



Borough of Hawthorne
Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506
www.hawthornefire.org

Minutes of the meeting held on February 2, 2016

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30PM, with a salute to the flag and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held. In attendance at this meeting were, Engine Company 1, Asst. Chief Christopher DiBella, Tower Company 2, Capt. Ronald Walker on behalf of Asst. Chief David Maher, Engine Company 3, Asst. Chief Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4, Asst. Chief Peter Van DerVelde, and Rescue Company 5, Asst. Chief Brian Warner

MINUTES

A motion was made by, Asst. Chief Warner, while a second was made by Asst. Chief DiBella to accept the Minutes as read.

The Departments bills were read as follows:

BILLS:

Fair Lawn DPW	\$ 5,000.00
Badge & Wallet	\$ 950.00
IRS	\$ 64.00
Triangle Trophy	\$ 520.50
IRS	\$ 324.00
Fire Companies	\$ 931.89
IRS	\$ 162.50
Firefighter 1	\$ 229.00

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Longo and a second from Capt. Walker, that the bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for the final consideration of payment.

The Board were all in favor to submit the bills for final consideration.

Communications:

- Letter from David L. Morgan (Co#1) requesting a 3 month leave of absence from the Department due to school out of state. [Effective February 1 – May 1, 2016]
- Letter of resignation from Joseph J. Peters (Co#5). [Effective February 20, 2016]



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- Medical note received from NJ Spine Institute, LLC. on behalf of Capt. Andrew Massey (Co#3) stating he is cleared to return to full active duty.
- Application/physical from Daryl Kallenberg (Co#2 prospective member) was received.

Chief Speranza: We will be holding a Chief's meeting this upcoming Monday 2-8-16 at 18:45 down by Fire Headquarters to discuss the resignation of Joseph J. Peters.

Board: Entire Board acknowledges.

Company Reports:

Engine Company #1

Asst. Chief DiBella reported for the month of January 2016, Company #1 responded to: 17 box alarms, 2 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm(s), 1 standby(s), and held one 1 drill(s), for a total of 21 alarms. In addition held 3 training(s).

There was an issue with the low coolant light illuminating, so coolant was added in hopes to have fixed the issue. We will continue to monitor this over the course of the next couple of weeks. A repair was also made to the air inlet coupler on Engine 1; receipts were submitted to the Fire Clerk for both repairs.

In response to Chief Speranza's text message – a written notice was sent out 1-18-16 with regard to Engine 1's radio concerns (see report). An inventory of Engine 1's helmet shields show that there are only (2) FF shields that are broken and (1) probationary shield that is very old. I am requesting new probationary, FF, driver, and Ex-Asst. Chief shields.

Receipts for the standby held on 1-23-16 have been submitted to the Fire Clerk for reimbursement with this report.

- FF David Morgan is requesting a (3) month leave of absence due to schooling out of state.
- FF's Kennedy and Mayben are requesting a medical leave of absence. Both are under the care of a physician.

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

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Tower Company #2

On behalf of Asst. Chief Maher, Capt. Ronald Walker reported for the month of January 2016, Company #2 responded to: 18 box alarms, 1 still alarm(s), 1 mutual aid response(s), 0 Chief's call(s), 0 radio alarms, 1 standby(s), and held 1 drill(s) for a total of 22 alarms. In addition, held 0 training(s).

In the month of January Tower 2 responded Mutual Aid (1) time to North Haledon.

The multi-gas meter was sent out for repairs due to a bad LEL sensor. Unit was repaired and returned, but we are still in need of a bottle of calibration gas.

(1) 45 minute SCBA bottle was received for the RIT Pak.

Completed application/physical was received from prospective member Daryl Kallenberg. Application has been submitted to the Fire Clerk with this report.

FIT Testing was held at Tower 2 yesterday 2-1-16.

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

Capt. Ronald Walker: Still waiting on the calibration service

Chief Speranza: Going to look into. They should have been here already.

Engine Company #3

Asst. Chief Joseph Longo reported that for the month of January 2016, Company #3 responded to: 14 box alarms, 0 radio alarm(s), 1 still alarm(s), 1 mutual aid response(s), 1 standbys, and 1 drill(s) for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held 2 training(s).

We have received the new 1,000' of 5" cloth hose. Still in need of spanner wrenches, adapters for hydrants, hose roller rack management system, and 2-in-1 fuel for both saws.

