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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 April 2nd, 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. 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:*

• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#1 (2019 Quarter 1 Rental)	\$1,870.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#1 (2019 Quarter 2-4 Rental):	\$5,610.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#2 (2019 Quarter 1 Rental):	\$1,870.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#2 (2019 Quarter 2-4 Rental):	\$5,610.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#3 (2019 Quarter 1 Rental)	\$1,870.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#3 (2019 Quarter 2-4 Rental):	\$5,610.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#4 (2019 Quarter 1 Rental)	\$1,870.00
• Hawthorne Fire Department CO#4 (2019 Quarter 2-4 Rental):	\$5,610.00
Passaic County Community College (Firefighter 2 Course—C.DiBella [CO#1], D.McCarvill [CO#2], C.Smith [CO#1]):	\$1,200.00
• RT Office Products (Office Supplies):	\$635.47
• Firefighter One (Engine 4—(2) Snap Tite HFX Mitrile Rubber Hose Yellow 5”/ Storz Coupled/50 Foot):	\$833.03
• Firefighter One (Engine 1—(6) Regulator holders):	\$103.75
• Performance Advantage Company (Engine 1— Handle LOK, Jumbo LOK, 5”Storz LOK, Universal Hanger, Tool Hanger Kit):	\$614.30
• Platinum Chemicals (5 Gallon Bucket Gear Cleaner):	\$578.00
• Hawthorne Chevy (Blanket PO—Preventative Maintenance 5-0, 5-7, 5-8, 6-1):	\$500.00
• Technical Fire Services (Aerial Testing/Certification for Tower 2):	\$675.00
• Fire and Safety Services (Engine 1— Preventative Maintenance—Re-route & Wrap Hose):	\$525.00

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- **Goosetown Communication** (Engine 1—(1) Rapid Rate DC Vehicular Charger): \$210.00
- **Fire and Safety Services** (Engine 1—Emergency Repairs): \$400.00
- **Electronic Systems Solutions**
(Full Dept. Radio testing, tune and align with FCC Guidelines): \$1,450.00

Total: \$37,644.55

*Notes discussed on Bills:

- Engine 4 hose reimbursement is still pending; Jennifer Scully is currently working on the ratification; AC Longo and Chief Speranza
- 5 gallon bucket gear cleaner is for everyone's use; AC Trippicho and Chief Speranza
- Every Firefighter should be taught how to put their gear back together; AC Longo
- Medical leave of absence for Ex-AC Anthony DiVincent of CO#2.

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

- 3 Month extension of Leave of Absence for William Marra of CO#2
- 3 Month extension of Leave of Absence for for Nicholas Forsythe of CO#5
- Return to Active Duty for Travis Lodder of CO#2

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:

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

- 11 8-8 alarms; 0 1-1 alarms; 0 RA alarms; 1 drill(s) for a total of 11 alarms. Engine 1 held 3 additional trainings.
- Driver's testing is in progress.
- 85% of Engine 1's Fit Testing was completed on March 25th, 2019. Engine 1 and Tower 2 trained the same night.
- Engine 1 preventative maintenance was completed by Fair Lawn DPW.
 - Oil was changed but they failed to reset the computer. FF1 had to come out to do so.
- FF Tom Kenney remains on medical leave of absence.

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

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

- 13 box alarms; 2 still alarm; 7 mutual aid(s); 2 drills; 2 additional trainings for a total of 22 alarms.
- **Equipment Request:**
 - **AA Batteries for air packs and flashlights**
 - **9 Volt batteries for air packs**
- **Note on above:** Chief Speranza will see if VanDykes will be able to donate batteries to save on the significant expense.
- Two (2) new halligans were received and put into service.
- Ex-Assistant Chief Anthony DiVincent is on Medical Leave starting 3/19/19 until 4/30/19.



