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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 October 6th at 7:40pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

The meeting this evening was located at Fire HQ and open to the general public. *The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, September 26th, 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.*

GoToMeeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/701988693>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Access Code: 701-988-693

Before the start of the Fire Board, Chief Speranza swore in new member, Jose Corales (Company 3). The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank Mr. Corales for joining the Hawthorne Fire Department.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*

John Cario *CO. 1 Captain*

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:

John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

CORE STATEMENT

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

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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 and presented by Clerk Mogen

Bergenfield Fire Training Center (HFD-4 Live Fire Training Visits)	\$ 1,600.00
Firefighter One (Engine 3 - Halligan Bar 30" Length)	\$ 236.00
Firefighter One (Rescue 5 - Halligan Bar 30" Length)	\$ 236.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 4/Truck 2 - 3 FLIR Li-Ion Battery)	\$ 460.00
Bill Fox, LLC. (Ex-Asst Chief Badges)	\$ 379.70
Fire and Safety Services, LTD (Engine 1 Emergency Apparatus Repair)	\$ 494.21
Hawthorne Company 5 (Rescue5-Emergency Light Repair (2) LED)	\$ 319.90
DC Electrical Contractors Inc. (iCOM Radios Programming/ Clear Kenwood Radios)	\$ 2,500.00
DC Electrical Contractors Inc. (LED Installation and Removal)	\$ 1,650.00
Strategic Safety Dynamics ((4) PPE, (1) Boots)	\$ 8,633.77
Firefighter One (Engine 3 - 10 Lengths Ponn Double Jacket Hose - 100ft/5" Storz)	\$ 8,962.50
Godwin Tool & Hardware Supply (Company 3/4/5 Various Tools)	\$ 8,121.31
Godwin Tool & Hardware Supply (Rescue 5 - 18V Steel Rod Flush Cutter Kit)	\$ 1,249.99
Total:	\$34,843.38

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- Received a personal leave of absence letter from FF. Stephanie Hill of Company 4, requesting a 3 month leave. The Fire Board has requested that the review be done first with Company 4, before submitting the request to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Letters were submitted to the following members requesting their current status with the Fire Department with a response date of 10/6/20;
 - FF. J. Pagnozzi (Company 5) - *No formal status letter was provided by member*
 - FF. J. Rees (Company 5) - *No formal status letter was provided by member*
 - FF. J. Wojtecki, Jr. (Company 3) - *No formal status letter was provided by member*

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FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

Engine CO. #1; presented by Captain John Cario:

- For the month of September 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 23 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill(s) for a total of 25 Alarms, Held 2 trainings
- Received (1) one SCBA back from service. Following up to (10) gallons of VP fuel for the generator.
- Our CO meter is no longer charging. We are looking to see if it is an electrical issue. As a result, E1 CO still alarms should be tendered to another Engine until this is resolved unless we secure a CO Meter in the meantime.
- Fire/Safety took care of our front suction issue. It was determined that hard water causes the seal not to properly close and it then drains water. This has now been rectified and we will need to monitor this.
- At our last working fire, Connor Smith was joined on the line by Nick DeMarro of Rescue 5 and knocked down the fire before it got away. I wanted to personally thank these two fine gentlemen on a job well done.
- Russell Snyder had successful hip surgery and has returned to active duty. No medical leave of absence was requested.

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 September 2020, Company 2 responded to; 23 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 6 Mutual Aid, 2 Drill, 1 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 30 Alarms
- Truck 2 is now in service and we are awaiting sale of Tower 2
- Saw blade and mic holder have been requested thru CODES.
- Receipts were submitted for reimbursement for Standbys for mutual aid calls.
- Still waiting on plates and registration for new truck
- Received most of the equipment ordered by 1st Battalion

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 September 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 23 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 1 Drill for a total of 24 Alarms.
- Engine 3 will be out-of-service for 1 week for warranty repair, starting on October 13th.
- Co#3 wishes the best of luck and congratulations to Jose Carrales on being sworn in as a firefighter and assigned to Company 3.

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 September 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 23 Box Alarms, 3 Still Alarms (1-Fair Lawn and 1-Paterson), 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 2 Drills, for a total of 28 Alarm.

- Engine 4 currently has two SCBA's out of service along with our CO meter. All three items have been sent out for repairs.
- We also have received one of two replacement batteries that were requested for our Thermal Imaging Camera.

