

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Clerk Christopher Mogen
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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 May 5th at 7:35pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

The meeting this evening was located at Fire HQ and closed to the general public. *The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email (Clerk@HawthorneFire.org) to forward questions to the Board of Fire Commissioners.*

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*
Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Led by Chief Speranza

MINUTES:

Previous month's minutes have been dispersed.

CORE STATEMENT

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

DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;

provided and presented by Clerk Mogen

Gold Type Business Machines (Aseptic + Sanitization Disinfectant)	\$ 1,630.00
Firefighter One (Engine 1 - Hose - 650 ft)	\$ 3,179.00
AramSCO Inc. (Disposable Coveralls (L, XL, XXL)	\$ 536.00
Firefighter One (Engine 3 - Preventative Maintenance Service)	\$1,370.00
Firefighter One (Engine 4 - Preventative Maintenance Service)	\$ 1,370.00
Firefighter One. (Rescue 5 - Preventative Maintenance Service)	\$ 1,020.00
DC Electrical Contractors Inc. (Kenwood Radio Programming)	\$ 90.00
Electronic Systems Solutions (Radio Batteries)	\$ 989.28

Total: \$ 10,184.28

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- FF Mark Smith from Company 1 provided a letter from his physician that allows him to return to full active duty.
- Frank Orsi from the Radio Room provided a letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a medical leave of absence. The Board has approved the request.
- FF Gerry Flanagan from Company 4 provided a letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners to extend his current medical leave for an additional three (3) months. The Board has approved the request.
- FF Mark Lundin from Company 2 provided a letter from his physician that allows him to return to Company 2 as a driver only. The Board has placed FF Lundin’s request on hold until further notice, until a meeting with the Board and FF Lundin can take place..

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of April 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 3 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 0 Drill(s) for a total of 21 Alarms
- Engine 1 received;
 - Received N-95 masks
- (2) members returned from COVID-19
- (6) members have notified us that they are quarantined.
- (1) SCBA is deemed to be out of service

- Good & Welfare: Travis Nunn / Donald Emory / Ex Asst. Chief Eugene Vansuskil

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

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

- For the month of April 2020, Company 2 responded to; 17 Box Alarms, 5 Still Alarms, 1 Mutual Aid, 0 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 23 Alarms
- The new Tower Ladder is progressing, but will be delayed until the end of May 2020
- Tower 2 currently has no members out sick and only a few on specified response due to their activities with PD and EMS.
- Members are itching to get back to normalcy and hold drills and meetings.

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

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

- For the month of April 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 16 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 1 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 0 Drills for a total of 19 Alarms.
- FF. Jim Bakker remains on medical leave, doing well.
- FF. Andrew Massey remains on medical leave and on light duty as a Class C FF, waiting for further medical evaluation by his doctor.
- As of 5/5/20, all but one F.F. is active on roster for Co#3. The FF. is infected by the virus but chooses to exclude himself from the fire house until he feels comfortable to return to active duty.

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

Engine CO. #4; presented by Assistant Chief Devin Hughes:

- For the month of April 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 16 Box Alarms, 9 Still Alarms, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 0 Drills, for a total of 25 Alarms including 1 mutual aid call to Ridgewood.
- Engine Company 4's, engine bay exhaust system is no longer working (fan does not turn on and exhaust hose does not retract)
- FF Flanagan has requested an extension on his medical leave of absence.
- FF Hurley's leave of absence is being extended to July, due to his battle with the COVID virus. A letter to follow from FF Hurley as soon as he's back up and going.
- At this time, E4 has 5 members on reduced response.

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

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

- For the month of April 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 21 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarm, 0 Special Event, 0 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 21 Alarms.

- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Pending -VHF portable radio needs reprogramming – Bergen County frequencies not working – also need 12 volt charger to mount in cab.
 - Unit 58
 - Stokes basket on loan to Truck 2
 - Pending - Siren is burned out-needs replacement- March 3 – Murphy Communications preparing quote.
 - Pending - Request Portable Radio for Cab with charger.
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order
 - Task Force
 - Next drill scheduled after crisis is over.
 - Member Certification – Process to begin next year (Rescue Skill Sheet) and Completion of Rescue School will be required to maintain status.
 - All Companies interested members list.
 - Personal
 - Two senior members stay at home as per CDC guidelines

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Chief Speranza discussed the business of Premio Foods & Market Basket and the issues that were documented at a recent alarm call.

