

Chief Joseph Speranza
973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



Clerk John P. Tripicchio
973.423.2536 Office
973.423.5089 Fax

Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

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

Minutes of the meeting held on October 06, 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. A moment of silence was held for a Paramus Firefighter due to a LODD. In attendance at this meeting were, Engine Company 1, Asst. Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2, Asst Chief Lt Ronald Walker, Engine Company 3, Asst. Chief Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4, Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5, Lt. Joseph Pagnozzi.

MINUTES

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

The Departments bills were read as follows:

BILLS:

AAAEmergency	\$688.00	Command Radio	\$1,373.16
Ultra Light Bight	\$228.00	Hawthorne Auto Lab	\$375.39
Body Works Inc.	\$1,433.80	Hawthorne Auto Lab	\$685.40
AAA Emergency	\$1,902.00	George Lodder	\$180.00
Asst Chief 1-5	\$150.00	Clerk Tripicchio	\$30.00
Chief Speranza	\$30.00	AAA Emergency	\$1,544.36
Fair Lawn DPW	\$203.74	IRS	\$91.00
HFD Reimbursement	\$263.13	CNP Fit Test	\$225.00
HFD Reimbursement	\$134.00	PA Auto	\$29.44

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Nelson and a second from Asst. Chief Arturi, 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:

- Borough Administrative Assistant Ellen Brogno, thanked the Department for the participation of the 9/11 Memorial.



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- FF Robert Luscombe requested permission to utilize Engine 1, for a Fire Prevention appearance at 17 Passaic Avenue.
- Letter of intent from resident Ryan Anderson to join Company 1.
- Thank you letter from FF Jason Crawford for responding to his home, along with a medical note until further notice.
- A medical note was received from Kayal Ortho for FF William Marra.
- A medical note from Holy Name Physician Network for FF William Siedel until further notice.
- A medical note from Mark Berman MD for Capt. Brian Laube until further notice.
- A letter of resignation was read for the Department Clerk's to replace John Tripicchio effective 12/31/15.

The Board accepted all communications as read.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst. Chief Arturi reported for the month of September 2015, Company 1 responded to: 15 box alarms, 2 still alarm(s), 1 radio alarm (s), 0 standby(s), and held one (2) drill (s), for a total of 20 alarms. In addition held three (3) training(s).

Engine1 has put the portable TFT Blitz fire Deluge in service.

Fire Safety has addressed some minor issues on the Engine.

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

Company #2

Asst. Chief Maher reported for the month of September 2015, Company 2 responded to: 14 box alarms, 2 still alarm(s), 1 Chief's call, 0 Radio alarms, 0 standby(s), and held 1 drill (s) for a total of 18 alarms In addition, held three (2) training (s) and responded to 0 mutual aid call(s).

Repairs requested for the new bucket radio as Channel 4 works intermittently.

There is a delay with the hydraulic response for the aerial. This will be looked into further if it is in need of repair.

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FF William Marra submitted a medical leave of absence of 08/12/15 to 10/2/15

FF Jason Crawford submitted a medical leave of absence from 10/2/15 to TBD.

Equipment Request:

- (2) 1188 Yates Ladder Carabiners
- (2) 828 Yates Kevlar Tower/Ladder Lanyard
- (1) Case of Pre mixed fuel 50-1

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

Company #3

Asst. Chief Joseph Longo reported that for the month of September 2015 Company 3 responded to: 15 box alarms, 0 radio alarm (s), 0 still alarm(s), 0 standbys, and one (3) drill (s) for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held two (0) training (s) and 1 mutual aid response(s).

Engine 3 thanked the Borough for re-painting the lines in front of their building.

- (1) Akron smooth bore nozzle,
- (2) Saws (K-12 & 1 chain saw) out for repairs

Engine 3 received (4) TFT nozzles and (1) TFT Blitz fire Deluge system

Engine 3 thanked all members and their families who assisted in the support of family day and who purchased Premio Sausage and peppers and the 100th year anniversary hats.

