

Chief Joseph Speranza
973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



Clerk Christopher Mogan
Clerk Amber Hechinger
973.423.2536 Office
973.423.5089 Fax

Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to Order on October 2nd, 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 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. None present who are opposed.

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

- **Passaic County Community College** (Tower 2--Training Live Drill): \$550.00
- **Home Supply** (Tower 2- Training Live Drill [Plywood—6]): \$225.00
- **Broadhurst Sheet Metal** (Engine 1—Apparatus Shelving): \$800.00
- **Emergency Equipment Sales** (Engine 3—Pump Commander & Relief Valves): \$919.50
- **Hawthorne Hitch & Trailer** (Winch Replacement): \$1,640.00
- **Technical Fire Services** (Pump Testing for Engine 1, Engine 3, Engine 4): \$525.00
- **Technical Fire Services** (Aerial Testing/Certifications for Tower 2): \$800.00
- **HFD** ([2] Big Ed's Care Wash/5-0 Car Wash): \$77.34
- **Goosetown Communications Inc.** (Motorola & Kenwood Radios, Antennas): \$571.02
- **Goosetown Communications Inc.**
([6]2500 mHh, Ni-MH Battery & Charger, [6] ICOM Batteries): \$740.00
- **HFD** (Refreshments—NJ Transit Rail Safety Seminar for First Responders): \$26.97
- **HFD** (Hawthorne Day—Food & Refreshments—BJ's & Superfresh): \$95.45
- **Firefighter One** ([3] Helmet Shields for Awards Plaques): \$168.42
- **Engraving Awards Gifts.com** (Various Awards--Annual): \$2,648.83
- **HFD** (Taylor Rental [40 White Plastic Chairs for Annual BBQ]): \$132.84
- **HFD** (Annual BBQ Food & Refreshments—BJ's & Superfresh): \$315.26
- **Fremgen's Pwer Equipment, Inc.** ([1] Stihl MS-461 Rescue Saw, 20" Saw with Depth Limiter): \$1,382.00

Total: \$11,617.63

Previous Total: \$11,917.63



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Adjusted: Tower 2 Training -\$300.00

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

- Requested reinstatement to Engine Company #4 by Dominic Mele.
 - Request approved by the Board.
- Endorsement of Chief Joseph Speranza for Borough Chief in the upcoming election by Company #5.
- Endorsement of Chief Joseph Speranza for Borough Chief in the upcoming election by Company #3.
- Letter of withdrawal from election, submitted by Assistant Chief Peter Van Derr Velde.
 - Acknowledged by the Board.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

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

- 27 8-8 alarms; 2 1-1 alarms (1 Mutual Aid to Wyckoff); 0 RA alarms; 1 drill for a total of 30 alarms. Engine 1 held 1 additional training.
- Percentages were handed in to Chief Speranza on 10/1/2018.
 - 20 members received full clothing allowance.
 - 1 member received a partial clothing allowance.
 - 7 members did not qualify.
- Engine 1 is having an issue with Pressure Control for the pump. It functions correctlu in RPM mode.
 - Fire & Safety will be contacted to look into the issue.
 - Fire Clerk Mogen will set up a PO.
- **October 22nd, 7:30pm:** AC Arturi has set up a Gang Class with Sgt. Turner, hosted by Engine 1.

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

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

- 26 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 2 mutual aid(s); 3 drills; 0 additional trainings; 0 snow stand-by for a total of 32 alarms.
- Tower 2 submitted final percentages for 2017-2018 Fire Year to the Clerk (Received by Amber Hechinger).
 - Tower 2 responded to 357 alarms for this period.

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

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

- 30 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 0 mutual aid(s); 1 drill(s) for a total of 32 alarms. Engine 3 held 0 additional trainings.
- Engine 3 was sent out for repair to Fair Lawn DPW to check the brakes, A/C, and radios.
 - Brakes were fixed and replaced with larger caliber to hold the weight of the truck and keep it from rolling while on a hill.
 - A/C and radios are on the same circuit. Fair Lawn is ordering a part Engine 3 will be scheduled to have circuit replaced once it comes in.
- CO#3 extends thanks to all who supported their cause at Hawthorne Day by purchasing sandwiches.

