



Borough of Hawthorne  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Minutes of the meeting held on December 04, 2007.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Joseph Speranza at 7:30pm with a salute to the flag. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief Mark Smith, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief Brian Vanderhook, Engine Company 3: Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief Brian Van Hook, and Rescue Company 5: Asst. Chief John Gurriell.

**MINUTES**

A Motion by Asst. Chief Smith, and a second by Asst. Chief Van Ek, that the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed as they were previously distributed to the Board.

**BILLS**

A Motion by Asst. Chief Van Hook, and a second by Asst. Chief, Vanderhook, that the following bills be approved and submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration.

Verizon	\$27.06	Verizon	\$59.02
Verizon Wireless	\$134.05	Bob Tires	\$594.00
Ken's Auto Electric	\$300.00	Hawthorne Autobody	\$233.00
American Test Center	\$1,175.00	Suburban Generator	\$871.33
Company 1-4 4 <sup>th</sup> Qrt	\$5,600.00	Company 5 4 <sup>th</sup> Qrt	\$450.00
Asst. Chief 1-5 4 <sup>th</sup> Qrt	\$150.00	Chief Joseph Speranza	\$30.00
Clerk John Tripicchio	\$30.00	Adv Air System	\$632.00
Guard Line	\$227.25	AAA Emergency	\$1,409.95
Legendary Entertainment	\$495.00		

**Communications:**

- A thank you letter was received from the Hawthorne Christian Academy thanking the Department for appearing during Fire Prevention week.
- A letter of intent was received from resident Peter Caruso requesting to join the department. (Copy to CO1).
- A letter of resignation was received from FF Mathew Hoogmoed.

- A three-month personal leave of absence was requested by Leon Bay beginning on December 1, 2007 thru March 31, 2007.
- A letter was received from E. Jewell Papowitz (manager for McKinley LLC.) thanking the department for a quick response to a gas leak.
- A letter was received from the NJ Fireman's Home thanking the Department for the donating to the annual Christmas Party.
- A letter was received from FF Theodore Toms III requesting an extension to the personal leave of absence for an additional three months, due to additional training for his new career.

Asst. Chief Van Hook questioned FF Toms leave of absence.

*Chief Speranza suggested that the leave of absence should be granted and any further issues should be directed directly to FF Toms Asst. Chief. If there any other issues that needed to be resolved it should be brought back to the Board for further discussion.*

A motion to accept the resignation and leave of absence were made by Asst. Chief Van Hook and seconded by Asst. Chief Smith.

### **Company Reports:**

#### Company #1

Asst. Chief Smith reported for the month of November, 2007 CO 1 responded to: 33 box alarms, held 1 drill, 2 radio alarms and 1 still alarm for a total of 37 alarms.

The apparatus's start switch was replaced.

There was a minor electrical problem with the high-powered spotting lamp, which has to be looked at for further repairs or possible replacement.

Congratulations to FF David Vanderweile as he has graduated from the Fire Academy for completing Firefighter I.

A thanks to Rescue 5 for participation at the Wallington event.

All men and equipment are in good working order.

#### Company #2

Asst. Chief Vanderhook reported for the month of November, 2007 CO 2 responded to: 35 box alarms, held 1 drills, 0 radio alarms, 1 mutual aid call and 0 still alarm for a total of 37 alarms.

All men and equipment are in good condition.

#### Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of November, 2007 Engine 3 responded to: 43 box alarms, 3 radio alarms, held 1 drills, 0 mutual aid calls, 0 still alarms for a total of 47 alarms.

The air actuator for the front suction is currently waiting for repairs. The on-spot chains will also need to be looked at when the vendor makes the above-mentioned repairs.

Engine Company 3 will be attending the Christmas Party at the Firemen's on Sunday, December 9.

All men and equipment are in working order

#### Company #4

Asst. Chief Van Hook reported for the month of November 2007 Engine 4 responded to 34 box alarms, 1 still alarms, 1 radio alarm, and held 0 drills for a total of 36 alarms.

Congratulation to FF Stephanie Hill for graduating from the Fire Academy for completing Firefighter I and FF John Hurley for completing Fire Fighter II.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

#### Company #5

Asst. Chief Gurriell reported that for the month of November, 2007 that Company 5 responded to: 38 box alarms, 1 radio alarm, and held 1 drill for a total of 40 alarms.

A multi gas meter has been received back from service.

