

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 June 04, 2014.

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, followed by a moment of silence that was held for the passing of Ex Asst. Chief George Webber. 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 Arturi, to dispense the previous Minutes and was seconded by Asst. Chief Warner. All were in favor to dispense.

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief van Ek and a second from Asst. Chief Warner that the following bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration of payment. All were in favor to submit the bills for consideration.

BILLS

State Line Fire	\$62.45	North Jersey Fire	\$964.00
State Line Fire	\$210.00	Insurance restorations Service	\$35.00
Somes Uniform	\$1,200.00	AAA Emergency	\$269.25
Campbell Supply	\$6,824.56	PA Auto	\$227.08
State Line Fire	\$240.00	Valley Health	\$405.00
Campbell Supply	\$3,000.00	CO1-4 (\$1,700.00)	\$6,800.00
CO 5	\$450.00	Asst Chiefs 1-5 (\$30.00)	\$150.00
Chief Speranza	\$30.00	Clerk Tripicchio	\$30.00
Campbell Supply	\$4,917.36	Campbell Supply	\$2,261.99
HFD Reimbursement	\$106.43	Shortway's Barn	\$500.00
Delicacies	\$397.50	Gold Star Products	\$399.75
Keith Koppenal	\$475.00	George Lodder	\$360.00

Asst. Chief Marsch inquired as to Somes Purchase Order amount.

Clerk Tripicchio advised that the purchase order was for the Honor Guard Uniforms and we have a quote for same.

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

Chief Speranza added that the purchase order will be placed on hold pending the quote to be supplied as it was not at hand.

Communications:

- Fire Fighter John Hurley is back on active duty.
- Passaic County 200 - Comedy Night Beefsteak Monday June 23, 2014 at the Brownstone.
- Letter of intent was received from Jeff Hackman to join Engine 3.

The Board accepted all communications as read.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst. Chief Arturi reported for the month of May 2014, Company 1 responded to: 20 box alarms, 1 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm (s), 0 mutual aid call, 0 standby(s), 2 training(s) and held 2 drill (s), for a total of 25 alarms.

Front Suction is not working (again). The pump engagement is working intermittently. CO meter was repaired and put back in service.

The members that are on medical leave of absence are recovering.

Engine 1 is attending the Passaic County Safety Academy on June 23, 2014.

Engine 1 is in fair condition. All equipment is in working order and all members are in good standing.

Company #2

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of May 2014, Company 2 responded to: 19 box alarms, 3 still alarms, 0 Chief's call, 0 Radio alarms, 0 standby(s), 0 training(s), and held 2 drill (s) for a total of 24 alarms and 2 Mutual Aid calls to Paterson & North Haledon.

During a recent alarm a salvage tarp was left at a customer's home to prevent further water damage. Upon the attempt to recover same days later, the home owner advised that the restoration company took it and has not be returned to date.

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

Thanked all that attended Ex Chief George Webber's wake.

FF George Lodder has been hospitalized and is fighting an infection.

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

Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of May 2014 Company 3 responded to: 19 box alarms, 0 radio alarm (s), 2 still alarm(s), 0 standbys, and 2 drill (s) for a total of 23 alarms. In addition 1 training (s) and 0 mutual aid response(s).

The parking brake has to be repaired as it is not holding.

The high idle is also in need of repair.

One (1) SCBA harness is out for repairs.

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

Company #4

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of May 2014, Company 4 responded to: 22 box alarms, 3 still alarms, 0 radio alarms, 0 training, 0 standbys, 0 Chief's call, and held 1 drill (s) for a total of 26 alarms. In addition 3 Mutual Aid calls to Glen Rock / Fair Lawn.

One (1) Kenwood insert was added to the rack charger for the City of Passaic frequency radio.

The part have been ordered for the light tower and the driver's side flood light burned out at one of the alarms.

One (1) set of badges and one (1) small SCBA mask is requested.

FF John Hurley has completed one (1) year as a career firefighter with Paterson FD and has now returned to active duty for Hawthorne.

Two (2) members are left for SCBA Fit testing.

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

Company 4 has reviewed all of the mandatory annual Safety Director's training videos.

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

Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of May 2014, Company 5 responded to: 17 box alarms, 2 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 standby(s), 1 drill (s) for a total 20 of alarms. In addition held 1 trainings.

Thanked all that participated for the department drill.

Rescue is not the department rental tool box. Tools have been taken off for use and not been returned.

The boat has been placed out of service as the throttle cable has to be replaced.

Rescue body repairs have begun.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Borough Chief Speranza Report:

The Department participated in a large scale drill. Thanks to all that had attended and made this another huge success.