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



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

- 26 box alarms; 12 still alarms; 1 radio alarms; 1 drills for a total of 40 calls. 5 mutual aids to Glen Rock and 2 mutual aids to Fair Lawn have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- Engine 4 has received their new hand tools and two (2) pairs of new boots.
- A letter was received from Dominic Mele, a past member of Engine 4, to be reinstated in the Company.
- Engine 4 has its busiest year of fire calls, responding to 415 calls from 10/17-9/18. This total includes 81 mutual aid calls.
- The members that stayed back from the Wildwood Firefighter Convention enjoyed the Department's Stay-Behind BBQ.

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

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

- 24 box alarms; 4 still alarms; 1 Special Event Standby; 1 drills/trainings for a total of 30 alarms.
- Air compressor has been repaired by Firefighter 1 and is back in service.
- Engine 5 was out of service for five (5) days due to electrical issues. Additional light rewiring and troubleshooting is pending.
- On 8/5/18 at approx. 2145 hours, Rescue was involved in a backing accident at Headquarters.
 - 3 estimates received in the \$10,000 range.
 - New estimate is around \$4,700. An updated quote is needed so it can be given to Eric Maurer.
 - Discussion on foregoing repair and fixing safety issues in-house.
- Lighting upgrade on Unit 5-8. On order. Chief Speranza requests AC Hughes check with Lt. Manzo for status update.
- Front scene lights are flashing when operated. FF1 is repairing the issue.
- PO has been issued for tire replacement. Schedule pending.
- Rescue 5 received one (1) new Quick Vent Saw
- Boat is in good working order.
- Kyle Johnson has been released from medical leave by his physician.
- Fred Buschner remains on Physician-recommended medical leave from July 9th-December 18th, 2018.
- Acting Lieutenant Brian Patmos (Ref: Approved by Company 5 in their 7/10/18 meeting) has returned to regular duty.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- [The night of Fire Board] There are roughly 450 people at Botagra's and 350 at Macaluso's for large events. Everyone needs to stay aware incase an issue arises.

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

- **October 7th, 5:30pm: Flags will be at half-mast for the passing of Mayor Criscitelli. Awaiting detail from the family as of when they would like us to attend. It will likely be at 5:30pm in full dress as to not crowd or overwhelm the family.**
- Chief Speranza extends a thank you to those who attended the Stay-Behind Picnic. He also thanks Clerks Amber Hechinger and Chris Mogen, their families, and the members who made this year's Hawthorne Day presentation a tremendous success. Over 400 visitors stopped by this display of the apparatus and received fire prevention handouts.



