



## Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
[www.hawthornefire.org](http://www.hawthornefire.org)

### Minutes of the meeting held on February 05, 2013

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 was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief John Marsch, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5: Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Arutri to dispense the previous Minutes while a second Motion was made by Asst. Chief Nelson.

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Van Ek second from Asst. Chief Arturi that the following bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration of payment.

### BILLS

Campbell Supply Equip.	\$2,907.07	AT&T	\$42.15
Penguin Communication	\$828.00	Fire Fighter	\$38.00
Fire Companies Inc.	\$931.89	NJ State Vol. Assoc.	\$25.00
Ricoh	\$802.04	Valley Heath	\$460.00
Somes Uniform	\$202.50	Tanis Hardware	\$148.31
Passaic Cnty. Mutual Aid	\$75.00	Goosetown Comm.	\$1,272.00
Meadowlands Ford Trucks	\$523.09	Triangle Trophy	\$1,248.00
Macaluso's	\$5,556.25	10/75 LLC	\$758.00
Nassau Diagnostics	\$490.00	Cablevision	\$131.29
Passaic Cnty 200 Club	\$250.00	AAA Emergency	\$87.75
Ken's Auto Service	\$450.00	Campbell Supply	\$776.25
HFD Reimbursement	\$257.86	All Hands Fire LLC	\$155.23
HFD Reimbursement	\$146.95		

### Communications:

- 60 years of service member Kenneth Silvestri, thanked the Department for the recognition of his 60 years of service at the 2013 Awards dinner.



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- “Sharbel” Joseph Mattar thanked the Department for the continued support of having the awards dinner at their establishment.
- A medical note was received for FF Mark Walker requesting a medical leave of absence from February 04, 2014 to February 14, 2013.
- Letters of intent were received from resident’s Charles Tipper CO3, Javier Vargas CO2, Rebecca Morton CO2 and Jeff Marsch CO2.
- A thank you letter was received from resident Pamela Patermoster thanking the Department for responding for an oven fire and rescuing her pet cat.
- A Pancake Fundraiser for Ex-Chief Ray Densen Jr. (Prospect Park) will be held at Applebee’s located at 1200 Rte 23, Butler, NJ on February 24, 2013 from 8-10 am.

The Board accepted the medical leave of absence for FF Walker.

### **Company Reports:**

#### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Arturi reported for the month of January 2013, Company 1 responded to: 20 box alarms, 0 still alarms, 0 radio alarms, 0 mutual aid call, standby(s), 4 training(s) and held 1 drill, for a total of 25 alarms.

Engine 1 has been out of service since 01/02/13. We have just received word that it will be out an additional 2 weeks placing the apparatus out of service for a total of 6 weeks. The reason being is that the parts are no longer available and /or have to be fabricated.

Engine 1 needs to be replaced due to its age and due to the amount of taxpayer dollars that are being wasted.

The apparatus is not a historic piece of equipment; it is a front line piece of equipment used to save lives and property. Refurbishing consideration should have been given when the apparatus was 10 to 15 years of age. Nearing 20 years of front line firefighting, refurbishing of this apparatus is long overdue and should not be considered.

Both I and Ex –Asst. Chief Counsellor have explored refurbishing avenues, yet they proved to be fruitless at this juncture. Ex- Asst. Chief Counsellor also had previously submitted a letter to the Administration that went unanswered.

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This "rolling the dice" philosophy is a dangerous concept as Engine 1 serves the largest district and is usually #1 or #2 in responding due to its central location.

In addition, several meetings have been held between Engine 1 truck committee, the Administration and the Public Safety Committee. All parties were aware of the ongoing issues and growing concerns yet the Officers of Company 1 have yet to obtain a verbal dialogue as to the future of Engine 1.

Each year that passes, the maintenance bills increase. On point \$14,000.00 has already been spent thus far.

As Asst. Chief of Engine 1, it is requested that answers for the prior communications as to what is the intentions of the elected officials as to the replacement of Engine 1.

Aside from the above Unit 61 will not go into 4 wheel drive and pulls to the left.

All men and remaining equipment are in good working order.

### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of January 2013 Company 2 responded to: 25 box alarms, 4 still alarm, 0 Radio alarm, 0 Mutual Aid call's, 0 standby(s), 0 training's, and held 0 drill for a total of 29 alarms.

Tower 2 responded to Paterson for 4 Mutual Aid calls and to Passaic for 1 mutual aid.

### 2013 Drivers

Ex-Chief Victor Tamburro  
Ex Asst. Chief Anthony DiVincent  
Ex Asst. Chief Brian Vanderhook  
William Redmon  
Jason Crawford

### Alternates

Andrew Skae  
Ronald Walker

Tower 2 will be going to vendor 10/75 for the upgrading of lighting on February 18, 2013.

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A letter of intent was sent to FF Scott Laubshire as he no longer resides in the Borough.

FF Andrew Skae is back from his leave of absence.

