

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Clerk Christopher Mogan
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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 March 5th, 2019 at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Amber Hechinger, *Fire Dept. Clerghjk* 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 Mutual Aid Association (Annual Dues) | \$100.00 |
| • New Jersey State Volunteer Association (Annual Dues): | \$65.00 |
| • Strategic Safety Dynamics (FF Dube/FF Skae – Turnout jackets, pants & boots): | \$4,861.79 |
| • Firefighter One (Company 2 – (2) 30” Forcible Entry Halligan Bar): | \$457.00 |
| • Firefighter One (Company 4 – (4) Vulcan Series Charging Rack): | \$135.00 |
| • Some’s (Blanket PO – Various Pins, bars, badge holders): | \$200.00 |
| • Fire Service Safety Testing, Inc
(Annual ground ladder testing & ladder belt testing): | \$2,400.00 |
| • Fire and Safety Services, LTD
(Compartment D-1, Painted, Hardware Kit, Reflective Tape): | \$735.80 |
| • Goosetown Communication, Inc (Unit 58 – Emergency Radio Repair): | \$500.00 |
| • Yankee Propane Inc (Training Center Propane): | \$38.39 |
| • Andy’s Corner (Blanket PO – Food & Refreshments – Drills, Standby, Meetings): | \$200.00 |
| • *HFD (Company 3 – Sears – Craftsman 26” Wide 2-Drawer Chest): | \$69.99 |
| • *HFD (Company 2 – Dasco Pro 645-0 Demo Hawg Wrenching Bar): | \$62.85 |

*Marked as Pending Borough Approval

Total: \$9,825.82

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

- Resignation of FF Jeff Hackman of CO#3
- Medical Leave for Travis Lodder of CO#2
- Change of Address for Jorge Padilla of CO#4

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

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

- 16 8-8 alarms; 2 1-1 alarms; 0 RA alarms; 1 drill(s) for a total of 19 alarms. Engine 1 held 4 additional trainings.
- **Equipment Requests:**

CORE STATEMENT
Volunteers providing a professional service in
Fire Protection, Rescue Services and Fire Prevention
To the citizens of Hawthorne.



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- PAC Mounts
- Kenwood 3180 Head Set for Driver Radio
- Drop Charge for Kenwood 3180 Driver Radio
- Respirator holders for Scott Packs
- Driver's testing is in progress and training requests for 2019 were handed it.
- Engine 1's Fit Testing will take place on March 25th, 2019.
- Ladder testing was completed; All of our ladders passed.
- Engine 1 will need to reschedule the preventative maintenance as Fair Lawn DPW was snow plowing on the initial date scheduled.
- FF Nick Forsythe has renewed his leave of absence for an additional three (3) months for college.
- Tom Kennedy remains on medical leave of absence.
- Company 1 extends congratulations to Engine 3 on their new apparatus that was placed in service.

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

Tower CO. #2; by Ex. Assistant Chief Ronald Walker:

- 18 box alarms; 5 still alarm; 6 mutual aid(s); 1 drills; 1 additional trainings for a total of 31 alarms.
- FF Travis Lodder is on medical leave of absence from 2/1/19 until 3/21/19. Doctor's note has been provided to Clerk Hechinger.
- Upon inspection of the truck last Monday night, it was found that the valve to the shower on the bucket was cracked. Valve was replaced in-house by our members and is functional.
- Ground ladder testing was done along with ladder belt testing; All equipment passed.

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

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

- 20 box alarms; 5 still alarm; 3 mutual aid(s); 1 drill(s) for a total of 29 alarms. Engine 3 held 0 additional trainings.
- AC Longo extends thanks to Tower 2 for their support at the mutual aid in Haledon, helping with the radio batteries and hose-packing. He also extends thanks to Lt. Manzo for helping CO#3 put their new engine in service. Thanks is extended to the members of CO#3 who unselfishly have spent countless hours to make the transition of the old engine to the new engine. He cannot thank everyone enough.

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

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

- 20 box alarms; 13 still alarms; 2 standbys; 1 drill(s) for a total of 36 alarms.

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

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

- 19 box alarms; 1 still alarm(s); 1 drills/training(s) for a total of 21 alarms.
- Received a call from Firefighter 1 about completing the work on the generator which is out of frequency. Will be scheduling repair date in the near future.
 - AC Hughes is very unhappy with FF1's service as it has become very difficult to schedule a repair date with them.
- New quote for the body damage repair was obtained—pending scheduling Midland Park
- Multi-Meter is out for repair. A temporary is being used currently.
- State Line investigated power loss with the Hurst tool with no specific findings at this time.

