

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Clerk Christopher Mogan
Clerk Amber Hechinger
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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 November 6th, 2018 at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Trippichio, *CO. 1 Captain*
Anthony DiVincent, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Pagnozzi, *CO. 5 Captain*
Amber Hechinger, *Fire Dept. Clerk*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Arturi, CO. 1 Assistant Chief; David Hughes, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

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:

- **Occupational Medical Associates** (20 New Member [2] Testing): \$340.00
- **Passaic County Community College** (Firefighter 2--Training): \$400.00
- **Bergen County Public Safety** (Student: Nikolais Fillingeri—Rescue Tech): \$170.00
- **Firefighter University LLC.** ([10] 3 Hour Class Room Course-Forcible Entry): \$800.00
- **HFD** (Office supplies—USPS Stamps): \$40.00
- **Ridgewood Press** (Fire Reports-Company 1-5): \$835.50
- **Ricoh** (Quarterly Copies Maintenance [Contract] 06/18-09/18): \$524.88
- **NJ Volunteer Firemans Association** (Membership Dues): \$40.00
- **Firefighter One, LLC.** ([2] Forcible Entry Halligan Bar)30"): \$457.00
- **Fremgen's Power Equipment**
(Engine 3—Stihl TS 42D 14" Cutquik, Stihl TS-700 14" Cutquik): \$2,159.90
- **WL Construction Supply LLC** (Blue Rescue Diamond Blade): \$26.97
- **AAA Emergency Supply Co.**
(Engine 1—Industrial Scientific MX4 Vehicle Charger): \$108.00
- **Emergency Equipment Sales** (Engine 3—Pump Repairs): \$2,474.62
- **Pinnacle Wireless/ESS** (Engine 3-
Replacing UHF and VHF mobile radios on apparatus): \$2,100.00
- **EngravingAwardsGifts.com** (Annual FF Awards): \$186.00
- **Puzo's Family Restaurant** (Annual Fire Department Memorial Dinner): \$1,500.00

Total: \$12,545.89



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

- Request to join Fire Company #4, submitted by Cameron Geier.
 - Request approved by the Board.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

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

- 26 8-8 alarms; 2 1-1 alarms; 0 RA alarms; 1 drill for a total of 28 alarms. Engine 1 held 4 additional trainings.
- Engine 1's pressure control sensor for the pump was repaired and is now working correctly.
 - Also passed pump certification in Glen Rock.
- Assistant Chief John Arturi congratulations Chief Speranza on another term as the Hawthorne Fire Chief. He also thanks the members who supported him throughout the election.

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

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

- 24 box alarms; 5 still alarm; 3 mutual aid(s); 2 drills; 1 additional trainings; 0 snow stand-by for a total of 35 alarms.
- Tower 2 received their new Stihl roof vent saws from Fremgens.
- Copies of drill/training reports have been handed into Jen Scully for JIF.
- Assistant Chief DiVincent extends congratulations to Chief Speranza on his re-election as Borough Chief.

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

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

- 26 box alarms; 2 still alarm; 1 Chief's Call; 0 mutual aid(s); 2 drill(s) for a total of 31 alarms. Engine 3 held 1 additional trainings.
- Engine CO#3 has submitted their Capital Budget Request Form to Chief Speranza for 2019.
- Engine 3 was sent out for repair to Fairlawn DPW for electrical issues pertaining to the Emergency Brake and High Idle. A cylinder was replaced that was found to be faulty which was effecting the engine when in pump.

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

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

- 25 box alarms; 12 still alarms; 1 radio alarms; 3 drills for a total of 41 alarms. 5 mutual aids to Glen Rock have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- Engine 4 has received their new hand tools an nozzle which have been placed on the apparatus.
- **Equipment Request:** One (1) pair of XL Gloves.
- Company 4 would like to congratulate Chief Speranza on winning another term for Borough Chief. Best of luck.
- Finished application from Dominic Mele should be in this week.

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Rescue CO. #5; presented by Captain Joe Pagnozzi:

- 25 box alarms; 6 still alarms; 3 drills/trainings for a total of 34 alarms.
- Firefighter 1 has repaired brow lights (New Wiring)
- Firefighter 1 took the truck to North Jersey Truck Center to program fast idle on Engine (Has not worked properly since new delivery)
- PO has been issued for tire replacement
 - Dave Stern replaced rear tires
 - Front tires also need replacement due to dry rot (DOT failure)
- PO has been issued for lighting upgrade on 5-8. Delivered; pending installation.
- PO has been issued for winch installation on 5-8; Pending scheduling with Hawthorne Hitch

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

\FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Chief Speranza met with the program manager at Forest Ave and addressed the issue of cars blocking the east/west entrances which keeps Tower from making access.
 - Currently, Tower will only be able to make access from 5th ave and will not fit otherwise.
 - Engines are able to make normal entrance but are advised to do so with extreme caution.