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

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of January 2013 Company 3 responded to: 23 box alarms, 0 drill (s) 0 radio alarms, 1 still alarms, 0 standbys, 0 mutual aid, held 1 drill and, 0 training's for a total of 25 alarms.

The high idle is having issues and is in need of repair.

The Kenwood radio charger and the Bullard Thermal Imaging Cameras have been scheduled to be installed.

The LED lights have been ordered and will be installed upon the retrain of engine 1.

A quote for a NY pike pole has been submitted due to an aging one that is out of service.

Jim Bakker had hernia surgery and is recovering.

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

### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of January 2013, Company 4 responded to: 23 box alarm's, 3 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 training, 0 standby's, 0 Chief's call, 0 Mutual aid calls and held 1 drill for a total of 27 alarms.

The light tower has to be repaired as it is out of service. The compartments lights have to be upgraded to LED and this will not be scheduled until Engine 1 returns.

The Nederman exhaust system is not working properly and needs to be repaired.

One (1) Bullard Thermal Imaging camera was received along with its AC adapter.

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Due to an injury FF Marc Walker is on a medical leave.

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

### **Company #5**

Asst. Chief Warner, reported that for the month of January 2013, Company 5 Responded to: 26 box alarms, 0 boat assignments, 0 extrication (s), 0 radio alarm, 2 still alarms, 0 Mutual aid alarms, 0 standby, 0 training (s), and 1 drill(s) for a total of 29 alarms.

A quote was secured for the installation of the drop in chargers.

A resignation letter was received from Brianne Jimenez.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

### **Borough Chief Speranza Report:**

The Department has gotten off to fast start in 2013, with call volume increasing in early February. In addition, the seriousness of incidents with three (3) large incidents in the past four (4) week span.

The past Mondays nights I have observed that each fire company was actively training. I'm proud to see all companies accomplishing various training to improve ourselves. The Borough residents can rest assured knowing we continue to train to protect them.

Thanked the Officers for the efforts for in continued training.

Recently submitted was a report that provided the Fire Department activity that comprises of member's response, training, meetings and additional provisions to the Borough and residents. The numbers are staggering as they totaled an astronomical thirty eight thousand (38,000.00) hours per year. The savings had combined at a rate ate \$36.00 per hour (the national firefighter pay rate that included benefits) would equal \$1,368,000.00 per year without any administration expenses. Therefore, we should be proud to be volunteers when compared to other volunteer organizations.

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We live in a day and age that building materials are constructed of cheaper material with the temperatures and fire load increasing. No different are the new stars that have been introduced that are similar to truss construction. It is press board that is held via glue and gusset plates. As we all know these fail early and pose a different threat in how we fight fires. We will train further on this topic as more information is secured and becomes available.

### Dates to Remember

**February 25, 2013- NJ Transit & Delaware Oswego rail training -Van Dykes 6:30 pm  
\*\*sharp.**

**April 27, 2013- Murder Mystery Place & Time -TBD**

**June 1, 2013 Coin Toss**

### COMMITTEES

**Communication Division:** No report at this time.

**Fire Prevention:** No report at this time.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** No report at this time.

**Junior's/ Explorer Program:** No report at this time.

**In School Program:** No report at this time

**Van Hook Scholarship:** No report at this time.

**Open House:** No report at this time.

**Mutual Aid Meeting:** No report at this time.

**Hawthorne Day:** No report at this time.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The murder mystery dinner will be held on April 27, 2013. A place to host the event is forthcoming. Places mentioned were Company 1 and St. Clemens Church.

The Coin Toss will be held on June 01, 2013

**Memorial Park:** No report at this time

**Safety Officers:** Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

A driver's course will be held again this year and will consist of a road test.

It was mentioned that the Safety Officers have identification on the turn out coat. Captain Longo was asked to conduct a construction class for each company.

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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.  
Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

### **New Business:**

Oath of Office: None

Company 1: No report at this time.  
Company 2: A member inquired if they can make up Department shirts and sell them as a fund raiser.

*Chief Speranza stated that if they are sold at a Department level it is approved.*

Company 3: Asked if any company is interested in attending the Montvale / Pearl River parade that will be held on June 08, 2013. Anyone wishing to attend must have info in by March 01, 2013.

Company 4: No report at this time.  
Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: A consideration is being given to purchase Hurricane Sandy citation bars for members that had responded.

### **Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: No report at this time.  
Company 2: No report at this time.

Company 3: FF Jim Bakker is recovering from hernia surgery.

Company 4: Rose sale will begin February 11- 14, 2013.

Company 5: No report at this time.  
Chief: No report at this time.

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

Safety Officer Frank Vittorio suggested Velcro name tags for the turnout coats.

*Chief Speranza stated that he would call the Chief of Moonachie to see what they need and if we can assist in anyway.*

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

A Motion was made by Asst. Chief Van Ek and a second by Asst. Chief Marsch that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Tripicchio*  
Board Secretary