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Borough of Hawthorne
Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Minutes of the meeting held on April 05, 2011.

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:32pm, with a salute to the flag. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief James Counsellor, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief George Webber, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: 1st Asst. Chief James Geier, and Rescue Company 5: Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Geier to dispense the previous Minutes while a second Motion was made by, Asst. Chief Weber.

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Van Ek and second from Asst. Chief Warner that the following bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator in consideration for payment:

BILLS

Ronald Walker	\$95.00	HFD Reimbursement	\$77.52
Northern NJ Council	\$350.00	HFD Reimbursement	\$281.75
Triangle Trophy	\$48.50	AAA Emergency Service	\$330.50
Tanis Hardware	\$148.70	AT &T	\$45.00
Federated Emer Service	\$2,618.54	Federated Emer. Service	\$1,224.80
Paramus Ford	\$1,693.73	AAA Emergency Service	\$993.16
Hawthorne Hitch	\$21.36	Fire Service Safety	\$1,016.90
Ken's Auto Electric	\$3,895.00	Godwin Tool	\$80.71
CO 1-4 rent (\$1,550)	\$6,200.00	CO 5 rent	\$450.00
CO1- 5 Phone	\$225.00	James Counsellor	\$30.00
George Webber	\$30.00	Jared Van Ek	\$30.00
James Geier	\$30.00	Brian Warner	\$30.00
Joseph Speranza	\$30.00	John Tripicchio	\$30.00
Verizon	\$49.41	Verizon	\$59.30
Godwin Tool Co	\$959.97	B &C Communication	\$3,363.75
State Line Fire & Safety	\$569.40	Federated Emer Service	\$252.41
Verizon Wireless	\$118.51	Federated Emer Service	\$1,811.57

Federated Emer Service \$3,254.83

Communications:

- A 6-month leave of absence was requested by, Ex Chief Victor Tamburro
- A letter of intent was received by Chris Geier who resides in Hawthorne and was requested to be assigned to Company 4.
- Received completed application's submitted by Zachary Hine, Alexsei Shoomiloff and Nicholas Canova.
- The Milltown FD will host their 100th Anniversary on Saturday June 04, 2011 from 12-5 pm. For more info www.Milltownfire.org.
- Received thank you letter from Ambulance Corps Ex-Chief Kenneth Houtsma for the years of service and camaraderie plaque presented to him on behalf of the Department.
- The Passaic County 200 Club will be hosting the annual Valor Awards Dinner on Tuesday May, 03, 2011. The Award dinner will take place at the Brownstone in Paterson NJ.
- Received change of address letter from FF David Vander Wiele.
- Communication from the West Milford Fire Department who will be hosting a head shaving event to benefit Conquer the Kids Cancer Foundation. For more info call 1 888 899 bald or visit the St. Baldricks website.
- Received Medical note from Bruce M. Berberian MDPA for Lieut. George Loddder from February 02, 28, 2011 until further notice.

The Board of Fire Commissioners collectively tabled the 6 month leave of absence from Ex Chief Tamburro. The Board recommended to accept 3 month's at time for all members. Based on the aforementioned decision, a 3 month leave of absence was granted for Ex Chief Tamburro.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Asst. Chief Counsellor reported that for the month of March 2011, Company 1 responded to: 28 box alarm's, held 5 training's, 0 drills, 0 radio alarm, 0 Chief's call and 2 still alarm, for a total of 35 alarms.

All firefighters and other than above equipment mentioned issues are in good working order.

Company #2

Asst. Chief Webber reported for the month of March 2011, Company 2 responded to: 24 box alarms, 3 still alarms, 0 chiefs call, 0 radio alarm, 3 mutual aid calls, 0 stand by 0 training's and held 3 drills, for a total of 33 alarms.

Received two (2) New York roof poles that will be placed in service upon completion of training.

Requested additional four (4) pagers as six (6) were previously requested and only two (2) were repaired.

The rotation of junior fire fighters has been completed. The junior program is a huge success and thanks to the committee and trainers for the efforts as it showed up in the junior fire fighters when training.

The Truck and all firefighters are in good working order.

Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of March 2011, Company 3 responded to: 21 box alarms, 1 drill, 0 radio alarm, 1 still alarm, 2 standby's, 1 mutual aid and held 2 training's for a total of 28 alarms.

Necessary minor changes were conducted at the Fire house in anticipation of OSHA inspection.

The roll up door on the apparatus is in need of repair. Vendor Federated Emergency Services is waiting for parts in order to conduct repairs.

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

Company #4

Asst. Chief Geier reported for the month of March 2011, Company 4 responded to: 22 box alarms, 4 still alarms, 1 radio alarm, 2 trainings, 0 standby's, 0 Chief call, 0 mutual aid calls and held 1 drill for a total of 30 alarms.

Engine 4 received a total of 900 ft. of 5-inch hose which has been placed in service. In addition to the 5-inch hose, 450 feet of 3 ½ supply line is also on the apparatus.

A 5-inch gate valve is the process of being delivered.

One (1) pager was received for FF Stephanie Hill.

Vendor Ken's Auto has repaired the right rear tripod light receptacle.