CHIEF’S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- I am pleased to report that most of our members have recovered from either self-isolation or from the virus itself, we also are making some department history as we sit through a second constitutive closed fire board meeting.
- Over the past few weeks we have begun to receive necessary items to assist us with responses. We have received enough supply of gloves, hand sanitizers, KN and N-95 masks, as well as surgical masks. We also received a supply of mask extenders courtesy of FF Chris Tamburro. We are awaiting purchase orders for protective coveralls which have been ordered and pending shipping dates to the department. These items were purchased with Glen Rock FD to save the department with buying power and cost reduction. (20 LG, 20 XL, 20XXL - four (4) of each per company.
- A backpack blower, indoor battery blower and disinfectant adapter as well as sanitizer has been ordered and received today to assist us in any decon need with infection control.
- Apparatus maintenance can be scheduled at your convenience with FF1 for R5, E3, E4, 57, 58, 59 and repairs for 61 will go to Paul’s Motors.

- The department participated in a drive by for a very ill child this past week and I would like to thank E1, T2, E3. Also, thanks to Ex Chief Tamburro and FF Chris Tamburro for bringing attention to the need of this event.
- Thanks to Tower 2 for covering the Oakland FF funeral, and we have offered our condolences and assistance to the Oakland, Little Falls, Carlstadt and Totowa Fire Departments for coverage if needed.
- My compliments on a job well done at the recent incident on Parker Avenue, an extremely difficult task was accomplished in removal of the victim. Members operated for 2 ½ hours under the premise that the victim may have been COVID-19 positive and did so admirably. Operationally 402 and officers assisting his operation did an excellent job in assisting the coordination and Glen Rock FD assisted in the Decon operation.
- With the assistance of Dr. John Greg, Annette Leach RN, Ex AC Van Der Velde, Chief Jennings and myself, we are pleased to have a facility that will offer COVID-19 Antibody testing. In addition they will offer the option for reverse testing to identify if a person had the virus without or with very little symptom. The members insurance will cover the cost of the testing and co pays are expected to be waived. The Antibody test is a blood draw, and the reverse test is a swab test. Both are listed on the FDA and department of health's listing of approved testing opportunities. The initial schedule is for this Thursday May 7th and Friday May 8th in Midland Park. Attendees must complete the online application prior and a date and time will then be provided. In the event additional dates are needed they expect to add additional dates for the week of May 14th. The testing is open to first responders from Hawthorne, Glen Rock as well as family members.
- Unfortunately, as we continue under a lockdown, training is delayed substantially, I would like to thank many members who have obtained training opportunities via the internet. Every bit of concept training helps until we can gather together and practice our skills.
- I do expect that even this June Fire Board meeting will be a closed meeting but will wait until a further date to verify

Stay safe and thank all of you for doing what you do.

Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

· Communications Division:

- George Zagatta was in attendance and provided the Radio Room update
- 4 current members / 2 are considered high risk / 2 listed at stay at home
- Frank Orsi provided a letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a medical leave of absence. The Board has approved the request.

· Cadets:

- Cadets program is on hold until further notice.

· Ladies Auxiliary:

- New Date: On Friday, June 5th, the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual Fish & Chips Dinner at the Hawthorne Boys & Girls Club
 - 6pm - 7pm
 - \$15 for Adults, \$8 for Children

- Our volunteers will be visiting various businesses with the hope that you would kindly consider donating a gift certificate or merchandise.
- Your donation would be very much appreciated, as the proceeds generated go directly towards providing support for the Hawthorne Fire Department & our Community. If you wish to attend this event please contact Sharon at 973-626-2593
- Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

Training Center:

- The Training Center is off limits until further notice.
- BILCO Basement Door was delivered
- New Props are in positions
- Sledge Hammer will be ordered
- Tank Removal is pending
- DC Electric is repairing lights

Exempt/Relief:

- Thanks to Executive committeeman John Lane and Ex Chief Tamburro, for the information that the NJ State Firemen’s Association has a process in place in the event of a fire department exposure to COVID-19. This process will allow a hotel stay for quarantining. This allows a member exposed during an FD related incident to stay at a hotel for up to eleven days with most if not all of the hotels expense covered by the association. This would avoid cross contamination to family members during their quarantine.
- Sad news from the NJ Firemen’s Home, 22 residents have past due to COVID-19

Passaic County Sheriff’s Department:

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi* - OEM - No Submission

Radio Communications

- *Ex-Assistant Chief Mike Nelson* - No Submission

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Kenwood Portable Radio needs programming
- Tower Company 2:
 - Rechargeable batteries for multiple Streamlights are requested
- Engine Company 3:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - Microphone ICOM and Radio require repair and freprogramming
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Passing of members; Travis Nunn / Donald Emory / Ex Asst. Chief Eugene Vansuskil
- Tower Company 2:
 - Concerns with errors with Alarm Dispatches
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Memorial Day Parade is canceled

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Many neighboring departments have lost members. The HFD has reached out with our condolences and offered our support.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- *The April 7th, 2020 meeting was closed to the public. The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided by the Fire Department Clerk's email (Clerk@HawthorneFire.org) to submit any questions. NO submissions were received.*

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

CORE STATEMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk

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