



## 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 April 07, 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 South Jersey (unnamed) firefighter. In attendance at this meeting was, Engine Company 1, Asst. Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2, David Maher, Engine Company 3, Asst. Chief Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4, Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5, Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

#### MINUTES

A motion was made by, Asst. Chief Arturi, to dispense the previous Minutes while a second was made by Asst. Chief Longo. The Board were all in favor to dispense the previous month's Minutes.

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Warner and a second from Asst. Chief Maher, that the following 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.

#### BILLS

|                     |            |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Command Radio       | \$912.75   | Occ. Medical Health | \$1,020.00 |
| MES                 | \$1,281.26 | Hawthorne Auto Lab  | \$61.99    |
| Campbell Supply     | \$1,534.30 | P/A Auto Parts      | \$72.58    |
| AAA Emergency       | \$391.11   | I.R.S Inc.          | \$48.00    |
| Northern NJ Council | \$499.80   | Gold Star Products  | \$499.70   |
| Advance Air System  | \$1,322.96 | Campbell Supply     | \$819.62   |
| Campbell Supply     | \$3,436.32 |                     |            |

#### Communications:

- Letter of Resignation's were received from FF Marco Totaro (CO2) and Jozef Axelhammer (CO5).
- The Joint Memorial Day committee announced that the Joint Veteran Memorial Parade will be held on May 25, 2015, with step off will be at 1:30 PM. The assembly will be starting at 12:30 PM at the intersections of Rea and Lafayette Avenues.



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- FF George Rege requested a (3) month medical leave of absence due to an ongoing knee problem. A doctor note is to follow.
- Ridgewood Fire FMBA Local #4724<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing, April 29, 2015, River Vale Country Club, Registration 11:30 AM, shotgun 1:00 PM, \$160.00 pergolfer. Call Tom Shortway (201 ) 788 2022 or [tomshortway@gmail.com](mailto:tomshortway@gmail.com)
- Boonton Fire Department Labor Day Parade Saturday September 7, 2015 1:30 pm sharp. Rain date Monday, September 7, 2015. Assemble in the West Boonton Area.
- A letter from Timothy Matthews indicating that he has chosen the Fire Department to conduct his Eagle Scout Project.
- A letter of intent was received from Brendon Marsch (CO2) .
- A thank you note was received from Carley Tamburro to Chief Speranza and Clerk Tripicchio for the recommendation letter.
- Company 1 requested to attend the Wallington Parade in November 2015.

The Board accepted all communications as read.

*The Oath of Office was administered for Kevin D. Foley, Brendon Fisher, John Niebo, Jose Dominquez and Kenneth Kennerson.*

### **Company Reports:**

#### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief John Arturi reported for the month of March 2015, Company 1 responded to: 17 box alarms, 0 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm (s), 0 mutual aid call, 0 standby(s), and held 1 drill (s), for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held 4 training(s).

Waiting for the radio installer vendor to complete the electrical installion that has been going on for (2) two months.

Fire Safety was contacted for some minor issues that we have identified. We have also ordered (2) sight rods and an (1) one additional shelf. Once we secure the quotes we will submit for consideration.

FF Thomas Kennedy has been contacted as to his progress and he is doing well.

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

### Company #2

Asst. Chief Maher reported for the month of March 2015, Company 2 responded to: 17 box alarms, 1 still alarm(s), 0 Chief's call, 0 Radio alarms, 0 standby(s), and held 1 drill (s) for a total of 19 alarms In addition, held 1 training (s) and responded to 1 mutual aid call(s).

An ice drill was attended along with Rescue 5 and North Haledon FD.

Letter of intent was received from Brendon Marsh.

Letter of resignation was received from Marco Tortaro.

Surface rust was discovered on small sections of the aerial ladder. Rosenbauer was contacted and provided a procedure to rectify same. The Truck will need to go to Body Works in Midland Park for an estimate for these repairs.

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

### Company #3

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

Engine 3 had some minor repairs conducted on the apparatus and were as follows:

Crew cab door sensor

Tilt cab sensor

Engine oil was checked for water in the oil, checked and is ok.

Engine 3 scheduled for the driver's side and officers side seats to be repaired.

New accountability tags have been received and are in service.

Engine 3 congratulates and welcomes back Ex FF- Kenneth Kennerson.