- Medical note received on behalf of Capt. Andrew Massey clearing him to return to full active duty from NJ Spine Institute, LLC.

Engine 3 would like to thank Asst. Chief David Maher from Tower 2 for letting us join at their FIT testing.



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Engine Company #4

Asst Chief Peter Van DerVelde, reported for the month of January 2016, Company #4 responded to: 16 box alarms, 8 still alarms/mutual aid response(s), 0 radio alarm(s), 1 drill(s), 1 standby(s), for a total of 26 alarms. In addition held 0 training(s).

We are still waiting to hear back from Fair Lawn DPW as to the status for our flashing red light in cab sensor. All new hose was switched over to the apparatus. Base radios in the cab need to be moved by Pinnacle as well as the installment of our tablet. We are requesting (1) Kenwood Portable Radio and (1) mask bag, (1) medium SBBA mask, (1) small SCBA mask, and an Ex-Asst. Chief's shield/badge.

An inventory list of Department Class A uniforms for Engine 4 has been submitted to the Fire Clerk with this report.

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

Rescue Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of January 2016 Company #5 responded to: 21 box alarm(s), 0 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm(s), 1 standby(s), 2 drill(s) for a total of 23 alarms. In addition held 0 training(s).

We would like to congratulate FF John Neibo on graduating from Rescue school this evening. Welcome to Frank Strunk who is being sworn in at this evening's Board meeting.

- Letter of resignation was received from Joseph J. Peters.

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

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Borough Chief Speranza's Report:

On behalf of the Borough and myself, I would like to thank our members for the time provided through the blizzard on 1-23-16. I also appreciate the efforts our members and officers and officers in coordinating the hydrant detail the following Monday 1-25-16.

Department Information:

The Department has received a donation from the Gene Meyers Foundation; a discussion will be conducted at the next officers meeting for its use in the Department.

Our first installment from the Glen Rock Fire Department has been received and will be available for use shortly to the training committee.

We have an update on our FEMA grant for our wellness intervention, the program has been reset for the fall of 2016. An email from the provider will be supplied to our Chief's.

Boy's and Girl's Club is looking for a visit on wither June 29th or July 1st (or both) for their summer camp Fire Prevention Program.

In-house cascade system has been repaired as of yesterday. Additional storage bottles and new airline will be installed next week by our vendor (Advanced Air).

The air leak on Unit 57 is a part issue for the air system and not the quick connect. Parts have been ordered and will be replaced as soon as they arrive. The unit is operable, but after use all bottles must be placed in the 'Off' position.

Unit 58 has been repaired and is back in service.

Discussion was held at the last PCMA meeting on air packs and bottles; we were informed that only one air bottle was necessary at the school for each member. We advised Director Evangelista that the instructors were asking the students for two. He committed to correcting this to one bottle per student. We have also requested that the Academy seek a grant for the facility on purchasing air packs for students and eliminating the use of each Departments. This was positively accepted by the Director. Also discussed was a change in the coordinator zone coverage from the original three county zones to one zone for all of Passaic County. We will maintain two Deputy Coordinators and one County Coordinator.

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Remaining gear is expected shortly for the members awaiting this order. We are asking that our Chiefs and Captains provide us with the current members in need of gear so we can get the next order set into place.

A reminder to our Officers, a general Officers meeting will be held on Tuesday the 16th at 7:30PM at FHQ. Open topics, which are to be discussed at your company meetings prior, on the proposals for Chief's/Officer's Election process, Deputy Chief's, and clothing allowance – these will be the topics of our discussion.

Also, note that we have made good progress with the Officers Training Matrix and a formal draft will be ready soon for introduction.

Dates to Remember:

2/7/16 @ 7:30PM @ FHQ *Brief Chief's meeting

2/16/16 @ 7:30PM @ Fire Headquarters *Chief's meeting – See Chief's report.

3/9/16 @ 6:30PM @ the Brownstone *Rotary Club is recognizing the Fire Department

4/30/16 @ TBD @ TBD *100 Year Anniversary coin toss fundraiser

6/29/16 or 7/1/16 @ 10:00AM @ the Boys & Girls Club *See Chief's report.

COMMITTEES:

Communication Division: Members of the Communications Division reported that for the month of January 2016, Communications Division responded to: 0 alarms, 20 radio alarm(s), 0 still alarm(s), 1 standbys, and 0 drill(s) for a total of 21 alarms. In addition held 0 training(s) and 4 meetings.

