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Borough of Hawthorne
Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Minutes of the meeting held on January 06, 2009.

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

MINUTES

The previous Minutes were read. A motion to accept the Minutes as read was made by Asst Chief Geier and Asst. Chief Van Ek.

BILLS

No Bills were read at this meeting.

Communications:

- A Thank you card was received from Diane Kennedy for flowers sent.
- A Season Greetings was sent by ex-ff Tony Desalvo.
- A leave of absence was requested by FF Kenneth Silvestri that would begin on January 15, 2009, and return on April 15, 2009.
- FF William Smith requested a personal leave of absence for (6) six months.
- An apology letter was received from Borough resident Stratton Drivanos regarding the Fire Department go-kart incident.
- The 2009 Passaic County Community College schedule was received (copy to Chief's).
- A communication from the Passaic County Community College indicating that the Heavy Rescue class will commence Monday & Wednesday nights beginning April 06, 2009 6:30-10:30pm,

and on four (4) Saturdays from 8:00 am – 5:00pm. (Copy to Chief's)

- A communication as received from the St Barnabas Burn Foundation stating that on Saturday January 17, 2009 from 9:00am to 3:00pm they will be conducting a Fire Fighter Health and Safety Seminar. (Copy to Chief's).
- A communication was received from the Burn Center at St Barnabas informing of their 22nd Annual NJ Firefighter race. It will take place on February 22, 2009 at Hidden Valley. For info call Mark Welleron (609) 259 5958. (Posted)

The Board approved the leave of absence for Kenneth Silvestri and granted a (3) month leave of absence for William Smith.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst Chief Mark Smith reported for the month of December 2008 Company 1 responded to: 26 box alarms, held 1 training, 0 drill's, 0 radio alarms and 5 still alarm for a total of 32 alarms.

Company 1 received (5) five-highway vests and (2) two nozzle mounts.

The Firematic Officer's for 2009: Asst Chief Mark Smith
Capt. Jay Counselor
1st Lieut. John Arturi
2nd Lieut. Chris Dibella

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Company #2

Asst. Chief Vanderhook reported for the month of December 2008 Company 2 responded to: 25 box alarms, held 0 drills, 0 radio alarms, 2 mutual aid calls and 0 still alarms for a total of 27 alarms.

Company 2 received (5) highway safety vests.

The Firematic Officers for 2009 are: Asst. Chief Anthony Divincent
Capt. George Weber
1st Lieut. John Marsch
2nd Lieut. William Redmon

All firefighters and equipment are in good condition.

Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of December 2008 Company 3 responded to: 26 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, held 0 drills, 0 mutual aid call, 0 still alarms and 0 training for a total of 26 alarms.

LOSAP certifications have been handed in.

FF Kenneth Silvestri requested a leave of absence for (3) months from January 15, 2009 – April 15, 2009.

The air horn on the apparatus is sporadically working and repair is being requested.

The Firematic Officer's for 2009 are: Asst. Chief Jared an Ek
Captain Joseph Longo
1st Lieut. Robert Lamb III
2nd Lieut. Andrew Massey

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

Company #4

Asst. Chief Geier reported for the month of December 2008 Company 4 responded to: 27 box alarms, 4 still alarm's, 2 radio alarm, and held 2 drill's for a total of 35 alarms.

Engine 4 passenger side intake drain valve was in need of repair. Vendor First Priority will be ordering the parts for the repair.

The Firematic officers for 2009 are: Asst. Chief James Geier
Captain Michael Nelson
1st Lieut. Dave Sylvester
2nd Lieut. Peter Vandervelde

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Company #5

Asst Chief John Gurriell reported that for the month of December 2008 that Company 5 responded to: 32 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 1 training and 2 drills for a total of 35 alarms.

Rescue 5's multi gas and the natural gas calibration gas are on order.

The awning on the truck has been repaired and extra parts have been stored for future repairs.

The Firematic Officer's for 2009 are: Asst. Chief John Gurriell
Captain Brian Warner
1st Lieut. Ronald Hill
2nd Lieut. Salvatore Occchipinti

All equipment and Truck are in good working order.

Borough Chief's report:

Wishes all members and their families a happy and healthy 2009 Year.

On Behalf of the Board thanked Asst. Chief Brian Vanderhook for his years of service as an Officer of the Department. Welcomed incoming Asst. Chief Anthony DiVincent on his new position.

Also, thanked all members that assisted in the Toy Drive as well as those who had attended the annual Bon Fire. As to the Bon Fire it was discussed with Mayor Goldberg of a possible merge with the Borough to host the Bon Fire next year. More information is being gathered and details will follow.

The Borough will be hosting a Hawthorne Day Picnic scheduled for September 2009. A committee is being formed and Chief Speranza will be the Department liaison. As information is known, it will be distributed accordingly.

All Officers must document all driver trainings. It is asked that all driver trainings be on a separate training sheet so that in the event this information is need it is readily available. Increased drivers training will commence in 2009.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 11, 2009 - Re organizational Officer meeting (9:00 am at HQ).

February 2009 - (Ladder testing)

March 21, 2009 - (Tentative Installation Dinner)

September 2009 (Tentative) Borough of Hawthorne Picnic

October 11, 2009 - Open House / Fire Prevention

Committees:

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

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.

In School Program: No report at this time

Van Hook Scholarship: No report at this time.

Open House: No report at this time

Toy Drive: Rich McAuliffe advised the annual Toy Drive was a success. The Department will be scheduling 2 fundraisers in 2009 for the program. Thanked all members that attended.

By Laws /Ordinance: Lieut. John Arturi Ordinances are completed and the 1st reading will be read tonight.

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: Requested the status on Fire Fighting I classes. Also, inquired as to the parts for Engine that was requested in December.

Chief Speranza stated that there are ongoing issues and he will rectify at the next Mutual Aid County meeting. As to the parts they were ordered and we would follow up with the vendor.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

At this time Asst. Chief Brian Vanderhook exited and Asst. Chief Anthony Divincent entered in his place.

Oath of Office: None at this time.

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.

Chief: No report at this time.

Clerk Tripicchio conducted the 1st reading of changes in the Fire Department Borough's Ordinances 17:1 Creation & Establishment, 17:2 Composition, 17:4 Eligibility of Office, 17:5 Elections, 17:6 Active membership, 17:8 Transfer, 17:13 Duties of members

A 2nd reading will commence at next Fire Board.

Good & Welfare:

The Board collectively thanked Asst. Chief Brian Vanderhook for his time served on the Board and as well as serving as an Officer in the Department. The Board then congratulated incoming Asst. Chief Anthony Divincent.

CO 1: No report at this time

CO 2: FF Jacob Baum's wife, Joyce Baum has entered the Christian Health Care Program.

CO 3: Thanked all that had attended and participated in Daniel J. Oliver's visitation.

CO 4: Ex Asst. Chief Brian Van Hooks' wife, Joann Van Hook was taken to the hospital for asthma complications.

CO 5: Reported that FF Dominic Savastano hand injury required surgery and more surgery might be needed.

Chief: Looks forward to working with all of the 2009 elected officers.

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

A Motion by Asst. Chief Van Ek, second by Asst. Chief Divincent that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Tripicchio

**John Tripicchio
Board Secretary**