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

Company #4

Asst Chief Michael Nelson, reported for the month of September 2015, Company 4 responded to: 16 box alarms, 4 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm(s), 1 drill (s), 0 standby(s), for a total of 21 alarms. In addition held 0 training (s) and responded to (2) mutual aid call (s).

Awaiting the light tower has to be adjusted as it is not sitting correctly into its cradle.

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Engine 4 attended the Midland Park Wet down. Thanks to the Fireboard for the approval on short notice.

FF George Rege has returned back to active duty 10/01/15.

Equipment request

Badges are needed for Padilla and Rivera

(1) Set of tire chains for the Engine for tire size 12R22.5

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

Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of September 2015 Company 5 responded to: 17 box alarms, 0 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 standby(s), 1 drill (s) for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held one (1) training (s).

The new stabilization struts training will take place on 10/17/15.

Received new AED and is placed in service.

Congratulations to Lt. Anthony Manzo for graduating from the Sheriff's Academy.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Borough Chief Speranza Report:

I personally Thank John Tripicchio for all of his years as the Department Clerk. He has done a phenomenal job as Department Clerk and will be surely missed.

Application / resumes are being sought for this position and must be submitted by October 15, 2015. This is to insure that we have a Clerk in position before 12/31/15.

Thanks to all who had attended the 9/11 Memorial Service. In particular the honor guard who presented our colors. This year was one of the better ones that we have participated and was well thought out. The Department is now part of the committee and will have input in the future events.

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The Grace Methodist School and Washington School has thanked the Department for the Fire Prevention program.

We will need to continue the program in the remaining school's on October 15, 2015. This day will be a heavier schedule of times and members are needed.

The 2016 budget is here and the input from the Assistant Chief's is required. All financial requests must be received by October 12, 2015.

The HVAC at Headquarters is in the process of being replaced.

The Borough is in the process of securing bids for the replacement/ repairing of the antenna to eliminate ongoing communication issues.

TFT Nozzles and Blitz Fire Deluge System were distributed to all (3) Engine companies.

AED's are in the process of being distributed to each company.

Department physicals have been moved to November 8/9 2015. Times to be advised in very near future. Proposed times are Sunday 10-12 and Monday 6:30/7:00 pm 8:30 pm.

The Borough of Hawthorne and Glen Rock are in the process of completing the written agreement for the Training Center funds.

A meeting was held for the closing of Central Avenue. More information is forthcoming and will be conveyed to the Department.

The Department was awarded a Home Fire Sprinkler Grant. We would have to build a mock scenario with and without sprinkler and demonstrate them to the public. Any leftover funds would go back to the Department.

The fitness grant program will commence in January 2016. All members are urged to participate as the grant value is \$150,000.00. Ex Asst Chief Mark Smith will assist in this program.

On behalf of the Department, we have requested a Council liaison. We are working with the Mayor and Council to accomplish this request.

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On a more difficult note, I was called to attend a meeting last night at Borough Hall. This meeting was called due to an inquiry to the Mayor by Asst. Chief Arturi on several members considered to be ineligible to vote in the upcoming Borough Chief's election.

The inquiry was for members that have moved out of the Borough and /m or are by the "Ordinance" out of the scope of membership. These following individual's will be casting a provisional ballot as a result of the meeting.

Jay Goodrich
Michael Thimmee
Aric Longo
Robert Lamb III
Edward Sutherland
All 5 members of the Radio Room

Following the election, these provisional ballots a decision will made if these individuals will remain on the Department roster.

As to the Radio Room member's this will be a separate issue that we have to look into to adding them to the Department roster.

The election will follow all "ordinance restraints" allowing members to vote with any percentage.

Absentee ballots are available via the Borough Clerk's office.

I am quite disappointed on how this all came about. I'm hopeful that the Ordinances will need to be changed and reviewed prior to their adoptions so that we all can benefit.

As we now the Ordinances allowed the Department to enact By Laws and were submitted to the Borough. These were misdirected at many individuals and needs to resolve.

Over the years all of the hard work and hours placed to get the By Laws / SOG's were they are today are pushed aside and is being miss interpreted by the Borough Attorney. This now exposes the Department to seek legal advice of our own to protect the Departments interest.

In addition to above, it is disheartening that anyone can pass the Departments chain of command" and proceed to the Mayor's office.

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I apologize to the members that have been effected as a result of this outcome. I consider you each as a valued Department member and promise to work diligently to rectify this outcome.

Dates to Remember

October 08, 2015 – Relief / Exempt Meeting

October 10, 2015 – 9am / 12pm 100 Year Anniversary Coin Toss

November 02, 2015 – Borough Chief's Election (Borough Hall)

November 8 & 9 2015 –OSHA Physicals

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

COMMITTEES

Communication Division: No report at this time.

Fire Prevention: No report at this time.

Ladies Auxiliary: Tina Batson has been selected as the President.

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: Last meeting was a success as it had the most attendance to date. Many things were accomplished. We are in the process of composing an Ad book and need sponsors. We are looking at additional coins that are ½ the price that the previous ones.

The Beer garden is in the process of locating a place to conduct.

Need pictures / history of companies ASAP.

Possibility of attending a NJ Devils game and securing a group picture on center ice.

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A complete Department roster is needed as names will be placed on a mug.

Ordinance Committee: Last meeting (09 28 15) was a success. All of the Ordinances will be reviewed. It was suggested that the Ordinances only consist of the establishment and the remainder reverts back to the Department as By Laws. This was met with resistance as any ordinance that has funds tied into them will need to be controlled by the Borough.

Another issue discussed was that current Ordinances has that the Mayor can remove the Chief from office. It was recommended that it comes back to the Board for final approval. The Borough stated that since the Chief is appointed by the Borough thus does not go back to the Board it is done by the Mayor.

Tamburro mentioned the State has a statue as to removal and they should consider same. The Borough Attorney will meet with the Ordinance Committee and get back to the Committee.

Chief Speranza stated that we should seek our own legal counsel to protect our interest Chief also stated that he is seeking a Council liaison so that we have representation.

Training Center: No report at this time.

Safety Officers: No Report.

Exempt/ Relief: October 08, 2015 meeting

Website: No report

Old Business:

Company 1: Requested once we replace the AED's of Company 1 can have the old one for the fire house.

Chief Speranza stated that he would look into it and sees no issue but needs Borough approval.

Company 2: No report at this time.

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: The generator and radios are up and running.

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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: While at 2015 Wildwood Firemen's Convention the Lumidor product was looked at for each firehouse. The cost was \$3-4K. For more info see AC Arturi.

Company 2: There is an ongoing indicator light issue that needs to be looked at. Requested the date of the Memorial Breakfast.

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: No report at this time.

Good & Welfare:

Company 1: Ex Asst Chief Bob Bommelyn' wife passed. Details to follow.

AC Arturi stated that the meeting held between Chief Speranza, AC Arturi and the Mayor was not supposed to be publicized.

Chief Speranza stated that the meeting was held and it was not private.

AC Arturi stated that this was start of poor tactics.

Chief Speranza stated that the issue was for provisional and absentee ballots thus is public knowledge.

AC Arturi asked Ex Chief Tamburro if there was any issue with Company 1 member that is part of the Ordinance Committee.

Tamburro responded that there are no issues.

AC Arturi stated that Chief Speranza specifically told him there is ongoing issues with the Company 1 member.

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Chief Speranza stated that certain Ordinance Committee members had alternative agendas and this was not what the Board's intent to establish this committee was for.

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: No report at this time.

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

Ex-Asst. Chief Foley asked if we can have the fit testing the same time we have physicals.

Cheif Speranza stated that we can look into that provided that we have enough funds.

FF Gerry Flanagan stated that he had received a communication that he has to reimburse VALIC for funds that he took out.

A conversation was held that there was a duplication of funds that were deposited into the account by either the Borough / the bank or a combination of both.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
John Tripicchio
Board Secretary