Thanks to the Wurtsboro, NY FD and ex-fire fighter Bill Barclay who participated. A special thanks to Captains Joseph Longo, Christopher Dibella, Peter Der Velde, Lt. Kyle Johnson, FF Darryl Foca, Dillon Foca, Hawthorne Auto Body, Shortway's Barn and Delicacies. We additionally thank Mayor Richard Goldberg, Police Chief Richard McAuliffe, EMS Chief Kenneth Houstma, EMS and Chief of the Day who had a great experience.

Fit testing will end on June 09, 2014. Any member that has not completed the fit test will be class 1+fire fighter.

The training center will be repaired by contractor Edward Sutherland that will being June 20, 2014.

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

At the June 17, 2014 officers meeting for the alternative replacement to our current E-Dispatch dubbed, I Am Responding will be looked into.

A Mutual Aid Drill with Glen Rock will be held on June 30, 2014.

On August 24, 2014 Fairways Food Cook will be held again. Lt. Sylvester is looking to repeat and is looking for help. Contact Lt Sylvester if interested.

June 06, 2014- Stone Cold DUI HHS program.

The Departments dunk tank is in need of repairs and has been placed out of service.

Structural Fire Fighting gear in the 9-10 range are scheduled to be replaced as we now have a budget that was approved for same.

Tower 2 aerial certification and inspection has been scheduled with Wanaque FD to save on costs.

ISO rating 3 has been submitted and is being considered. This will assist the commercial and the residential taxpayers collectively, saving hundreds of dollars on the insurance premiums.

July 4, 2014 Glen Rock FD is hosting a picnic for the Hawthorne FD.

The Department has been working diligently in cardio and strength training and has teamed up with Hawthorne Pool. The Borough will provide passes for active firefighters and a discount for their families. This has been years in the making and has finally come to fruition.

With the added recording equipment in the Clerks office is encountering hotter than normal temperatures and needed to be addressed. The office will finally be repaired as the temperatures have reached in the 90s in recent days and could damage all equipment in the room.

A work order has been requested for the garage doors at headquarters to be repainted.

Mutual Aid plan discussion are being held with Fair Lawn.

Dates to Remember

June 06, 2014- HHS Stone Cold Program -9:00 am.

June 17, 2014- Introduction of a new E-Dispatch (officers meeting).

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

June 30, 2014- Mutual Aid Drill w. Glen Rock

July 4, 2014 - Glen Rock Barbeque

COMMITTEES

Communication Division: May 2014, responded to: 15 box alarms, 1 drill and held 3 meetings.

The radio noise feedback is being looked into.

All equipment and members are in working order.

Fire Prevention: 90 Lincoln Avenue will be providing a lock box key to Company 4. 140 5th Avenue's key has been changed in the lock box.

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time.

Junior FF's (Explorer Program): An additional of three (3) out of town members have been added.

In School Program: No report at this time.

Van Hook Scholarship: No report at this time.

Open House: No report at this time.

Passaic County Mutual Aid Meeting: No report at this time

Hawthorne Day: No report at this time.

100th Anniversary: Chairman Degroot advised that Grand Avenue is the venue of the Department feast.

All committees members are actively working. Meetings have been changed to Thursday rather than Mondays.

Safety Officers: No report at this time.

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

Old Business:

Company 1: No report at this time.
Company 2: The Communication Division had inquired if they can have uniforms to join FD when required such as the parade.

Asst. Chief Arturi advised this was previously addressed and they need to develop a uniform form with their own logo and bring it back to the Board for final approval.

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: Craig Geier was sworn in by Ex -Asst. James Geier

Company 1: No report at this time.
Company 2: The Departments veteran members do not have E. Dispatch and require transmission go through the 6:00 pm test.

Chief Speranza is aware of this and has been following same since E Dispatch's inception.

Tower 2 request the annual audit of Clerk's books to be scheduled.

Clerk Tripicchio advised that there was discrepancies with the tax filing that were being worked on as taxes were due May 15, 2014. Clerk was working with accountant, IRS, Atlantic Stewardship Bank and all active Department run committees that had monetary gains as we have received numerous accounts on various tax id's that were connected to the Department tax id's. This was rectified on May 10, 2014 and taxes were filed accordingly. This took some time thus the audit was pushed back.

The date will be June 16, 2014 at Headquarters.

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.



Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

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

Good & Welfare:

- Company 1: June 06, 2014 PBA 197 will be hosting a boxing Event that is open to all Police and Fire Fighters to participate in the event. The event will be held at the Wayne PAL.
- 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.