Rescue is in receipt of water rescue equipment. In addition, the webbing and accessory cord has been changed.

Thanks to Company 1 for inviting Rescue 5 to the Wallington event.

All equipment and Truck are in good working order.

Borough Chief's report:

I thank each company for participating in the Borough's Santa Parade. I also thank Asst. Chief Gurriell for interfacing with the Chamber of Commerce in my absence.

The Department has been awarded a Fire Prevention Grant from the "Fire Pup Fire Prevention Program Company". This grant allows the Department to distribute the DVD based program to each elementary school and parochial school with grades five and below. The grant award is in the amount of \$1,630.00.

A preliminary budget meeting was held in which the Department's Professional Services line will be reduced by \$2,000.00. A secondary Budget meeting will be attended in the near future.

The Fire Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 1, 2008 will be moved to **Tuesday January 08, 2008**.

I also congratulate all Fire Fighter I & II's graduates and Rescue Company 5 for the winning of the Wallington Mayors Trophy.

A reminder that the Holiday bonfire will take place on **December 28, 2007** behind headquarters with time and dates to follow.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 09, 2007- Fireman's Home Holiday Party – 1:00pm**  
**December 17, 2007 – Toy Drive \*meet at Headquarters 6:00pm**  
**December 20, 2007- LOSAP due date**  
**December 28, 2007 – Holiday Bonfire**  
**January 08, 2008 – Fire Board**

**Committees:**

Fire Prevention / In School Program: Fire Prevention report will be placed in each Asst. Chief's mailbox.

Training Committee: No report at this time

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time

Communication Committee: No report at this time.

Fund Drive: No report at this time.

Scholarship: No report at this time

Toy Drive: FF Rich Mc Aulliffe advised that there will be a Committee meeting by the end of the week.

The Toy Drive will be held on **Monday, December 17, 2007** with the Committee meeting at 6:00pm for a 7:00pm delivery.

**Old Business:**

Company 1: No report

Company 2: Facial hair in the Department is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.

*Chief Speranza stated that there is a hair policy in place yet, it is antiquated and needs to be reviewed and changed to reflect the current times. The Board agreed to further discuss at the next Chief's meeting.*

Company 3: Inquired as to the recent photos and when would they be available.

*Chief Speranza indicated that the photos would arrive this week and that each Company will receive copies.*

Company 4: Noticed that no one is utilizing low band when returning from a scene.

*Chief Speranza stated that it could be due to the fact that we have been utilizing Channel 1 and 4, yet would be discussed at the next Chiefs meeting.*

Company 5: No report

Borough Chief: Questioned FF William Zigelhoffer's status in the Department as he has failed to respond to the Department's letter and the Company 4 was to handle.

Asst. Chief Van Hook advised that he would follow up with FF Zigelhoffer as to his status and will report back to the Board.

*Chief Speranza stated we would need to know of his intentions within 5 days or the Department will send a final letter.*

**New Business:**

**Oath of Office:**

Company 1: No report

Company 2: Requested a natural gas meter

*Chief Speranza stated that it would be ordered in 2008 as we are receiving many more natural gas alarms and it is an important safety tool.*

Company 3: No report

Company 4: No report

Company 5: No report

Chief: The mayor and administration needs copies of all members blue light permits. We are also encountering more CO alarms and that we must be more cognizant when we respond.

Also, introduced was Reverend Kenneth J. Vanderwall of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Reverend Vanderwall is being considered for the Department photographer with a possible induction in January 2008.

**Good & Welfare:**

CO 1: Wished all members and their families a safe, Happy Holiday & a Happy New Year.

CO 2: “ “

CO 3: “ “

CO 4: “ “

CO5: “ “

Chief Speranza:

*Chief Speranza temporarily closed the Fire Board session and opened the meeting to anyone from the floor wishing to be heard.*

FF Richard McAuliffe stated that the Passaic County would be offering Heavy Rescue Class. The cost is yet to be determined and will be decimated accordingly.

Lieut. David Silvestri inquired as to the Golf Committee and if we will include North Haledon.

*Chief stated we would look to start the Committee after the Holiday and that we would ask North Haledon.*

Asst. Chief Van Ek also added that he would look into the courses and a place to host the after diner.

*No other requests were made form the floor, the meeting was re-opened to the Fire Board.*

Motion by Asst. Chief Van Ek, second by Asst. Chief Smith the meeting is adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted**

***John Tripicchio***

John Tripicchio  
**Board Secretary**