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Borough of Hawthorne  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

**Minutes of the meeting held on October 06, 2009.**

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. Mark Smith, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief Anthony DiVincent, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief James Geier, and Rescue Company 5: Lieut. Salvatore Occhipinti.

**MINUTES**

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

Motion by Asst. Chief Geier and Asst. Chief DiVincent, that the following bills are approved and to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration:

**BILLS**

Verizon	\$56.98	Verizon	\$3.12
Gilby's	\$360.00	Swissphone	\$1,376.76
A & C Green Cleaner	\$125.00	Absorbentonline	\$662.62
Ace Hardware	\$7.37	DMS	\$761.00
Atlantic Detroit Diesel	\$288.73	AT&T	\$42.92
Passaic Cnty College	\$125.00	Joel Tanis & Sons	\$320.00
Joseph Speranza	\$21.40	Fergman's Equipment	\$378.00
Verizon Wireless	\$152.88	Ken's Auto	\$898.50
Guard Line	\$4,705.00	Occ. Health Dynamic	\$540.00
John Tripicchio	\$239.57	Joseph Speranza	\$53.48
CO 1-5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr phone	\$225.00	CO 1-4 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Rent	\$6200.00
CO 5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Rent	\$450.00	Joseph Speranza 3 <sup>rd</sup> Phone	\$30.00
John Tripicchio 3 <sup>rd</sup> Phone	\$30.00	Mark Smith 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Phone	\$30.00
Anthony DiVincent 3 <sup>rd</sup> Phone	\$30.00	Gates Flag & Banner	\$147.30
Jared Vanek 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Phone	\$30.00	Jim Geier 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Phone	\$30.00
John Gurriell 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr phone	\$30.00	Federated Emg. Repair	\$813.47
Communication	\$3,220.02	MES Inc.	\$590.59
Fire Service	\$675.00	Fire Companies	\$239.97
Ken's Auto Electric	\$1,499.20	Fire Store.Com	\$467.14
		B & C	
		Technical	

## **Communications:**

- A Thank You card was received from Suzanne Shortway-DeAugustines thanking the Department for saving their home from further fire damage (radiant heat) due to a vacant commercial building fire across the street on September 23, 2009.
- The Hawthorne Ecumenical Council formally invited the Department to participate in their annual CROP walk to be held on Sunday October 25, 2009. The walk begins at 4:00 pm. To participate call 973 427 4098.
- A letter accompanied by a medical note was received from FF Frank LaRosa requesting a medical leave of absence due to a heel fracture.
- A letter from FF Albert Anema was received advising that he is returning to active duty.

*The Board accepted FF LaRosa's three (3) month medical leave of absence.*

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Mark Smith reported that for the month of September 2009, Company 1 responded to: 18 box alarm's, held 2 training's, 1 drill's, 1 radio alarm and 2 still alarm's for a total of 24 alarms.

*Company 1 received a letter from FF Frank LaRosa requesting a (3) three-month medical leave of absence.*

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Engine 1 is in fair working order.

### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief DiVincent reported for the month of September 2009, Company 2 responded to: 19 box alarms, 0 mutual aid calls, 0 still alarm, 1 radio alarm and held 2 drills, for a total of 22 alarms.

Both the Truck and ladder has been serviced yet, there is still some outstanding issues that need to be addressed.

(1) One spare SCBA bottles is still out of service.

All firefighters and equipment are in good condition.

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of September 2009, Company 3 responded to: 18 box alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 0 radio alarm, held 1 drill, 0 chief's call, 0 still alarm and held 0 training for a total of 19 alarms.

(1) One quartz light is not functioning and is in need of repair.

Engine 3 received vendor, Waterway's pump testing report.

FF Albert Anema has returned back to active duty.

(1) One SCBA has been taken out of service, as it is no longer retaining the air supply when filled.

All firefighters and equipment are in working order.

### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Geier reported for the month of September 2009, Company 4 responded to: 18 box alarms, 0 still alarm, 1 radio alarm, 0 Chief's call, 0 mutual aid calls, and held 2 drills for a total of 21 alarms.

Engine 4 is researching prices for a 2½-inch Akron hydrant valve, model # 1828 for a supply line and a 1 ½ gated Y which both are in need of replacement.

Company 4 has received a letter of resignation from FF William Smith. All equipment was recovered with the exception of his hat badges and breast badge. A letter from the Board was recommended in order to insure we secure those outstanding items.

FF Keith Lettich inquired upon return from military leave requested that he continue Fire Fighter service with Engine Company 4.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

### **Company #5**

Lieut. Salvatore Occhipinti reported that for the month of September 2009, Company 5 responded to: 18 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 training, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 1 drill for a total of 19 alarms.