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

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### Company #4

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of March 2015, Company 4 responded to: 15 box alarms, 4 still alarms, 0 radio alarm(s), 1 drill (s), 0 standby(s), for a total of 20 alarms. In addition held 0 training (s) and was called for to 3 Mutual Aid call (s).

The accountability tags have been received and are now in service.

FF George Rege has requested a (3) month medical leave of absence due to a knee injury.

(2) Applications were submitted to Clerk Tripicchio for final review.

Engine 4 is having issues in closing the discharge gates while in pump. In addition, there are some pressure gauges that do not show the pressure when in use.

We are requesting that these issue have to be looked at.

Equipment request:

- (1) Icom pager battery
- (1) roll of caution tape
- (1) mask cleaning wipes

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

### Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of April 2015 Company 5 responded to: 18 box alarms, 0 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 standby(s), 0 drill (s) for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held 3 training (s).

ECM2 is now up and running for Companies 1,2 & 5. Company 3 & 4 will be completed this month.

The tablet mounts are now in. Rescue 5 has the tablet installed with the mount and for display for the other companies. There is a 5" and 7" mount that is available.

Letter of resignation was received from Jozef Axelhammer.

Rescue 5 welcomes new members John Neibo and Jose Dominquez.

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All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

**Borough Chief Speranza Report:** Cardiac Doppler testing will be held on April 11, 2015 at Peter Berger' Chiro office. The testing will commence at 9:00 AM and will go to 1:00 PM.

The Department is exploring options of replacing E Dispatch services with a freeware vendor.

Due to ongoing dispatching errors, a meeting is being scheduled to rectify same. Thanks to Asst. Chief Warner, Asst Chief Nelson and Ex-Asst Chief Geier for their assistance with the dispatching issues.

The training center is moving forward. Thanks for the efforts of the Captains and in particular Asst. Chief Longo who has put in countless hours.

The new SCBA SCOTT bottles are manufactured with "born on" dating. This became an issue as there is a 4-5 month waiting period and we would get the 2014 bottles in mid-2015.

We have requested that we are to be supplied with the 2015 bottles with the expectation to get our bottles in 5-6 months.

We have several upcoming trainings and that will include Haz Mat Operation's, RTK, Blood Bourne Pathogens, Lock Out tag out and Confined Space Operations.

Rescue 5 is being scheduled for repairs for Tuesday April 14, 2015 7:00 am, at the Fair Lawn DPW Garage. Engine 1 is to be scheduled for minor repairs shortly. The remaining apparatus will be scheduled for maintenance.

### Dates to Remember

April 14, 2015- Cardiac testing- Dr Peter Berger Office 1-4 PM

April 18, 2015- Coin Toss 9-12 pm

April 19, 2015- Tentative Drill (Van Dykes Park Place)

April 25, 2015- Train the Trainer – "Trailing" Van Dyke Park Place (8:30 am)

May 21, 2015 -7:30 pm Passaic County Mutual Aid Meeting

June 05, 2015- FD DUI Program



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### **COMMITTEES**

**Communication Division:** AC Longo had an initial kick off meeting was held with the communication division members. A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be scheduled shortly to encompass all members.

**Fire Prevention:** The Bedrin project was requested to reconsider the parking lot's sprinkler system diameters and placement based on FD recommendations.

Summons were issued to 55 Westervelt property for various ongoing issues.

The newly proposed Borough Ordinances which were prepared by the Borough Attorney and were handed to each Asst. Chief. The Ordinances had incorporated past practice and some by laws. Due to the Sunshine law the ordinances were introduced publically. The dead line for any changes had to be within (1) one week so that it can be handed back to the Borough for final approval.

Asst. Chief Longo asked Chief Speranza if the Borough had our By Laws why were they not supported previously and questioned if they did their due diligence.

Asst. Chief Warner added that he recalled the last time they were considering our by-laws and now it doesn't seem to be the case.

Chief stated that the Ordinances are proposals that requires input of the companies before they are finalized. Chief requested that each company review provide input so that we can move forward.

**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.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Coin Toss April 18, 2015 9am – 1 pm. Pamphlets are being made, ceramic mugs/ hats and t-shirts ideas were exchanged. We are looking into blow up type rides. Members are needed to fulfil various committees. Tents and chair prices were secured. Next meeting May 3, 2015 at Company 3.

**Training Center:** Supplies are needed and a list was composed and handed to each Asst. Chief's. Any supplies that will be donated for the Center inform Asst. Chief Longo.

