

Chief Joseph Speranza  
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## Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
[www.hawthornefire.org](http://www.hawthornefire.org)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to Order on March 6th, 2018 at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*  
John Arturi, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*  
Anthony DiVincent, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*  
Peter VanDerrVelde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*  
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*  
Amber Hechinger, *Fire Dept. Clerk*  
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** All members 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. None present who are opposed.

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

- Passaic County Community College (Instruction for Drill Ground Instructor- Joseph Longo & John Arturi) \$50.00
- AAA Emergency Supply Co. (Belay Kit-Training Center): \$750.00
- FireCompanies.com (Website Annual Maintenance): \$817.88
- Hawthorne Fire Department (Office Supplies-Toner MLT-D105L/Vacuum Bags): \$99.59
- Ace Security Inc. (Keri Tags, Programming & Troubleshooting): \$170.00
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Newspaper (2018 Annual Department Fee): \$80.00
- ESI Equipment Inc. (CORE 32ft Kevlar Hose [Blue]-Engine 3): \$1,014.00
- Fire Service Safety Testing, Inc. (Annual Ground Ladder Testing): \$1,038.80
- 10-75 Emergency Lighting, LLC (Lightening/Generator Repairs 5-8): \$2,542.04
- Hawthorne Fire Department- (Standby-Food for Glen Rock FD during Installation Dinner): \$140.00
- Company #5 (Snow Standby-Food from Shortway's Barn): \$51.65
- Hawthorne Fire Department (Refreshments-Bailout Training): \$67.61
- Company #2 (Snow Standby-Villa Rosa [Jan 4<sup>th</sup> Storm]): \$65.00
- Company #3 (Snow Standby-Food [Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Storm]): \$7.44
- Hawthorne Fire Department (Refreshments-Santa Run): \$316.85

**Total: \$7,210.86**



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**FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:**

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

- 13 box alarms; 2 still alarms; 0 mutual aid; 1 drills for a total of 16 alarms. Engine 1 held 2 additional training.
- Apparatus will be taken to the auto body shop in April on a Saturday for coupling measurements. Should not be out of service for more than 8-hours. Fire and Safety will be contacted for the rear perimeter light to be repaired.
- Engine 1 is requested equipment that was not purchased from previous years: Ratcheting Fire Hydrant Wrench, Two (2) water can straps, Four (4) spanners for stortz connection, One (1) rubber yellow pony 6" hose length 11ft. AC Arturi spoke to Chief Speranza about said items on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Lieutenant Robert Luscombe has a temporary address change (Received by Amber Hechinger).
- Company #1 requests to attend the Wallington Holiday Parade for the year of 2018 (Tentative Date: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018) to continue their tradition. In addition, Company #1 also requests the usage of Unit 6-1 in the Parade.
- AC Arturi extends a sincere thank you to all those who attended Firefighter Malandrino's services.

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

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

- 11 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 5 mutual aids; 1 drills; 0 additional trainings; 1 snow stand-by for a total of 19 alarms.
- The ground ladder and ladder belt testing was done on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with no issues to report.
- Gas meter will be going out for repair on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All sensors with the exception of the oxygen sensor are bad on calibration.
- Older quick-vent saw is out for repairs. Fremgens called today reporting that saw is seized and the repairs are costly. As it is over 20-years old, it will be used for parts for the other quick-vent saw.
- Company #2 is still waiting for reimbursement for the January's food for snow standby. (AC DiVincent acknowledges the inclusion in the February Bills reported by the Clerks.)

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

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

- 13 box alarms; 1 still alarms; 1 mutual aid; 2 drills for a total of 17 alarms. Engine 3 held 2 additional training.
- Engine 3 will schedule regular maintenance with Fair Lawn DPW.
- Company #3 would like to welcome Rashawn Byfield into the Hawthorne Fire Department. They wish him much luck and success in his new journey as a Firefighter.
- A letter from Alexander Wojtecki was given to the Fire Clerk (Received by Amber Hechinger) expressing his interest in joining the Hawthorne Fire Department's Engine Company #3.