Other than the above-mentioned items, all equipment and members are in good working order.

Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported that for the month of March 2011, Company 5 responded to: 30 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 0 standby's, 0 training, 2drills for a total of 32 alarms

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Borough Chief Speranza Report:

The St. Anthony's feast will commence from June 08 thru 11, 2011. The traffic pattern will change and the Department will be guided accordingly should we need to respond to that area.

There will be construction conducted on Lafayette Avenue Extension near Braen Avenue in the upcoming weeks. The Department needs to be cognizant of the daily construction as to traffic pattern and when responding to that area.

The new Traffic Safety Guideline was developed and handed out to the Assistant Chiefs.

The mandatory OSHA requirements and repairs were completed at Head Quarters, as the inspection pertains to the individual fire houses, OSHA inspectors will need to contact the President of that Company in order to gain access.

The Borough Ordinance Committee is considering reducing the clothing allowance percentage of 33 1/3 to 20% for members with 20 plus years of service. Details will follow once more information is received.

A member has been contacting the Borough rather than going through the Board of Fire Commissioners to secure information on alleged various issues with the Department. This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated as the Department has a chain of command via the Board of Fire Commissioners who is the governing body of the Department. Any concerns / questions concerning any issue within the Department should go through their respective Assistant Chief's.

Upon securing the permits a Department drill will take place on April 20, 2011 at 7:30pm with details to follow.

A reminder the Volunteer Service Dinner / Centennial Celebration will be held on May 19, 2011 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Indian Trail Country Club. This dinner will be presented by the Christian Health Care Center.

Dates to Remember:

May 03, 2010 200 - Club Valor Awards Dinner (Brownstone)

May 19, 2011 Volunteer Services Dinner (Eastern Christian Heath Center).

June 05, 2011- (tentative) Awards Dinner.

October 01, 2011 – Open House / Hawthorne Day.

COMMITTEES

Communication Division: No report at this time

Fire Prevention: Will be placed in the mailboxes of each Assistant Chief.

Ladies Auxiliary: Requested status as to the permit for the upcoming coin drive.

Chief Speranza will follow up with same.

Junior's/ Explorer Program: No report at this time

Safety Officer's – A template of a new accountability board was handed out to the Assistant Chiefs for review. Once the board has been reviewed and accepted a new accountability board will be manufactured to the specification so that we can began to utilize one (1) accountability Board.

Chief Speranza endorsed the change and added that the key to the procedure is that discipline will be required by all members to use the sole board.

A meeting will take place on Monday April 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm to solidify process.

In School Program: No report at this time.

Van Hook Scholarship: Requested the updated raffle permit.

Chief Speranza will look into the certificate.

Open House: Will take place at the Hawthorne Day (October 1, 2011).

Mutual Aid Meeting: No report at this time.

Junior'/ Explorer Program: No report at this time.

Web Site: No report at this time.

Hawthorne Day: No report at this time.

Old Business:

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Inquired as to the Open House date.

Chief Speranza advised that the Open House will take place during Hawthorne Day. This allows the greatest amount of attendance by a general audience.

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: The Department completed its SOP/ SOG's manual and the Respiratory manual that will be housed in the Chief's office.

The 3rd and final reading of the By Law 17-5 election section 2 (E) was conducted and accepted.

New Business:

Oath of Office: Alexsei Shoomiloff (CO1), Nicholas Canova (CO1) and Zachary Hine (CO2) were all sworn in.

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Requested a 5-inch hose roller.

Chief Speranza stated that the budget was approved and it will be ordered.

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.

Good & Welfare:

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: *Lieut. George Lodder is recovering.*

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: Krystle Hughes has been hospitalized due to a rare virus / infection. As developments are learned we will be updated accordingly.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

Chief Speranza temporarily closed the Fire Board session and opened the meeting to public.

Borough Chief Tamburro asked Chief Speranza as to the 6 month leave of absence and also presented the Board with Minutes of a prior 2010 Fire Board indicating that the Board had previously approved a prior member a 6 month of leave of absence.

Chief Tamburro was informed that that particular member was in a 6 month in house rehabilitation program and due to the extenuating circumstances the Board granted the 6 month leave of absence which was the length of the rehabilitation program.

The board vowed that they would uphold the 3 month leave of absence to all members across the board.

Ex Asst. Chief Joseph Metzler inquired if a letter was sent to the FF Phil program.

Chief Spearza was under the impression it was sent. Clerk Tripicchio clarified that the last discussion was that the Advisory Board was to investigate the allegations and report back to the Board for final thoughts before a letter was sent out.

Chief stated that a letter will be sent to FF Phil so that we can resolve this issue.

Ex Asst. Chief Joseph Metzler requested if the Board considered the recommendations of the audit.

Chief Speranza that recommendations are being considered and will further be tabled by the Board.

Ex. Asst. Chief Joseph Metzler asked if all of the bills read were previously encumbered.

Chief Speranza stated that they were not. These are bills that were not going to be submitted until the budget was approved.

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

A Motion was made by Asst. Chief Geier, second by Asst. Chief Counsellor that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Tripicchio
Board Secretary