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 September 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 23 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarm, 0 Stand-by, 4 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 1 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 28 Alarms.
- For the firematic year of 2019-2020, Rescue 5 responded to 305 total alarms with COVID and tropical storm adjustment to 251 alarms.
- End of year clothing allowance percentage has been submitted to the clerk.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Need to schedule repair work with FF1 from PM punch list (Hydraulic Fluid Leak)
 - Unit 58
 - Pending - Request Portable Radio for Cab with charger.
 - Needs to be scheduled for brakes
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order
 - Task Force
 - Next drill scheduled October 26 at 1930 hours (Officers Meeting)
 - Member Certification
 - Participation and attendance
 - Personal
 - Nothing significant to report.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Royal Avenue apartment complex property review - sprinklers heads, crossover and yard hydrants
- North 8th and Mohawk streets are being re-milled.
- The Board of Fire Commissioners has requested a meeting with the Mayor and Fire Marshal to discuss the serious and illegal issues that the fire department dealt with in recent weeks.
- Department annual physicals went well
- PCCC is setting up ICS 200/300/400 classes, forward members that are interested or require this training.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- We have closed out the fire percentage for 2019/2020 and welcome to the new fire year, which began Oct. 1st for the fire year 2020/2021. I do wish each of you success this fire year in obtaining the percentages required, as this past year was rather interesting and difficult. A discussion on percentages and recording of will follow this evening with our chiefs.
- I would like to thank the members for their attendance at this year's 9/11 memorial last month. We had a great turnout again this year.
- I also would like to thank the Mayor and Administrator Maurer for hearing our concerns on the barrier fills and moving forward with its discontinuance as of last week.
- The department has begun utilizing the Bergenfield Training Center again which began last evening and will continue through early November. We also will be scheduling some evenings at the training center in the next few weeks demonstrating construction material and fire activity related to the materials.
- As we begin the process of closing the budget year, I am asking our chiefs and officers to supply their requests for the budget year 2021 asap.
- The department and committee for Engine 4 has begun the introduction process to replace Engine 4 asap. Our first meeting has concluded and the second is scheduled next week, I will keep the board informed as we move through the process.
- The Cadet program is closing out next week and we will honor our new recruits in the next few weeks with a social safe tribute to their accomplishments. Date of graduation will follow shortly.
- Our replacement sign is now in place with much better optics and functionality, and would like to thank Administrator Maurer for allowance of this purchase.
- The physical program was significantly better than before as the process was seamless and well provided. Due to OSHA checking on departments with SCBA physicals or lack of, we again are grateful for the boroughs provision of the program. Members who did not complete the SCBA and wear SCBA will be reverted to Class C non fire ground firefighters by year's end.
- The majority of our Cares Grant COVID supplies have been handed out to the companies, we still are awaiting hand sanitizing stations to come in for the engine rooms. We have also requested purchase of a new washer unita and pickup truck for use in COVID response.
- I would also like to remind our members to maintain precautions concerning potential exposures and continue the sanitization process on the apparatus, equipment, etc...
- As time marches on we are expecting notification of additional losses due to COVIDas the Holiday parade is likely to be canceled, the Memorial Service has been questioned and even our Annual Awards dinner is likely to fall victim to the virus.
- For the interim, I am sorry to inform everyone that concerning Fire Board meetings, we have been instructed to remain virtual until further notice by the administration and have begun the conversion to the borough's GoToMeeting program.
- Finally, I must remind our members and officers in responding to the firehouse and with the apparatus to be diligent in their driving activities. Be cautious, smart and respectful to other apparatus responding and most of all cautious.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- For the month of September 2020, the Communications Division responded to 6 Alarms, 0 Special Details, 2 Work Details.
- Currently one member is on medical leave, one inactive per CDC guidelines and two responding normally.
- All equipment in the Radio Room and in '57 (cascade and communications sections) is in good working order with the following exception:
 - Noise/interference issues with Primary Repeater (Fire 1/Channel 1) receive continue. The higher power truck and vehicle radios continue to operate satisfactorily within the system's footprint.
 - New noise problems have been observed on the Secondary Repeater (Fire 3/Channel 3). This was severe enough that Signal One had to remove the repeater from service on 09/20/20 so disturbance is presently unknown. Audio samples of the interference were provided to Chief Speranza for the radio vendor's use.
 - The UPS in the "back room" at Fire HQ was observed today to be in alarm but still in service. Further troubleshooting will be conducted to resolve this issue.

Submitted 5 October 2020 by G.E. Zagatta RC2

Cadets:

- The Cadet program is closing out next week and we will honor our new recruits in the next few weeks with a social safe tribute to their accomplishments. Date of graduation will follow shortly.

Ladies Auxiliary:

- **New Date: On Wednesday, October 21**, 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 open. Contact Asst. Chief Longo for further information.
- Received 2 sledge hammers that were ordered
- Tank Removal is pending
- DC Electric is repairing lights
- Hydrant pickup
- Bilco door was installed
- Meeting with Downs for next phase

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro* - Next Exempt meeting is scheduled for 8pm, Thursday, October 8th at Company 1.
- Discussing the upcoming Memorial Church Service and Breakfast
- October 13th, 6th Annual Fallen Firefighter Service at Paterson Cathedral
- Chief Speranza would like to thank John Lane and Greg Fox for working with retired member Edward Warr's wife with the paperwork and filing.

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:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - *Assistant Chief Longo* - **Making the Fire Board aware once again**, that there are several new lighted pedestrian signs throughout the borough. Noting that the Fire Department has been asking the borough (Mayor and Council) for the past year for similar flashing pedestrian signs near the fire company houses. To help provide some type of safety for our members and apparatuses exiting and entering the roadway. This is stemming from past close calls that members had with vehicles.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No old business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - Assistant Chief Hughes made a note that the Officers' Bylaws have a small mixup with Class A, Class B and Class C. He will mark up a copy and provide feedback to Chief Speranza.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - *Captain Carlo* - Would like to schedule a meeting with the vendor - Fire File/CODES, for future training and upgrades to the application.
- Tower Company 2:
 - *Assistant Chief Walker* - Percentages were handed in, the small CO meter is not calibrating and we are requiring 4 TIC batteries
 - Can the borough paint the curb lines at 5th Ave (Hawthorne Square), this will help prevent cars park to close to corners.
 - Fit Testing members are on hold - TBD
- Engine Company 3:
 - *Assistant Chief Longo* - No new business to report.

- Engine Company 4:
 - *Assistant Chief Devin Hughes* - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - *Assistant Chief David Hughes* - No new business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Christmas parade and Santa Run - TBD

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Keep Ed Warr in your prayers.
- Tower Company 2:
 - FF. Carley Tamburro is still recovering
- Engine Company 3:
 - Please keep FF. Jim Bakker in your prayers.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Thank you to those members that came out to support my nephew and our family.
 - Little Falls Fire Department is interested to purchase Tower 2

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- *The October 6th, 2020 meeting was open 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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk