



Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

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

Minutes of the meeting held on November 03, 2015

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with a salute to the flag and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance at this meeting were, Engine Company 1, Asst. Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2, Asst. Chief David Maher, Engine Company 3, Asst. Chief Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4, Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5, Asst. Chief Brian Warner

MINUTES

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

The Departments bills were read as follows:

BILLS:

Shortway's Barn	\$ 244.76	Tri Trophy	\$ 74.50
DN Safety Products	\$ 629.50	AAA Emergency	\$ 530.47
Ricoh	\$ 49.95	IRS	\$ 43.00
CNP Fit Testing	\$ 2,000.00	Campbell Fire Equip.	\$ 1,580.14

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

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

Communications:

- A letter was former FF Alex Shoomilof to return to Company #1.
- A medical note was received for Lt. Devin Hughes (knee).
- Medical note was received from St. Barnabas advising FF Jason Crawford is able to return to full duty effective 10/9/15.
- Received a 3 month leave of absence for FF David Morgan for the dates of 11/1/15 – 2/1/16.
- Garfield Engine Company #2 is hosting a FF training seminar of Saturday, 01/30/2016 at 8:30AM at the Garfield High School Auditorium.



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- Received St. Joseph's Healthcare System medical note for FF William Seidel, returning to full duty on 10/14/15.
- Deborah Heart and Lung Center's 10th Annual Red Tie Gala is to be held on Saturday, 11/7/15. For more information contact: Deborah Hospital Foundation, 212 Tenton Road, Brown Mills, New Jersey 08015 Attn: Sue Samuels (609) 893-0200.

The Board accepted all communications as read.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst. Chief Arturi reported for the month of October 2015, Company 1 responded to: 19 box alarms, 2 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm (s), 0 standby(s), and held one (1) drill (s), for a total of 22 alarms. In addition held three (3) training(s).

Engine 1 received tripod light and new AED, both are on apparatus.

Wished FF Dave Morgan good luck at school in Florida. The anticipated return will be 2016. The Fire Year percentages for Engine 1 were turned over to Clerk Tripicchio on Sunday, 11/1/15.

Congratulations to Chief Speranza on his victory last night for the position of Fire Chief.

Personally thanked the members that supported AC Arturi in the election.

All other equipment are in working order and with the exception to the above.

Company #2

Asst. Chief Maher reported for the month of October 2015, Company 2 responded to: 18 box alarms, 5 still alarm(s), 0 Chief's call, 0 Radio alarms, 0 standby(s), and held 1 drill (s) for a total of 24 alarms In addition, held three (2) training (s) and responded to 4 mutual aid call(s).

Congratulations to Chief Speranza on his re-election as Borough Chief.

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On behalf of Fire Company #2, Asst Chief Mayer personally thanked everyone who participated in the Blood Drive for George Lodder. Maher stated that it was truly heartwarming to see the turn-out to help one of our own.

FF Crawford returns to active duty effective 10/09/15.

There is a low voltage issue in the Tower's bucket which is causing the mobile radio in the bucket to not operate properly. Vendor Communications Specialists checked same and advised to contact vendor to track down the issue. It believed that could possibly be a short in the cable running the length of the aerial.

The programming in the Towers UHF mobile radio needs to be checked as they had no audio on Paterson's fireground channel.

The new AED is in service.

The Truck, equipment and all firefighters are in good working order.

Company #3

Asst. Chief Joseph Longo reported that for the month of October 2015 Company 3 responded to: 19 box alarms, 0 radio alarm (s), 0 still alarm(s), 0 standbys, and one (2) drill (s) for a total of 21 alarms. In addition held two (1) training (s) and 1 mutual aid response(s).

Engine 3 had its K-12 saw and chainsaw repaired, both are back in service.

Engine 3 would like to extend an invitation to all our fire companies to come to their firehouse and celebrate their 100 year anniversary on November 16th, 2015 at 7:30PM.

Engine 3 would like to wish a speedy recovery to George DeGroot and Capt. Andrew Massey who have both recently been released from the hospital and are back to active duty.

We ask that you please keep Jim and Tom Bakker's sister in your prayers as she is battling cancer. Any and all donations that can be made to the family are deeply appreciated.

We also ask that you please keep George Lodder and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

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Aside from above all firefighters and equipment are in working order.

Company #4

Asst Chief Michael Nelson, reported for the month of October 2015, Company 4 responded to: 20 box alarms, 12 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm(s), 1 drill (s), 0 standby(s), for a total of 33 alarms. In addition held 0 training (s) and responded to (9) mutual aid call (s).

E4 received a new AED and has been placed in service. The light tower was looked at by Fair Lawn DPW who took all information off the unit and will request the specs from the manufacturer.

The rear warning light switch and jake brake switch light is burnt out. When Fair Lawn receives the info they need, they will schedule us to return and they can address the other issues.

Lt. Devin Hughes is requesting medical leave due to a knee injury.

Aside from above all members and equipment are in good working order.

Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of October 2015 Company 5 responded to: 20 box alarms, 0 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 standby(s), 2 drill (s) for a total of 22 alarms. In addition held one (1) training (s).

The new stabilization strut training had taken place and we will be having another training with the other department members that are rescue certified, in the near future.

Gene DeAugustines is recovering from his surgery; Capt. Laube will be back at the end of the month from his surgery. Congratulations to Chief Speranza on his re-election.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Borough Chief Speranza Report:

I would like to thank everyone for their support last night and will work to restructure the format of the Chief's election with your assistance as a department.

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I do know many of us, including myself, were extremely disappointed with the conclusion of this election and will be reaching out to the membership as to the best format to improve our election process.

The Administrator, Mayor and Borough Attorney were all contacted today in an effort to insure that our Ordinance committee and that the Board has a clear path to improve our structure and our membership in a very timely fashion.

A time table has been requested of less than a few months for the Ordinance/By-law conclusion. Once the final drafts are completed they will be introduced to the Department.

We will ensure a steady time table throughout the process to bring this to a conclusion.

With request for council liaison, we have Councilmen Bertollo as the interested party for the liaison opportunity. If the Board is in agreement we will forward the request to Mayor Goldberg.

Over the next week or so Chief Speranza will be visiting several fire companies to address membership concerns in a listening board type format. We hope to address the concerns as best as possible to improve and heal issues within our Department.

We have secured the replacement hose and will be working with the companies as to schedule a pick-up this week for each.

The Department is in receipt of the fire sprinkler grant and decision is needed tonight from the Board to progress needs to be agreed upon or the funds returned.

The Board agreed to go with this process and the check will be deposited for the project of 2016.

Turnout gear – still awaiting the delivery date from the vendor.

Thanks to all that participated in the Blood Drive for George Lodder. We specifically thank Paterson, Wyckoff and Haledon FD for their participation.

Thank AVAN and Atlantic Stewardship Bank who donated 1,600 smoke detectors.

Wishing our members a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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Dates to Remember

November 08/9 2015 – OSHA Physicals

November 15, 2015 - Memorial Service 8:30 AM (St. Anthony)

November 18, 2015- FIT Testing

December 05, 2015- Borough Santa Parade

COMMITTEES

Communication Division: AC Nelson advised that we are in the process of securing new UHF Bergen County channels. Once we secure we will update our radios.

Fire Prevention: No report at this time.

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: \$500.00 donated by Shortway's Barn. The committee is the process of finalizing the ad book. The lower price coin company is not returning calls / emails so that we may have to go with the original one.

Ordinance Committee: No Report

Training Center: No report at this time.

Safety Officers: No Report.

Exempt/ Relief: October 08, 2015 meeting

Website: No report at this time.

Old Business:

Company 1: No report at this time.

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Company 2: Stated that they need a new compressor for the horns. A/C Nelson added that we need to seek a new vendor to fix same. AC Maher stated he will search for a vendor.

Requested stack tips for aerial.

Chief Speranza stated that they are on order.

Requested several pagers that needed to be repaired.

Chief stated that once we repair the antenna's that may clear up these issues.

AC Nelson stated that the repeaters are working
AC Arturi stated that the horns are not activating.

Chief Speranza stated that this all depends on the dispatcher.

Company 3: No report at this time.
Company 4: No report at this time.
Company 5: No report at this time.
Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

Oath of Office: No report at this time.

Company 1: Suggested that the smoke detectors that where donated to us should be given to the parents at parents night rather than the school kids as they were seen breaking them rather than bringing them home.

Company 2: There was no horns for the recent box alarm yet members responded as per protocol. We should consider having the CAD print on reports.

Chief stated that we should consider E-Dispatch vs ECM2.

Company 3: No report at this time.
Company 4: Company 2 has a generator repair was a Purchase order issued.
Company 5: No report at this time.

Chief's Report: FD budget was discussed.
One item that was discussed at length were fans for each Engine company.

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AC Maher stated that fans are on R5 and T2 who respond with the Engines and fans are not needed on Engines.

Chief stated that the process was for each Company to be self-sustainable in the event of an isolated incident.

AC Maher stated that the SOG is that an Engine is supported with T2 or R5 thus doesn't understand why fans should be on the Engines.

Chief stated he will review this further with the Board at a later date.

Good & Welfare:

Company 1: Congratulation to Chief Speranza

Company 2: Congratulation to Chief Speranza. Keep FF George Lodder in thoughts and prayers

Company 3: Congratulation to Chief Speranza

Company 4: Congratulation to Chief Speranza

Company 5: Congratulation to Chief Speranza

Chief: Congratulation to Chief Speranza

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

FF Gerry Flanagan asked who decided on increase for FF.

Chief Speranza stated that it was introduced in the 2016 Budget request.

FF Flanagan stated that we have to revamp the election process.

Chief Speranza expressed that both he and AC Arturi were both not happy with process and the Department is actively working on it.

Ellen Lodder read letter expressing the disgust of Department members vicious tactic to state that the Blood Drive for FF Lodder (that was on the same day as the Chief Election) was a ploy to bolster the election. This was not true, the date was the only available date to have the blood drive. Suggested that one should think before one speaks.

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Thanked all the members that supported the event and in particular Chief Speranza for his generous ongoing support.

Ex Chief Victor Tamburro clarified that the only available date was 11/02/15 which was confirmed by coordinator Ex-Asst Chief John Lane.

Ex Chief Tamburro stated that we should send a thank you letter to Chief Riker at the academy who advised that the students to partake in the blood drive.

Capt. Van Der Velde asked that when E4 and T2 needs to be replaced will it be the same as it was in the past.

Chief stated that there are now several programs such as the Houston Galveston plan where we can pool and get a better financial bargain while assisting the Borough. It is also understood that Apparatuses are not getting cheaper and that Tower will be 1-1.2 MM the next go around.

We have to concentrate on E4 and T2 in future are both are starting to be repaired more than in service as a means of longevity.

We have to replace Engine 3 now so that we do not run into repairs costing more than purchasing anew.

Ex Chief Tamburro stated that we are moving the Fire year to October 01, rather than November 01. Also 20% for voting for senior members.

Capt. Van Der Velde that it should remain at 33 1/3 so that we are uniform.

Public discussion was held to mimic the Clothing Allowance percentages. This will be further looked into with the Board / Ordinance Committee.

No other requests were made from the floor; the meeting was re-opened to the Fire Board.

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Warner, and a second by Asst. Chief Nelson that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Tripicchio
Board Secretary