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

Ex Asst Chief and member Joseph Metzler stated that the Board of Commissioners did not intervene in preventing Ex Asst Chief George Webber's tragedy. He added that he had informed the Board of ongoing issues that the Board ignored and rather forced him out and that this tragedy could have been avoided altogether.

Chief Speranza replied back by stating that was untrue. He himself sought assistance for Webber who had ignored assistance on several occasions. He even went above and beyond and sent a Captain to his home and try to intervene and Webber ignored every attempt. If a person doesn't want to be helped after numerous attempts both small and large there is nothing we could have done. In addition the Department has intervention programs that members have previously used numerous times and the names are withheld so that the program can assist that person in need in confidence.

Metzler added that he had brought the matter to light to the Board. He admitted he may have approached it incorrectly yet the Board should have investigated it further.

Asst. Chief Van Ek added that the Chief explained we attempted to help and one cannot blame the Board if they refuse assistance.

Chief Speranza added that two wrongs didn't make a right yet, the Board attempted to help when they were alerted as to the ongoing issues.

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

Captain Van Der Velde stated that even the employer attempted to engage in assistance and Weber refused.

Chief Speranza thanked Metzler for his thoughts and advised him the door is open if he wanted to come back.

Metzler declined same.

Ex Asst. Chief Mark Smith inquired if there is a mutual aid ~~pac+~~ with surrounding towns Glen Rock & Fair Lawn.

Chief Speranza advised that he was misinformed and that there is no agreement. There is however discussions on various mutual aid scenarios and is in the infancy stage. Chief added that options are being looked into and will be brought back to the Board.

Smith asked if Fair Lawn will require our assistance like Glen Rock.

Chief as to Glen Rock we assist when we can. Fair Lawn is looking at various options such as explorers program and also look at hiring DPW workers to bolster their numbers

Smith asked if Fair Lawn is looking for a mutual aid response like Glen Rock.

Chief Speranza stated no, again options are being looked into.

Smith stated that volunteers are dwindling as the school hours are more than they used to be and no one has time anymore.

Chief Speranza stated he agrees with same and he envisions that many volunteers organizations may be paid in future as a result.

Ex Asst. Chief Robert Foley stated that our priority is Hawthorne and sending out several pieces of equipment could tax our own members. Coupled with the fact members could be exhausted and we could run into issues such as members that are too tired to fight our own fires here in town as they respond from town to town, day in and day out.

Chief Speranza recognized the concern and has scaled back our response requests.

Foley also stated that why are we going to Glen Rock for free when they declined Ridgewood's offered of career fire fighter response.

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

Chief Speranza stated he cannot answer on their behalf and that they are actively working on getting more members.

Chief Victor Tamburro recalled when Mayor Bay was in office he would hire Fire Fighters that could fight fires and cut lawn verses the DPW worker that cuts lawn and would not fight fires.

Chief Speranza has brought this same issue to the current administration and has fallen on deaf ears.

Ex-Chief Smith asked if there is a Fire Police.

Chief Speranza stated that the Police Auxiliary have not even been told that they were disbanded by the administration and the Police have been accredited for four months now. He has heard that there will be a mandatory meeting sometime in June to work out all issues.

Smith asked if any benefits would come out of the Departments budget i.e. clothing allowance and or LOSAP and voting privileges.

Chief Speranza stated that the administration would decide on that not us. Also added was that if they become part of the Department they would be a member as defined by Borough Counsel Michael Pasquale.

Smith asked if and when this transpires that everything be put in writing as when he was on the Board items such as this were force fed on the Board and they had to abide the decisions made by others that had no knowledge of the Department workings.

Asst. Chief Van Ek stated that nothing has been presented to the Board as of yet thus no decision will be made until it has.

Smith again forewarned to be proactive rather than passive.

Foley interjected and stated that what happens if a veteran member can no longer be active could they join the Fire Auxiliary.

Chief Speranza stated it will all be worked out once we secure more facts/ details.

Asst. Chief Arturi stated that once a plan has been introduced the Board can address it.

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

Chief Speranza thanked all that participated in the public forum and that he publicly apologized to Metzler as to firing back at the accusation of no action taken by Board on Weber.

Chief reiterated anyone seeking help from the Department we have numerous ways to seek assist within the various Department's programs that all participants names are held confidential. He again asked Metzler he always has an open door to return to the Department.

Metzler stated there is always two sides to a story admitted that he has changed and that he declined to return to the Department.

FF Gerry Flanagan stated that Weber left in good standing and was always part of FD and could have asked for assistance.

Captain Van Der Velde added that Weber's own members didn't attend the ceremony.

Chief added it was a terrible tragedy.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
John Tripicchio
Board Secretary