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- Medical leave of absence extension from William Marra who has not yet been cleared to return by his Doctor.
- Doctor's note from Travis Lodder who has been cleared to return to Active Duty

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

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

- 12 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 0 mutual aid(s); 1 drill(s) for a total of 14 alarms. Engine 3 held 1 additional trainings.
- New radios have been installed in the new engine.
- A request for new portable radios was presented to Chief Speranza
 - One (1) UHF
 - One (1) High
 - One (1) Low
 - All radios be programmed with Haledon Fire Department frequency
- Request that all Engine radios be programed with Bergen County frequency
- Engine 3 has taken the Poulan 16" chain saw out of service due to safety brake not activating when in use.
 - Will need to go out for repair.
- KME has set up a mechanic to work on the new Engine to address small issues that need to be changed and or corrected.
- Engine 3 has finished their SCBA Mask Fit Testing

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

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

- 15 box alarms; 2 still alarms; 0 standbys; 1 drill(s) for a total of 18 alarms. 2 Mutual Aids to Glen Rock were not included in this total.
- **Equipment Request:**
 - Set of Boarks for a helmet
- Engine 4 received four (4) new box light chargers for the hand lights.
- Two (2) Blue Light Permits have been turned in.
- Two (2) members have been measured for gear.

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

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

- 14 box alarms (1 extrication); 0 still alarm(s); 2 drills/training(s) for a total of 16 alarms.
- Received a call from Firefighter 1 about completing the work on the generator.
 - No date set for repair. Date pending.
- State Line investigated the power loss with the Hurst tool.
 - No specific findings on what is causing the issue.
 - Maverick Tool out for repair—4/3/19 service call to assess operation and power loss.
- Siren on 5-8 was repaired by Goosetown
- Installation of new light bar on 5-8 scheduled with Firefighter 1 on 4/16/19



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Rescue Task Force:

- April 22nd at 19:30—Scheduled drill
- New membership guidelines are under development
- AC Hughes would like to compliment the work of the Rescue Task Force as well as the support Companies on the rescue performed on 208 on a job well done.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Nothing to report.

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

- Chief Speranza thanks Tower Company #2 for hosting and presenting the ladies from Scouting with a Fire Prevention program at their Firehouse last month.
- With the Borough's budget introduction, we are hopeful that Tower 2 and our extensive training agenda would be approved so we can move forward with training, equipment needs and the purchase of Tower 2.
- Demo of the Task Force Demo tool has been moved to April 22nd 2019 at 7:30PM.
- Regarding issues with Fair Lawn DPW, we have a proposal to the Administration to use Firefighter 1 in their place. Preventative maintenance would be as low as a rough \$7,700 which would also include pump certification. More information to come as discussion progresses.
- Chief Speranza expressed concern over Tower's aerial certification as the oil came back as contaminated on the report. This will be addressed.
- We are in the process of scheduling hydro/regulator testing. More information to come as progress is made.
- There has been healthy discussion within the Department surrounding drivers, insurance and general coverage which is leaving responding Firefighters liable while responding vs. coverage by the town.
 - A memo has been provided to each Assistant Chief with coverage details (ie. What is covered by the members' insurance vs. what is covered by the town)
 - Something needs to change—Towns are losing members due to issues such as this where the membership is not being supported during response/activity.
- A Christian Firefighter in South Jersey ran into trouble with his choice to not comply with OSHA Regulations regarding facial hair due to religious reasons.
 - The courts ruled that the presence of such facial hair creates additional safety risks by inhibiting a mask's seal, allowing toxic fumes and smoke to enter and the oxygen supply to be drained quicker.
 - Chief Speranza asks the membership to ensure their compliance to OSHA Regulations as they are there for a reason.
- Chief Speranza relays a message from FF Kevin Foley that members make sure they understand that their **voltage censor** is not a **voltage detector** and can not be relied on as such.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:** None present to report.
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**
 - Annual Fish Fry is on April 19th, 2019 at the Boys and Girls Club.
 - This is their only fundraiser and the support of the membership is greatly appreciated.
 - Tricky Tray will be much larger this year due to the involvement of local vendors and businesses.
 - Auxiliary member Dot has arranged for a member to attend each Company's Meeting night in order to give the membership opportunities to purchase tickets.
 - St. Anthony's may not be having their Fish Fry this year so this may open up more opportunity for attendance.
- **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
 - Ex. Borough Chief Victor Tamburro has handed out Green Sheets to the members of the Board.
 - These must be posted in the Engine Rooms.
 - Assistant Chief's should review these sheets and alert the Clerks if any listed members have since resigned. The Clerks will then submit this in writing so the member(s) can be removed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1:
 - a. AC Trippichio asks on the status of obtaining County ID's for the Department.
 - i. Per Chief Speranza, he will continue to pose this question at the County Meetings though there has been no progress thusfar.
 - ii. Additional software is being looked into in the hopes of improving the Borough ID's as they are currently very generic.
- II. Tower Company 2:
 - a. AC Walker asks on the status of obtaining requested life vest.
 - i. Chief Speranza requests AC Walker to remind him when we receive our budget.
 - b. AC Walker asks on the issue of reported pager issues (ie Not opening when toned out at night)
 - i. A full system check is in the progress of being scheduled for preventative maintenance, though no issues have been found thusfar.
 - ii. In the process of converting over to dark lines in order to move away from tie lines.
- III. Engine Company 3:
 - a. AC Longo asks as to the progress of obtaining more masks.
 - i. We currently have a quote; masks are about \$400 each.
 - ii. Companies will need to go over how to care for masks with their membership. Masks are being removed incorrectly (ie. "Ripped off" when removed) which is causing significant damage. They are expensive to replace so it imperative that they are properly taken care of.