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- With the Hawthorne Day delivery and on behalf of the Department, we would like to recognize all of you for the labor intensive work each of you provided with the “Live Burn Program”. The Department wishes to thank “Holy the Firefighter Clown” for donating her services and Mark Walker for discovering the opportunity.
- The Department wishes to acknowledge the Task Force Team’s response and coordination on the events this past September 11th, during which two interesting incidents requiring their program arose.
 - We will continue to move forward with the program with the inclusion of our ladder company into its scope and training as we grow the program.
- Chief Speranza extends thanks to all members attending the NJT Rail Course this past Sunday. Engine 1, Rescue 5 and Engine 4 received wheel chocks for rail car emergencies. Additional units can be obtained ASAP for our other Companies.
- **Dates to Remember:**
 - October 6th, 2018 at 10:00am: Drone Overview and flight training at HQ’s [weather-permitting]
 - October 7th, 2018 at 12:30: Softball Tournament. Hawthorne Fire Department vs Wyckoff Fire Department, winner plays Hawthorne Gospel Church for the bragging rights.
 - Emergency Services Picnic will be hosted by the Hawthorne Gospel Church, beginning at 1:00pm for all of our EMS/Fire/Police and their families at the rear of the Church, before and during the tournament. Please come out and show your gratitude and support of our Community.
 - October 10th: School Program for Roosevelt School, Learning Tree, and Hawthorne Gospel Academy. We will need three (3) units if possible.
 - October 18th: School Program for Jefferson School. We will need one (1) unit.
 - October 19th: School Program for Washington School and Hawthorne Boys & Girls club. We will need two (2) units if possible.
 - October 22nd: Task Force Training with tentative John Riker Door Prop simulator. *Chief Speranza notes that these may be rescheduled again as the Gang Training Class with Sgt Turner is scheduled for the same day.*
 - October 28th, 9:00am-11:00am: “Aspiring Officer Program” for members interested in and/or becoming new Fire Officers in the Department in 2019.
 - October 28th, 8:30am: Pump Certification Testing held in Glen Rock. Schedule to follow.
 - October 29th, 7:30pm: Engine 3 training at the Training Center.
 - October 29th and 30th: Condo/Townhouse Seminar will be rescheduled for 2019, likely in January.
 - November 10th, 9:00am: Tower ladder re-certification with water-way certification at Fire Headquarters.
 - November-December: Instructors course. We are awaiting confirmation that Instructor Rauch is capable of doing this course as he is undergoing serious health issues. The course may be rescheduled to 2019 due to this situation and limited instructor availability.
- Pending equipment/repairs:
 - Brindle and sling set for Engine 3 is awaiting manufacturer’s delivery from FF1.
 - Carbon Monoxide truck mount charger for Engine 1 is due in on Thursday from AAA.
 - Rescue 5 repairs: FF1 is scheduled for this Friday for the remaining repairs.
 - Unit 5-7: repairs have been completed for the revolving air unit.
- Regarding the new Fair Lawn Stipend—We are going to be pursuing some action with this within the Department as to if and how this could/would benefit us before considering a presentation to the



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Administration. We are trying not to change what we have but may consider adding to it if it is deemed beneficial to our members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:**
 - 31 alarms; held 4 meetings; 2 work details for a total of 37 events.
 - Computers and recording equipment in the Radio Room and Fieldcomm are in good working order as of September 30th, 2018—with exception of right & left rear running, clearance, and strobe lights.
 - Chief Speranza reports that the issue of the water leak will be addressed by a repairman tomorrow. The lights are on order and the camera system is waiting to be assembled.
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**
 - No business to report.
- **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 - Assistant Chief Longo reports that Downes Tree Service went in and sprayed.
 - Assistant Chief Arturi may be able to schedule another clean-up from the jail in the future.
 - Waiting to hear back from Kevin Downes on the prospective start of the Burn Building, Roof Operation, and Smoke House.
 - AC Longo recommends that Companies bring a generator with them when they go to the Training Center. It can be plugged into the pole near the shed in order to provide light during night time-training.
 - Assistant Chief Hughes adds he may be able to provide an extra generator that can be utilized at the Training Center until a permanent one is obtained.
 - Chief Speranza asks if it is possible to submit a request to the Chief of Police for help regarding obtaining items like this for the training center, considering their past partnership.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
 - Ex-BC Vic Tamburro is still not in receipt of Nicholas Filingiri's NJFMA application.
 - The next Exempt meeting will take place on October 11th, 2018.
 - As reported from this year's Wildwood Convention, 16 Life Members were in attendance. We need to work on who will be representing Hawthorne Fire Department as Honor Guard for next year's convention.

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: A) Regarding the stipend—Is the HFD looking at this as an addition to Losap or a replacement? B) How can the FF2 Application be done?



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- A) Chief Speranza responds that we do not know which way would benefit the Department yet, if at all. We would need to prove why it would be a benefit to the Department and needs to be a discussion within to find out how and if we are comfortable presenting it.
- B) The FF2 Application can be done by the member online. Chief Speranza recommends that anyone interested fill it out ASAP, as room is running out very quickly.

- 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: No new business to report.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1: Nothing to report.
- Tower Company 2: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 3: George DeGroot has had an injury. He is doing alright and AC Longo asks all members to wish him well in his recovery.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.
- Chief: Chaplain Stanley is certified in PSTD for Emergency Responders. He will gladly talk to anyone confidentially, should they ever wish to do so. He will be around on the fire ground and has been advised to report to Command Post.