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

- Chief Speranza thanks all of the members for the support during the election and for re-electing him to the position of Borough Chief for the up-coming term. The support speaks volumes and is appreciated. Special thanks is extended to Clerk Lori DiBella, Borough Attorney Pasquale and Chief's challenger—Joni Houston—for overseeing the election process.
- Chief Speranza appreciates candidate Arturi as with any other candidate that runs for office, knowing that the character assassinations have become the norm of a few selfish members.
- Members should never be bullied, intimidated, or made to feel embarrassed due to an election or Company issue. The Department's "Code of Conduct" will be processed as an opportunity to discipline as needed to those who choose this type of childish activity. It is most disappointing and disgusting that some members decide to fall to the level of disgrace they provided here at Fireboard and within their Companies.
- This Department is built on unity of the group and no Company should ever think they are above the rest of our other Companies. The division provided by a few only prove their agenda as being selfish, envious, and blatantly disrespectful to their own Company as well as our Department. Respect is something that should be promoted to our younger members instead of the constant attempts to deface the Department's authority.
- Chief Speranza has begun working with Borough Attorney Michael Pasquale to curtail further antics and activities that have occurred recently to undermine our membership and our Department.
- As part of this process, Chief Speranza is requiring the Assistant Chief's to report, no later than the **10th of each month**, their respective Company's Member Percentages to either Clerk Hechinger or Clerk Mogan—beginning January.
 - Our clerks will then log/record the reports and report the percentages to Borough Clerk DiBella.
- Regarding Fire Fighter I, Chief Speranza urges Companies to get in their applications to him ASAP as they are going fast.



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- We have about eight (8) solid application slots held right now.
- AC Longo is concerned about applications that some of his members have previously filled out. Do they need to be redone?
 - Chief Speranza recommends they are redone and handed directly to him so he can see they are properly submitted. Chief Wanklin believes there may have been issues with mailed-in applications not being received correctly.
- Regarding Capital Budgeting—The prospective budget is about \$83,000 over from last year, but it includes a significant raise in multiple areas (ie. Training Line). We are pushing hard on what we are asking for. The Firefighter/Officer pay increases will probably be met with the most conversation, but the administration has given good feedback on the idea.
 - **Note:** November 7th is the deadline to request anything of importance to Clerk Mogan. The report needs to be submitted.
- **Dates to Remember:**
 - **Sunday, November 18th @ 8:00am:** Memorial Service and breakfast at St. Anthony's.
 - **Thursday, November 15th @ 7:30pm:** Passaic County Mutual Aid Association dinner at the academy. Hawthorne is to host.
 - **Monday, November 19th:** Drill with Hawthorne EMS is being scheduled. Further details to follow.
 - **Tuesday, November 20th @ 7:30pm-9:00pm:** Lts training at Headquarters, downstairs.
 - **Friday, November 30th @ 6:00pm:** Tree Lighting at Borough Hall.
 - **Saturday, December 1st @ 10:00am:** Annual Christmas Parade. Line-up begins at **9:40am**.
 - **Sunday, December 9th @ 9:00am-11:00am:** New Officers Tactics Program at Headquarters for new officers or those who are interested.
 - **Sunday, December 23rd:** Santa Run. Information on exact times for dinner before the run and start of the run will follow.
 - **Monday, December 23rd:** Possible Chief's work session. TBD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:** Not present.
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**
 - Congratulation to Chief Speranza on his re-election to Borough Chief.
- **Training Center; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 - No updates to report.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
 - Not present.

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.



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NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: No new business to report.
- 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: Noting to report.
- Tower Company 2: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 3: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - AC Van Der Velde is concerned about the distribution of the clothing allowance. Questions why Borough employees have gotten theirs via direct deposit and the Fire Department has to wait to receive theirs? It is not fair that they do not distribute these checks at the same time.
 - Chief Speranza intends to sit with the Mayor in order to remedy this issues and get clarification.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.
- Chief:
 - “FD Positions—Oct 2018” document has been handed out to the representatives of the Board. Details the following Coordinators and Committees:
 - Department Training Officers; Department Training Center Coordinator; Department Drivers Training Committee; Department Training Committee; Department By-Law/Ordinance Coordinator; Apparatus Service Technical Advisor; Safety and Compliance Officer; Task Force Director; Officer Training Program Coordinator; Equipment Development Coordinator and Committee
 - Pan Chemical—Building has been deemed “unsafe structure” and will likely be ripped down soon.
 - Vandyke Park Place at PAC Center tickets--\$60 per ticket, Free for the Department
 - We are working towards reducing responses to non-essential calls. Process needs a lot of work.
 - Extra Duty Process—Document has been handed out to representatives of the Board.
 - To be reviewed by Assistant Chiefs, Clerks, and Officers. Once final-draft is established, the Board can move forward to present it to the Administration.
 - We are looking to push the max to 30 credits per year.
 - Chief Speranza recommends everyone keep their own personal records of what they do. We are looking to give more credit for the things our members do for this Department.

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

- None present wish to speak.

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ADJOURNMENT: *Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Very truly yours,

Amber Hechinger
Department Clerk

AH/JS/CM