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### **Engine CO. #4; by Assistant Chief Peter VanDerrVelde:**

- 14 box alarms; 6 still alarms; 0 radio alarms; 1 drill for a total of 21 calls. 4 mutual aids to Glen Rock and 1 mutual aid to Fair Lawn have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- Engine 4 has a head gasket issues and will be going out to Campbell supply March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for approximately 3-4 weeks for repairs. During the time that the Engine is out of service, Chief Jennings of the Glen Rock Fire Department and their Public Safety Committee has offered Company #4 usage of their Engine 833 to continue protecting their district and responding to any mutual aid calls to Glen Rock that may arise. AC VanDerrVelde expresses immense thanks to Glen Rock, recognizing the great relationship they have.
- CO. #4 requests one (1) application for a prospect member.
- Lockout/Tagout, Blood Borne Pathogen and Hazard Communications were completed. CPR Recertification will be done this month.

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

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

- 15 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 2 drills for a total of 47 alarms. Rescue 5 held 0 additional trainings.
- Airbags are on order from Continental Fire & Safety (\$6474.31)
- Officer Secondary Computer screen is out for repair at Fair Lawn DPW. AC Hughes mentions an issue with communication with Fair Lawn; Chief Speranza will be reaching out to resolve it.
- Two (2) rear outside tires are damaged and need assessment for replacement.
- Company #5 received two (2) chain saws—14" and 16"
- VHF radio is missing.
- Two (2) 100ft Life Safety Ropes have been removed from service as they were past their usage dates.
- Cab Mobile radios on Unit 5-8 need frequency identification (VHF and Low Band).
- Unit 5-7 and the Boat are in good working order.
- Company #5 completed the required PEOSHA Training. A make-up night for the Department will be communicated once it is schedule.
- Glen Rees has returned from medical leave with no restrictions. (Note from Doctor received by Amber Hechinger)
- Robert Barclay remains on three (3) month personal leave; Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- New member applications are in process for Nikolias Filingeri and Ted Thoms.

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

### **FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza**

- In the event the Department is dispatched to 55 Westervelt Ave, Chief Speranza requests all responding members please keep their eyes open, be attentive and very careful.

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

- An Active Shooter program will be interfacing with the Hawthorne Police Department. The Fire Department will have an active portion, possibly minimal, in the Program.



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- The Police Department does have key FOBs for the schools. However, they cannot enter on an active fire alarm until the Fire Department is on scene.
- Note to Engine 1, Tower 2 and Rescue 5: Mafia blocks have now be placed at Goffle Church. It is recommended that your Companies take a look at the location in order to prevent possible issues during fires.
- **In regards the new 2018-2019 Legislative Session S-1460 and A-3405:** "...the Delegation is sponsoring legislation, A-709, which would permit Volunteer Firefighters and Fire Aid or Rescue Squad members to claim an additional exemption of \$5,000 to be taken as a deduction from their gross income if they meet certain qualifications. Under the bill, Firefighters may claim the \$5,000 deduction if they: 1) volunteered during the entire tax year; 2) performed 60% of fire duty; and 3) Certified according to approved standards. To satisfy the '60% of fire duty' requirement, Volunteer Firefighters without duty-hours must have responded to 60% of the regular alarms and drills in which the Department is forced to participate..." (A copy of this Communication will be dispersed to all Assistant Chiefs)—Do not be afraid to reach out to receive the deductible.
- Chief Speranza thanks each member that attended the Department Drill on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chiefs have begun reviewing both the pros and the cons in order to improve as we move forward.
- The next drill will likely be in the next four (4) weeks on the house adjacent to the buildings worked in during the last drill on Sotnick Street.
- The Department's budget was introduced to the Finance Committee. Seemingly, everything was met with positivity and should move forward as projected. The budget includes the fence for the cars on our lot at Headquarters which will allow them to be removed from view.
- Chief Speranza wishes to thank all of our members for the tremendous out-pouring of support and love for our recently passed member, Firefighter Ralph Malandrino.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### • **Communications Division:**

- 13 alarms; held 3 meetings; 2 work detail for a total of 18 events.
- The computers and recording equipment in the Radio Room and Fieldcomm are in good working order with the exception of: right & left rear running, clearance and strobe lights. Chief Speranza will schedule Hawthorne Chevy for annual maintenance to get running lights attended to.