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

- Bob Foley: Regarding Fire School—Will the new members be able to attend? Did Chief Speranza speak to Mayor Goldberg about additional funding?
 - Chief Speranza notes that it is an issue of having room in the classes at this point. Hoping on pushing for two more classes—one additional class per season—in order to open up more slots.
- Bob Foley: Regarding the confidential survey [Ref: September 2018 Minutes] Believes that there should not be criticism directed toward specific people during drills as the focus should be on training purposes. Believes people should not be singled out and does not agree with people submitting confidential survey comments of this nature.
 - Chief Speranza: States that this survey was delivered to Assistant Chief's as a "confidential report" to be reviewed with the Officer's. Do not come back and complain as to the content when it was not supposed to be extended to the membership. Participants did not give their names so they were able to say what they wanted to our Chief's specifically.
 - Bob Foley extends the question to the Board of whether or not they agree with the contents of the survey and the anonymity option.
 - AC Arturi comments that anonymous surveys are used at the Passaic County Sheriff's Department.
 - AC Hughes comments that anonymous surveys are used in a multitude of courses as reference points for multiple purposes. Says it is sometimes a necessary evil, though what people say cannot be controlled. Does not agree with how some people chose to handle themselves in this regard but does agree with the process.



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- AC Longo comments that he does not agree with the way some people chose to handle themselves in the form of “trouble-making” regarding the anonymity. Believes that if you are going to say something overly and purposefully negative that you should be putting your name in order to deal with the consequences of such actions.
- Lori Foley: Regarding the potential stipend--Asks if the \$500 stipend would be distributed quarterly? She notes that, upon receipt of this stipend, it will be taxed. If a member is on the edge of a tax bracket, it has the potential to push you into the next bracket. Believes LOSAP will help more than something like this and thinks this needs to be explained to the younger members [ie: if they do not file their taxes properly, this could hurt them more than help]. Suggests possibly going for a higher amount of LOSAP instead.
 - Chief Speranza: States that these are all reasons as to why the possibility of a stipend needs to be reviewed internally before anything is considered. We do not want to dismantle what we have and want to see if this is something that would be beneficial. There is quite a lot to talk about and will need to do so before it is considered to be presented to the Administration.
 - AC Longo: Agrees that the younger members need to be made aware that LOSAP and/or a stipend is not a “piggy bank” and is not meant to be taken out in pieces. It is meant for saving for your future and is money that should be put away.
 - AC Hughes: Comments that a stipend is part of a retention program to bring younger members in as many do not stay for a prolonged period of time. Retention programs are widely utilized and are looked as something to help keep members in town, help them to afford the cost of living in town, to keep them on the Department, etc. These are all additional things that need to be in the discussion.
- Ex-Chief [“EC”] Tamburro: Regarding Endorsement Letters—He asks if September was supposed to be the cut off month for them to be received by the Board.
 - Chief Speranza: Comments that the Borough Attorney has changed this.
 - EC Tamburro reads from excerpts of a 2012 Fire Board Minutes report, wherein he questioned the Borough Attorney and Chief Speranza about the previous election’s endorsements/election processes and the previous election legality. Reads that Chief Speranza referenced endorsements had to be in by September in 1999. [Receipt of two [2] pages by Amber Hechinger]
 - EC Tamburro would like Borough Attorney’s legal interpretation and decision on when endorsements can be submitted.
 - Chief Speranza comments that not much has changed from EC Tamburro’s Ordinance committee and that a lot of issues that had been over-looked need to be amended.
 - EC Tamburro states Ordinance needs to go before the Mayor and Council before it can be approved. Bylaws need to come from the Board, go to the Mayor, then to the Borough Attorney, submitted back to the Board, then put on the website by the Borough Clerk and questions why review and changes in Ordinances and Bylaws have not been done in the last several years.
 - Chief Speranza comments that the Board has had enough to work on and has not had time to dedicate to work on bylaws. States the harassment case took up a lot of the Board’s time.
 - AC Arturi states that he does not see anything in the ordinances about endorsements and asks how the Borough Attorney changed it. Requests something in writing from the Borough Attorney regarding this.
- Brian VanHook: Asks Chief Speranza why he feels like he needs to run for another term? Asks why Department cannot get new blood? States Chief Speranza should give AC Peter Van Derr Velde a chance.
 - Chief Speranza questions how active Brian Vanhook has been in the Department.