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- Suspect a hose line may be sucking in air or is cracked.
- Unit 58 siren has been repaired by Goosetown.
- Unit 58 light bar needs to be installed. Suggesting of possibly doing so in-house.
- **Rescue Task Force:**
 - New drill scheduled on March 25th, 2019 at 1930 hours.
 - New membership guidelines are under development.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- The meeting with Hawthorne Square concluded. They will be installing a system using alcohol or glycol, not air compressors. If issues continue, the next plan of action will be moving towards total evacuation of the building, putting residents in hotels and putting the building on fire watch. It seems a stronger stance is required.
 - A formal report from Gene is pending.

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

- Finding a diesel truck to work on our apparatus' has been a challenge. Chief will speak to Glen Rock to discuss the possibilities of another mechanic being added in order to take on the Borough of Hawthorne so we can shift away from Fair Lawn DPW.
- We have had some serious incidents in town and in neighboring towns that were beyond our control this past week. If it were not for the professionalism exhibited by our membership, the negative impacts on our Department could have been detrimental.
 - Refraining from comments, speculation, and posting on social media is a true indication of your compassion and dedication to the Department as well as to those involved in the incidents.
 - Please continue to refrain on comments as both are actively being investigated.
- Chief Speranza acknowledges the great work of those involved as Monday's tragic incident. It was a job well-done with the difficult circumstances faced.
 - Don Turner is seriously injured but expected to recover, as are the two victims in the van. On behalf of the Department, we offer our prayers to the victims and their families.
- Chief Speranza extends a thanks to our Board members for their dedication in covering the responsibilities in his absence.
- At the last finance meeting with the Council and Administration, several expense items and programs were introduced. Each were met with courtesy and appreciation to our membership and our needs.
 - A 10% increase in the clothing stipend looks to be likely; training budget has gone up; Federal Law Standard Act was introduced and discussed as an effort to keep our membership as other Departments are struggling with the decline of volunteers.
 - Our main response comes from our older Firefighters which is not good for the Department. When our older members leave, who will fill in that hole? This goes back to us to train our members and encourage their activity.
-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:** None present to report.
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**



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- Annual Fish Fry is coming up—fliers have been handed out to members of the Board.
 - Ladies Auxiliary will come to Company Meetings with tickets to purchase. They just ask to be notified of when the Company's would like them to come.
 - There are three (3) fish dinners in town this year presenting big competition to this year's fundraiser. It is their largest and most successful fundraiser—support from our Department is crucial.
- Question regarding County ID Cards delivered on Ellen's behalf.
 - Chief Speranza notes that this question is brought up at every County Meeting and is always met with the answer that they are "working on it". We will bring it back up at the next meeting.
 - Regarding Borough ID cards—Members can go during the day any time between 9:00am-4:00pm. We are working on scheduling sometime later in the day with Ellen Brogno for members that cannot make those hours.
 - Ex AC Tamburro comments that last time the Sheriff came with equipment in order to do the County ID's himself which may be worth looking into.
 - AC Longo asks if the Borough ID cards have expiration dates on them. Chief Speranza responds that they do not but that is something we are asking to have included moving forward.
- **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 - AC Longo reports that the forible entry door has been completed. The door is very heavy and he is currently in the process of scheduling its delivery.
 - Chief Speranza reminds everyone that we do have a set date for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
 - Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: No old business to report.
- 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: No new business to report.
- II. Tower Company 2:
 - AC Ronald Walker comments about members pagers either not opening at all or opening when no horns go off.
 - i. Chief Speranza responds that this is being looked into. They were retested and worked alright, leading him to believe it may be the pagers themselves which may be a larger issue as we currently have no vender. We are working on a resolution.
- III. Engine Company 3: No new business to report.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No new business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No new business to report.

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- VI. Chief Speranza: The Hawthorne Fire Department Emergency Vehicle Response packet has been handed to each Assistant Chief. Please review these with your companies and we will review at the next Officer's Meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1: Nothing to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Assistant Chief Walker reports one member remains out on medical leave and due to be reevaluated at the end of the month.
- Engine Company 3: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.
- Chief Speranza: A reminder to our members to please be very aware and careful with your driving activity.

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

- Lt. Frank Audino addresses the Board to recognize Assistant Chief Longo during Chief Speranza's absence. He thanks him for an incredible job done in covering the town as well as the support he provided to the Police Department.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Very Truly Yours,

Amber Hechinger
Department Clerk