#### • **Ladies Auxiliary:**

- March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 will be the Annual Fish Fry at the Boys & Girls Club. Any volunteers to help set up, clean up and serve would be appreciated. Cost will be \$15 per adult, \$8 per child. Fish or chicken will be served.
- No word was heard from the President in regards to attendance in Sunday's drill.

#### ○ **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**

- AC Longo inquires about the maintenance money owed from Glen Rock. According to Chief Speranza, the \$2,500 came in after the Fiscal Year, so the Borough assumed the money. A conversation was had at the Budget Meeting in which Mayor Goldberg stated the issue would be reconciled.
- An issue of animals living in on the second floor of the building has been discovered. Anyone who enters the building needs to be cautious and aware. Work of sealing up the areas in which they are entering is in progress.



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### OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: AC Arturi, in reference to an update from February's Fire Board, notes that the old 5-0 was taken to the motor pool to have the decals removed. It is able to be brought back up for 6-1 when the Board is ready to move forward. AC Arturi will have more information in the following weeks in that regard.
- 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 DiVincent notes that there has not been a rent increase since 2013. Chief Speranza comments an attempt at the budget meeting was made but was unsuccessful. It will be discussed for the next budget year.
- 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.
- VI. Chief Speranza:
  - o Chaplain VanDyke's father has passed away. Thursday at 7:00pm at Browning Forshay is his service—will be in touch with Assistant Chief's to see if we are able to have our presence and support.
  - o In regards to the pending Nor'easter: When under State of Emergency, we must document how many people we have, how many times/when our apparatus' went out; How many generators are out and to which resident are they dispersed; We will make a determination from within of what is safe for our members and what is not safe.

### GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
  - o AC Arturi once again wishes to thank everyone for their support of Firefighter Ralph Malandrino and his family.
  - o Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> is Company #1's Comedy Dinner. Cost is \$35 a head for dinner/soda/beer.
- Tower Company 2: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 3: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.

### MEETING CLOSE TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR; *by Chief Joseph Speranza*

- Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro speaks in regards to over-spending at the Installation Dinner: How did we get so far over budget? Why are we paying for people who did not attend? Are the Company's paying for members who attend but who are not making their clothing allowances?
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- Chief Speranza notes an issue in keeping track of who entered once the program had started and conflicting headcounts from our Clerks vs. Macaluso's employees. Our spending was increased in order to allow family for our 65<sup>th</sup> year member to be present, which was approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. He asks for suggestions for how we can plan better.
- Fire Department Clerk Christopher Mogen notes that our budget for the coming year does not allow for the usual number of people to attend this year's Installation Dinner. A plan will have to be in place if more members want to attend, taking into consideration those that will have to pay their own way by not making their clothing allowance and new members.
- Assistant Chief John Arturi suggests posting people at the entrance table the whole night in order to better keep track those in attendance. Ex-BC Tamburro suggests inviting people from the Building Department to do so in exchange for dinner.
- Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro speaks in regards to last Sunday's Drill: During a previous drill, he mentions that he was chastised for not wearing his turn-out coat while next to the truck, though he noticed numerous civilians walking the drill scene without proper attire.
  - Chief Speranza notes the Owner, a few of his employees, and Peter Partridge were too close to the building without the proper attire. He was not pleased with how a few things went at the drill and they are noted as issues to be worked on moving forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Meeting was closed to the floor and adjourned at 8:10pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Amber Hechinger  
Department Clerk

Js/ Jt