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- Brian Vanhook responds that he is not active because of Chief Speranza.
- Chief Speranza questions why Brian Vanhook has not left the Department if it is an issue.
- Frank Orisi: Would like to request letters of thanks be written on behalf of the Department to Joe Silvestri of Goffle Road Poultry Farm for donating food for the members in attendance at Hawthorne Day.
- Capt. Ron Walker asks for further explanation on the bill for Tower 2's training.
 - Chief Speranza explains it was a total bill for two (2) separate trainings. One of which will be to go back to the Burn Building.
- Capt. Ron Walker asks AC Longo if a small Honda Generator will work with the Training Center lighting pole.
 - AC Longo responds that he will make a phone call to the electrician to get an answer.
- Ex-AC Kevin Foley asks AC Van Derr Velde if he is stepping down from his position as Assistant Chief.
 - AC Van Derr Velde says he is not stepping down. He explains that he would like to run for Chief, but he will not run against his family. He hopes everyone would respect his choice.
- Ex-AC Foley—Regarding Sunday's Game at Hawthorne Gospel Church: Is this open for anyone to play?
 - Chief Speranza confirms that this event is open for anyone to participate in and our families are invited to attend.
- Ex-AC Foley—Regarding the NJT Rail course: Will there be a make-up date?
 - Chief Speranza states the make-up date will be in late-February.
- Ex-AC Foley—Regarding the Drone Class on Saturday: Are we using this as a tool? Are we certified?
 - Chief Speranza states it currently a recreation opportunity until we receive further trainings.
- Ex-AC Foley comments that Company 1 has a Restaurant Depot Card if bulk food items are needed in the future for events in order to save money.
- EC Tamburro—Regarding the election process: Believes that the challengers should be allowed to remain in the room. They were not allowed in the room for the last election while the votes were being counted.
 - Chief Speranza requests Clerk Amber Hechinger look for clarification from the Borough Clerk on this matter, stating that the Department would prefer to have the challengers kept in the room while the votes are being counted.
- EC Tamburro asks Clerk Amber Hechinger who writes the minutes.
 - Clerk Hechinger refers to her signature per submission.
 - EC Tamburro asks who "JT/JS" is.
 - Clerk Hechinger responds that she does not know, as it has been on the Borough Letterhead template that the Clerks use since they began.
 - EC Tamburro states his confusion and Clerk Hechinger thanks him for his observation.
- Ex-AC Foley asks AC Longo if we have looked into a yard hydrant for the Training Center
 - AC Longo responds that we are not allowed to, but he will present the issue to Kevin Downes to see if he can put a hole in the fence to run lines.
- Ex-AC Foley asks if there are updates on hose testing.
 - Chief Speranza responds that it will most likely have to be done next year as it needs to be budgeted for. He does not want to do it with the pumper as it will ruin the truck.
- EC Tamburro—Regarding the OSHA Physicals: Mentioned that some members skipped them because they had recent DOT Physicals. At the Convention, people had issues with this stating that DOT Physicals are not anywhere near as intensive, missing pulmonary testing; as heard from the Wildwood Chief.
 - Ex-AC Foley states that his DOT Physical included pulmonary testing and was intensive. States it may vary depending where you go.

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- Chief Speranza states that the tests are sent Nasau Diagnostics. If they approve the testing, it is deemed acceptable. We allowed people to submit their recent DOT Physicals in place of our physicals as an option to save the Department money.
- Ex-AC Foley asks if there is a voting roster available.
 - Chief Speranza responds that it is in the process of being compiled and submitted to the Borough Clerk within the next week or so.
- Ellen Snyder inquires on the status of the fence from previous Fire Boards. When is it going up?
 - Chief Speranza requests Clerk Amber Hechinger send a letter to Eric Maurer inquiring as to the status of the fence and when it will be going up.
- Ex-AC Foley comments to Chief Speranza that he should ride into the sunset and enjoy retirement. Extends good luck to both candidates.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Very Truly Yours,

Amber Hechinger
Department Clerk

Js/ Ah