The service to repair the cab windows is still pending.

(1) One bank charger was received.

A combo kit and rotary hammer both are out of service. Both need to be replaced and prices are being researched.

Company 5 will be attending Verona's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade on Saturday October 10, 2009.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

### **Borough Chief Speranza Report:**

Thanked all of the members for an outstanding job at the Goffle Road and Rock Road Fire on September 23, 2009.

The Hawthorne Day was a great success for the Borough. The Department was assigned Logistics as well as monitoring the Firework show.

Thanks to all of the members that assisted that day which contributed and making the event a success.

The NJ State (hereinafter "State") Tanker is in need of air bag (brakes) repair. The agreement was made between Hawthorne and Passaic County (hereinafter "County") that all repairs will be paid for and conducted by the County. Numerous attempts were made with the County to make the necessary repairs yet, no response or acknowledgement was ever received.

Last week a call from a career Department inquired as to accepting the Foam Tender. The Department has never authorized or been informed that the Tanker was to be removed from Hawthorne. It appears that either State or the County authorized this without the consent or discussion with the Department.

Further inquiries with both agencies are being conducted as to removal of the Tanker from the Department's inventory due to the undermining of the Department as well as no response as to the repairs needed for the Tanker.

The Department website will be launched at the Open House. A communication will be in this week's Hawthorne Press relaying that information.

The Fire Prevention in school program will be conducted beginning with Roosevelt School on October 13, 2009. All interested members should meet at headquarters by 8:30 am. All other schools are in the process of contacting us to schedule additional dates. Once the dates are known they will be advised accordingly.

A reminder that the driver's confidence program will take place on October 25, 2009. This program will be held at the Passaic County Fire Academy (times to follow).

All clothing allowance percentages must be certified and handed to Clerk Tripicchio no later than October 25, 2009.

OSHA Department physicals will be held on Sunday November 11, 2009 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon and on October 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

*Dates to Remember:*

**October 11, 2009- Department Open House**

**October 13, 2009 IN School program (Roosevelt)**

**October 25, 2009: Driver Confidence Course (Passaic County Fire Academy)**

**November 02, 2009 – Chief's Election (Borough Hall)**

**November 11, 2009 – 10 am- 12 noon OSHA Department Physicals (Headquarters)**

**November 12, 2009 – 7:00pm–8:30pm OSHA Department Physicals (Headquarters)**

**Communication Division:**

Communication Division stated that they responded to 04 alarms, 2 work details and held 2 meetings for a total of 9 alarms.

(1) One RACES radio is not working.

All members, radio, computer and recording equipment in the Radio Room and Field Comm are in good working order.

Fire Prevention: No report at this time.

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time

Fund Drive: No report at this time.

In School Program: October 13, 2009 8:30 am Roosevelt School.

Van Hook Scholarship: Chairperson Frank Vittorio thanked all members that sold the tickets.

Open House: No report at this time.

Toy Drive: No report.

Mutual Aid Meeting: No report at this time

Juniors: No report at this time.

Web Site: Companies are requested to submit photos / info for the website.

**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: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

**New Business:**

Oath of Office: Sterluis Castillo was sworn in and will be assigned to Company 5.

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: As there will be an uncontested Chief's election this year it was recommended that the Department continue it's tradition by sounding the "horns".

*Chief Speranza thanked all and agreed that the horns will sound off on November 02, 2009.*

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: Due to an uncontested Chief's elections and with the current Ordinances or past practices never covered the uncontested Chief election the Board will need to address this particular issue.

On November 02, 2009 the Board's Secretary will cast One (1) ballot.

*The Board approved and endorsed this practice for this year's Chief election and will work on a new Election Ordinance to include uncontested Chief's election.*

**Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: FF Frank La Rosa is recovering.

Company 2: No report at this time.

Company 3: Raffle tickets are being sold for a 210 Harley anyone interested contact any Company 3 member. The drawing will take place April 2010.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time

Chiefs Report: 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.

FF Gerry Flanagan thanked Company 5 for assisting Company 4 at the Goffle Road Fire.

FF Frank Vittorio advised that the safety trailer was not available to us this year.

*Chief advised to secure the trailer for our 2010 Open House.*

FF Frank Vittorio also requested that each elected Safety Officer should have a helmet shield so that they can be identified.

*The Board approved that each elected Safety Officer should have a helmet shield.*

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

A Motion was made by Asst. Chief DiVincent, second by Asst. Chief Smith that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Tripicchio*

John Tripicchio  
Board Secretary