



Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Minutes of the meeting held on September 02, 2008.

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

MINUTES

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

BILLS

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

Verizon	\$53.34	Verizon	\$25.75
AT &T	\$48.28	CO 1-4 rent	\$6,200.00
CO 5 rent	\$450.00	CO 1-5 Phone	\$225.00
Asst Chief 1-5 phone	\$150.00	Chief Joseph Speranza	\$30.00
Clerk John Tripicchio	\$30.00	Verizon Wireless	\$125.87
The Fire Store	\$474.49	Ace Hardware	\$13.99
AAA Emergency Supply	\$564.30	BC Communication	\$117.00
AAA Emergency	\$458.41	Safety Line Fire	\$64.00
Baudville Printing	\$695.60	Verizon	\$52.14
AT &T	\$46.90	Verizon	\$26.37
Yankee Propane	\$36.00	BC Communication	\$1,769.75
The Fire Store	\$121.49	Ken's Auto Service	\$1,296.82
Ridgewood Typewriter	\$143.80	BC Communication	\$125.00
Tri-lex	\$101.65	Ace Hardware	\$207.68

Communications:

- A medical note was received from FF Tom Kennedy requesting a leave of absence until the remainder of the year due to ongoing medical issues.
- A letter was received from the Vittorio family expressing appreciation and accepting the suggestion that a brick be purchased in memory of

John Vittorio which would be installed in the new NY Yankee Stadium.

- Letters were received from Borough residents Patrick J Reynolds, Jason P Frank and Joseph Fitzpatrick requesting to join the Department.

The Board approved the FF Kennedy's medical leave of absence.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst. Chief Smith reported for the month of August 2008 CO 1 responded to: 31 box alarms, held 2 training, 2 drill's, 0 radio alarms and 0 still alarm for a total of 35 alarms.

Engine 1's wind up siren is out of service and in need of repairs.

Engine 1 has extended an invitation to each company's members who would like to attend this year's Wallington Holiday Parade. If interested please contact Asst. Chief Smith for further details.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Company #2

Asst. Chief Vanderhook reported for the month of August 2008 CO 2 responded to: 27 box alarms, held 03 drills, 0 radio alarms, 0 mutual aid calls and 0 still alarms for a total of 30 alarms.

All firefighters and equipment are in good condition.

Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of August 2008 Engine 3 responded to: 29 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, held 3 drill's, 0 mutual aid call, 2 still alarms and 0 training for a total of 34 alarms.

Engine 3's annual preventative maintenance and pump certification has been completed. First Priority will need to re inspect one of the air suction valves they had once repaired as it appears it was not working properly.

One SCBA is out for repairs.

All firefighters and equipment are in working order.

Company #4

Asst. Chief Geier reported for the month of August 2008 Engine 4 responded to: 30 box alarms, 2 still alarm, 1 radio alarm, and held 3 drill's for a total of 36 alarms.

One SCBA bottle needs repair.

The number five side discharge is in need of repair.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Company #5

Asst. Chief Gurriell reported that for the month of August 2008 that Company 5 responded to: 30 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 1 training and 2 drills for a total of 33 alarms.

The Rescue trucks awning has been inspected by First Priority. They will be ordering the part so that awning may be repaired.

The new boat has been picked up and is ready for registration. A letter is being requested to be sent to the Borough so that the boat is properly registered.

A recent safety issue has been raised in regards to the "O Cutter" on the Hurst tool.

The report established that due to the new vehicle construction the O cutter is outdated as it could break and cause injury or a catastrophic failure could occur.

All equipment and Truck are in good working order.

Borough Chief's report:

I thank all of the members that attended the Department drill held on August 25, 2008 at the Hawthorne High School. A formal critique of the drill will occur this week.

Due to the upcoming Wildwood Convention it is requested that each Asst. Chief return a head count of who will be attending the September 11 thru 13, 2008 convention so that we may insure we have proper coverage. It is also noted that during this time all alarms will be full box alarms.

It is requested that all line officers be cognizant of line officer seniority concerning acting on response decisions. I also reinforce that each Asst. Chief are to call in service while responding to their apparatus in my absence.