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**Safety Officers:** Next meeting will be on April 16, 2015. We will be looking into the accountability process. We have also requested that Asst.Chief Longo come back to each company and further re train us as to construction. Driving course will be scheduled for some time in May 2015.

**Exempt:** March 06, 2015, County Relief Meeting that will be hosted by Company 1.

### **Old Business:**

Company 1: Asked the status of the recent grant.

*Chief stated that the grant was a co opportunity grant that arose for regional support. As this was one of the criteria's the Department will not partake in it's application.*

Requested SCBA mask straps for several members.

*Chief Speranza stated that we have just received the mask straps and they are available.*

AC Arturi stated that we should not just take the Ordinances sitting down but rather have a meeting with the Ordinance Committee to go over the Ordinances. The Board should make all decisions and not at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level. Expressed that he doesn't agree with some of the wording in as to the grievances.

*Chief Speranza stated we all have to look at the Ordinances and discuss further.*

AC Arturi questioned that the recent Haz Mat Incident Command memo stating that it was geared for Chief Officer's and not all officers.

*Chief Speranza stated that that is not correct as it is for any volunteer member that would be in in charge of a scene ( ie Command ) must have this certification.*

*AC Arturi stated that he would research it further and will circle back to the Board.*

AC Arturi suggested Chief Speranza to speak to Capt. Vander hook to address the dispatch issues as Chief McAuliffe is currently not available.

Chief Speranza stated that he will schedule a meeting with the Public Safety Committee to get things moving in the right direction.

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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: (see above)

Company 1: Welcomed all new members.

An update as to the road paving. Certain roads will be closed for grading / paving yet they will allow emergency vehicles through.

AC Arturi has a direct connection with the project so he is alerted what roads will be closed etc. He will inform all Asst Chief's and Chief Speranza of the closings or if there will be any issues.

Company 2: Reminded that if any company uses a hydrant during drills/ training to notify DPW before you use the hydrant.

Company 3: Handed each Asst Chief a recruitment ad that was secured from Rockland County and recommended that we look into a similar ad for our Department.

The Hawthorne Boys/ Girls club were contacted to see if we can present recruitment through them.

Company 4: A purchase order was issued for the missing cable. A vendor was contacted to secure the cable to complete the repairs. AC Nelson will report back to the Board once this has been accomplished.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chief's Report: The Department is looking to get back into the Eagle Scout Award program. This may be another way to recruit potential members.

### **Good & Welfare:**

CORE STATEMENT  
Volunteers providing a professional service in  
Fire Protection, Rescue Services and Fire Prevention  
To the citizens of Hawthorne.

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Company 1: Requested to attend the Wallington Parade in November.

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 Kevin Foley (hereafter "AC Foley") asked why he was not called for the Rescue drills as he was one of the Rescue qualified member's.

*Chief stated that was a special drill that was coordinated between R5 and T2. More drills are being scheduled that will include rope technician training.*

AC Foley inquired as to the Mutual Aid calls to Glen Rock and Wyckoff.

*Chief Speranza stated that for Glen Rock the calls are slowing down as they are starting to recruit more within their Borough. In addition, the calls we have been going on are for confirmed situations and no longer for minor calls. They are close not needing us any longer as calls are getting less each month. They are also having dispatch issues and that is currently being addressed by them. They are also integrating a CAD program so that their dispatched knows when to call and who to call. This will eliminate some of the smaller calls in which they do not need us to respond.*

*Frank Vittorio stated that a form is needed for members that respond with Unit 57 responses such as for mutual aid or a special detail.*

*Chief stated that we will develop a form for those isolated responses.*

*Ex-Chief Tamburro suggested that those members utilize LOSAP forms instead.*

*Jim Bakker stated he would much rather sign a fire report credit than LOSAP. A side bar discussion was held.*

*Chief stated that he will look into this further.*

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AC Foley inquired if there was a training center clean up schedule.

Asst Chief Longo stated that the training center is back on track and each company will be assigned to assist and maintain the Center.

AC Foley stated that he has a hydrant that he would like to donate for the Center.

AC Foley also requested that The Relief and Exempt meeting should be put on the 6 O'clock page test.

AC Foley thanked the Board for allowing him to swear in his son even though he openly admitted that he fumbled with the words.

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 Warner that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Tripicchio*  
Board Secretary