Still having issues with the radio switch boxes in Fieldcomm and the air leak in the Cascade booster.

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

Chief Speranza: Hopes to have Pinnacle out on Friday; has dates set over the course of the upcoming weeks. Please provide a list of needs to Lt. Pagnozzi before Friday.

Fire Prevention: No report at this time.

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Chief Speranza Note: Stated that the issues with 55 Westervelt is still in the process of being resolved.

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time.

Junior FF's (Explorer Program): No report at this time.

In School Program: No report at this time.

Hawthorne Day: No report at this time.

100th Anniversary:

Ex-Asst. Chief DeGroot reported that the Anniversary has raised just above \$15,000.00 thus far.

Challenge coins have arrive and are ready to be distributed amongst the companies. Prior to distribution, a roster list will be provided to the President of each company who in return will get signatures from each individual to confirm their receipt of the coin. This list will be returned to the Anniversary Committee once list has been completed.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Each member will only receive 1 coin; additional coins are available and can be purchased at their cost.

There has been a change in the location of the 100 Year Anniversary Celebration. We are looking into possibly behind the pool by Franklin Field.

We are having a fundraiser tomorrow evening at California Pizza Kitchen in Wayne (Willowbrook Mall). Please inform all of your members and friends. A certain percentage of ALL sales from 10:00AM – Close will be donated to the Hawthorne Fire Department 100 Year Anniversary fund.

Chief Speranza: Moving forward, please inform all Chief's and your respective companies prior to distributing flyers/information to the public.

Our next fundraiser, a coin toss, will be held on 4/30/16. Further information will be provided as the date gets closer.

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The fundraiser idea for the Devils tickets has been cancelled due to high expense.

The motorcycle run has been cancelled due to location issues.

Ordinance Committee:

Training Center:

Longo: Still waiting on sub-contractors to come out. Due to the snow it has postponed. Once the snow has cleared Ex-Asst. Chief Marsch will be coming out.

The burn and garbage barrels are open for use.

O'Hagan of Glen Rock is donating supplies.

We are still working on the list of priorities provided and will continue to move forward.

Safety Officers: No Report at this time.

Exempt/ Relief: No report at this time.

Website: No report at this time.

**Ex-Chief Tamburro provided documentation to Board regarding Ordinance updates.*

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Has reviewed over the Ordinance documents again last week. Changes were made last week; inquired if there were any additional to be added before finalizing this draft.

Chief Speranza: Something needs to be added regarding leave of absences (LOA) and members who leave and come back after 1 year.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: We need to come up with a couple dates that will coordinate with everyone's schedules so we can meet to discuss.

**Date still pending – please coordinate with Ex-Chief Tamburro and Chief Speranza.*

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Old Business:

Company 1: No report at this time.
Company 2: No report at this time.
Company 3: No report at this time
Company 4: No report at this time.
Company 5: No report at this time.
Chief's Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

Oath of Office: Frank Struck (Co#5) was sworn into office by Chief Speranza.

Company 1: No report at this time.
Company 2: No report at this time.
Company 3: No report at this time.
Company 4: No report at this time.
Company 5: No report at this time.
Chief's Report: No report at this time.

Good & Welfare:

Company 1: Please keep Ralph Mantello in your prayers. He is currently residing at Van Dykes in Ridgewood until further notice.

Private fundraiser is being held on 2-25-16 @ 18:00 down at Company #1 to help raise money for a friend and his wife. Beer and Pizza will be served. The funds will go towards medical expenses due to an injury leading to amputation of the wife's leg. Please contact Asst. Chief DiBella for further information.

Company 2: All members and equipment are good and in working order.
Company 3: All members and equipment are good and in working order.
Company 4: All members and equipment are good and in working order.
Company 5: All members and equipment are good and in working order.
Chief's Report: All members and equipment are good and in working order.

Chief Speranza temporarily closed the Fire Board session and opened the meeting to public.



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Ex-Chief Tamburro: Where do Deputy Chief's fit in?

Chief Speranza: Look at the proposal that was supplied – originally drafted by Ray Santhouse.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: This was brought up 3 years ago and dropped.

Chief Speranza: Asks that it be given a chance.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: We already have Asst. Chief's – where does this fit in?