It is also reiterated as in times past that that it is the duty of each responding member respond directly to their apparatus and not go directly to the scene. This is especially true during the day when there is a lack of man power and a piece of equipment is unable to respond due to lack of man power.

Any member that rides in the apparatus officer's seat (in an absence of an Officer) should be aware of their responsibility. Any member in that seat will carry the same responsibility as a line officer once they arrive on scene and should be able to establish command should they need to.

Downes Tree Service will assist the Department in moving the blocks for the training center on Saturday, September 27, beginning at 9:00am. Any member that may assist should contact their Assistant Chief or Chief Speranza so that work may be distributed accordingly.

Open House is scheduled for October 12, 2008. A clean up of Fire Headquarters is scheduled for October 5, 2008 at 10:00 am. Again any available member please contact Chief Speranza or you respective Asst.Chief.

Upon an approval by the Board, an application will be forwarded to the Borough and County for a blanket toss. These funds would be collected to assist the training center and toward obtaining a new Ladies Auxiliary Van. If granted the blanket toss would take place on October 5, 2008 & October 11, 2008 between 9:00am to 3:00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 03, 2008 - Officer's Drill Critique 7:30pm
September 6, 2008- Engine 1 Wyckoff Firework details
September 6, 2008- Rescue 5 NH Parade / Firework detail
September 11 thru 14, 2008 – Convention week
September 22, 2008 – Wyckoff drill Rescue 5 & Engine Company
September 27, 2008 9:00am – Training Center Clean up

October 5, 2008- 10:00 am Head Quarter Clean up
(Tentative) October 5, 2008 – October 11, 2008 9 am 3pm Blanket Toss
October 12, 2008 – Open House / Fire Prevention
October 20, 2008- Driver Drill

Committees:

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

Training Committee: The Safety Officers will be undertaking new roles in the upcoming months. They will be responsible for conducting the driver's drill in October.

Ladies Auxiliary: Fish & Chips will be held on October 15, 2008. The dinner will be held at Company #1 and will commence at 5:30pm. The Ladies Auxiliary is requesting an extra key for the van so that vehicle checks can be done more efficiently.

Communication Committee: No report at this time.

Fund Drive: No report at this time.

In School Program: No report at this time.

Van Hook Scholarship: No report at this time.

Open House: Assignment has been handed out to each company.

Bon Fire: No report at this time.

By Laws Ordinance: No report at this time.

Old Business:

Company 1: Company 1 reiterated the suggestion by the Vittorio family (brick at Yankee Stadium) was well received by the members.

**Chief Speranza stated that once we secure what is to be displayed on the brick we will send out the check immediately.*

Company 2: Requested a status on the Right to Know Classes.

**Chief Speranza stated that we will need to contact Safety Director Jennifer Scully for the remaining classes.*

Also, inquired as to every Company's decision pertaining to the annual Inspection.

A discussion took place and it was globally agreed that the Department would adhere to the Borough Ordinance. It was also agreed that should an inspection take place it could be conducted at the Memorial Day Parade as ever member is in full dress.

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: One battery for the 504's radio and two pairs of boots are needed for two firefighters.

Chief Speranza stated that all of the items are at Fire Headquarters.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

Oath of Office: None at this time

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Requested that there are 2 transfers that have yet to complete the required paperwork. Further neither of them are in good standings.

The board discussed that the at the next Chief's meetings the two transferee's must be present to further discuss their transfer before they can do so.

Company 3: The Juniors will be presenting their progress reports and will be placed in each Asst Chief's mailboxes. They will also be rotating to each Company in the upcoming weeks.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time

Chief: DPW will be re painting the hydrants. It was suggested by the Board that we send a letter to DPW to see if they can add a reflective paint in the roadway so that it is easier to see at night.

Good & Welfare:

CO 1: Regrets the passing of Company 1 member Elmer Von Susskel.

CO 2: Thanked the Department for attending Ex Asst. Chief Herman Hazen's Visitation.

FF Robert Bell had a minor heart surgery and is recovering at home.

CO 3: No report at this time.

CO 4: No report at this time.

CO5: No report at this time.

Chief: No report at this time.

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

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

A Motion by Asst. Chief Smith, second by Asst. Chief Geier that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Tripicchio

John Tripicchio
Board Secretary