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- IV. Engine Company 4:
- AC Van Derr Veldt asks on the requirement at Fire School for the attendees to bring one (1) pack and one (1) bottle per person to every class, regardless of if they are being used.
 - AC Longo adds that ends up being a dangerous situation for our town with that number of packs and bottles out of town at once during these times.
 - Chief Speranza does not believe this will be changed but will bring this concern up to the Academy as well as the concern as to why changes, as initially promised, have not been made. (ie: Usage of new instructors)
 - A conversation with the administration is considered regarding our running our own Firefighter 1 with the amount of instructors we were able to certify, as we have the manpower to do so. The question of how these members would be reimbursed for their time is the main issue.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1: No new business to report.
- Tower Company 2: No new business to report.
- Engine Company 3: No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4: No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5: No new business to report.
- Chief Speranza: No new business to report.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - AC Trippichio asks that we please keep our members currently on medical leave in our thoughts.
- Tower Company 2:
 - AC Walkers asks that we please keep our members currently on medical leave in our thoughts.
- Engine Company 3:
 - AC Longo asks our members to please give George DeGroot a visit at the Fireman's home. He reports that he is doing very well.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.
- Chief Speranza: Nothing to report.

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

- Ex. Borough Chief Victor Tamburro; Tower Company #2:*
 - Regarding the bay doors of Rescue 5—the only person who should be permitted to park there should be the Borough Chief. There is a truck consistently parked there, blocking the doors, which seems disrespectful to Chief Speranza. There is an open parking lot that should be used instead of blocking the doors.
 - Concerns regarding “Time Served”:
 - Years of Service Awards**—Ex. BC Tamburro states that members on military leave should not be receiving credit for the fire year until they are back into active service for

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- another full year. We are counting these members as “Serving Hawthorne” when they are not here; their time should be stalled as it stands when they go on military leave.
- **Clothing Allowance:** This should only be paid out to them for the first year per Borough Ordinance—Read aloud by AC Trippichio.
- **Leave of Absence:** Time out on LOA should not count towards “Time Served” in the Department. This leaves open opportunities to take advantage of leave extensions that should not be counted as “Serving Hawthorne”.
- Chief Speranza requests that Ex. BC Tamburro puts together something in writing for the Department so these concerns are addressed moving forward.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Very Truly Yours,

Amber Hechinger
Department Clerk