iv. Any person(s) choosing to use this as a platform to defame and/or harass the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire Companies, members etc will be reprimanded. This has been an issue as recently as this past year and it will not continue to be a reflection of this Department or our Companies.
 - v. Chief Speranza will give this to the Assistant Chief's to decide amongst themselves if we move forward with this change.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Chief Speranza: Change of Officers for 2019.
 - o Chief Speranza welcomes John Trippicho and Ronald Walker as the Assistant Chief's of Company's 1 and 2 for 2019. He thanks Ex. AC Artui and Ex. AC DiVincent for their time on the Board.
 - o Chief wishes Ex. AC Arturi well with his upcoming surgery.
- Engine Company 1: Nothing to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - o AC Walker asks to keep FF Marra on Medical LOA in our thoughts.
- Engine Company 3:
 - o Assistant Chief Longo asks that we please keep FF George DeGroot in our prayers. He requests that our members please stop by and visit him as it makes him very happy.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.

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MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR; by Chief Joseph Speranza

- Ex. Borough Chief Victor Tamburro:
 - Agrees with the new proposed format for Fire Board as it is professional and structured. He mentions it is the format that the Board used to use but was changed when locations were moved.
- Ex. Assistant Chief Arturi:
 - A volunteer Firefighter in Long Island hit two pedestrians and killed someone when responding to a fire call. He believes it is important that the Assistant go back to their members and remind them of the importance of responding to calls safely.
 - He helped to escort George DeGroot to the home and says he was happy when he was dropped off. He was happy to see a few old members such as Kenny Silvestri. The people waiting for them to bring George were not ready for him at the time they were told to be.
 - Chief Speranza notes Dominick DeGroot mentioned that he has been sleeping an awful lot.
 - AC Longo notes that this is a rough adjustment period for multiple reasons. The first month is a transitional period where they do not let him use his scooter, etc but it will begin getting easier after that period is over. AC Longo also thanks Ex. AC Arturi for helping him.
- Ex. Assistant Chief Michael Nelson:
 - Extends thank you to the North Haledon Police Department for helping set up the Radio Room with air conditioning. It gets extremely hot and hard to handle.
- Chief Speranza:
 - Congratulations to new Assistant Chief's John Trippicio and Ronald Walker and welcome to the Board.
 - Thank you to Ex Assistant Chief's John Arturi and Anthony DiVincent.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD; by Chief Joseph Speranza

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Very Truly Yours,

Amber Hechinger
Department Clerk

Ah/ Cm