Chief Speranza: We would slowly fade out the Asst. Chief's and the Captain's would ideally run as the 'Chief's'.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Expressed his concern about current and future members having the opportunity of being an Asst. Chief during their career. With there being an Asst. Chief, it give the members the chance of going through the ranks. Also, Asst. Chief's work directly with the Chief, how would the information pertaining to the Department be relayed back to the rest of the members?

Chief Speranza: Currently facing the issue with information being misrepresented by Asst. Chief's at their respective companies... The Deputy Chief's proposal has good structure and the individuals would continue to assist in relaying the information back to the companies. It was asked that members please read over the proposal and give it thought – from there decide whether to vote it in or out for good.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Just voicing his opinion on the matter. Note* it costs money to revise the Ordinances. Thinks everyone should have a chance to run through the ranks and become Asst. Chief in their career.

Chief Speranza: Asks that is just be reviewed one last time. We are constantly coming up with ideas that get put on the back burner and never really pass or fail. He would like to begin having ideas 'officially' voted in or out.

FF M. Smith: Why would the Deputy Chief's be any different at relaying information back to the companies? Does not agree with this proposal.

Chief Speranza: Would like a formally written yes or no from each company. This will be done here on out.

FF M. Smith: Does it go back before the Board once it has been reviewed and answered by the companies?

Chief Speranza: There have been adjustments to the proposal since the last time it was reviewed.



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Ex-Chief Tamburro: Who keeps bringing up the idea?

Asst. Chief Longo: Has no objection to reviewing the proposal again.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Is this proposal the same as the one reviewed 2-3 years ago?

Asst. Chief Longo: Recommends everyone give it a chance and review over it, this way we can put it to bed.

Chief Speranza: Asks that we review it before our companies and get back to the Board with a yes or no. He would like it to have a paper trail so when we look back on ideas it is noted that it was reviewed and either passed/failed.

FF B. Van Hook: What about Department meetings regarding the misrepresented information? We need to come up with a schedule. 2 weeks' notice does not work for some of the members since it is not a 'habit'.

Chief Speranza: 2+ Department meeting will be held a year to ensure that information is discussed and relayed first hand. We will work on putting together some prospective dates.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: Reviewed and read the proposal in past at 2 company meetings and it was voted 'no' – there was no misrepresentation.

Chief Speranza: Just asking that you please review this last time with a final yes or no answer.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: It was even brought up in an Officers meeting.

Chief Speranza: Just asking that you please review this last time with a final yes or no answer. We are not forcing anyone to move forward with the proposal – just would like a formally written answer from each company.

Ex-Asst Chief Marsch: Have we re-approached the town since the last denied request for the Anniversary Beer Garden?

Ex-Asst. Chief DeGroot: They have continuously tried with the town with no change.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: Other towns have it?

Ex-Asst. Chief DeGroot: The town won't let us have it since it is not 'isolated'. We even suggested doing it down at Goffle Brook Park, but it was denied.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: The park is too open and uncontrolled.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: Reported back hours/pricing for numerous courses of interest for the Department. Advised the Board that numerous individuals were interested in the Awareness course.

- High Angle Rescue
- Confined Space Awareness
- Confined Space Ops

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**Discussed possibly receiving a discount for doing off Academy property or having the instructors donate their time.*

Chief Speranza: Can we use our property and receive a better rate?

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: We would need a building that was approximately 2-3 floors in height for students to go down. He will talk to the instructors this week.

Chief Speranza: Opted the idea of using Van Dykes as the facility of use for this course.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: The County offers a \$500.00 voucher – wonders if we are able to use towards the Department training?

Lt. Luscombe: Made aware that he used this voucher for his schooling and that we should look into it.

Chief Speranza: Will be looking into the voucher.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: Inquired if we will be recording the minutes from here on out. Thinks that it is a good idea for keeping accuracy and that looking into purchasing a Department recorder through the Borough might be an idea.

Chief Speranza: Currently we are not recording (at this specific meeting) but are looking into doing so. This evenings meeting is being hand recorded.

Ex-Asst. Chief Arturi: Is the communication division disbanded?

Chief Speranza: The Communications Division is here to stay. Currently they are on the roster of Company 5.

Ex-Chief Tamburro: They will be a new division in the Ordinance.

Chief Speranza: Safety Officers meeting had been cancelled. Pending – looking to expand.

Chief Speranza closed the Fire Board session to the public.

Speranza: Thank you all.

Chief Speranza closed the Fire Board session to the public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lindsay Flowers
Board Secretary