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Borough of Hawthorne  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

**Minutes of the meeting held on February 01, 2011.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Peter VanDerVelde, and Rescue Company 5: Capt. Edward Sutherland.

**MINUTES**

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

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

**BILLS**

Federated Emer. Service	\$1,600.00	Verizon Wireless	\$141.51
AT &T	\$141.51	Edward Sutherland	\$78.50
Verizon	\$52.70	Verizon	\$60.83
Passaic Cnty 200 Club	\$250.00	Verizon Wireless	\$255.79
Ricoh	\$133.78	Life Savers	\$243.58
PA Auto Parts	\$7.13	Superior Distributors	\$366.36
AAA Emergency	\$297.00	B/C Communication	\$582.00
Bill Fox LLC	\$591.60	Triangle Trophy	\$25.00
AAA Emergency	\$55.70	All Hands Fire Equip.	\$102.98
Safe T Inc	\$410.00	Tanis Hardware	\$558.69
Kens Auto Service	\$319.10	Salamander Tech	\$50.00

## **Communications:**

- A 3 - month leave of absence extension was requested by, Ex. Asst. Chief George Degroot.
- A medical note was received for FF Joseph Wojtecki who may return to active duty effective January 25, 2011.
- A letter of intent to join the Department from Borough resident Justin Molnar was received (CO2).

*The Board of Fire Commissioners collectively granted extension for the leave of absence to Ex. Asst. Chief Degroot and also to FF Wojtecki's return to active duty.*

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Counsellor reported that for the month of January 2011, Company 1 responded to: 26 box alarm's, held 4 training's, 1 drill, 1 radio alarm, and 1 still alarm, 2 stand by's for a total of 35 alarms.

The heater in the rear cab has yet to be repaired.

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

### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief Webber reported for the month of January 2011, Company 2 responded to: 24 box alarms, 8 still alarms, 2 chiefs call, 0 radio alarm, 0 mutual aid, 0 stand by 0 training's and held 1 drill, for a total of 35 alarms.

FF George Lodder was elected and accepted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant position.

The Bullard Thermal Imaging camera is currently out of service awaiting new batteries.

One (1) Bosch charger and two (2) new Bosch batteries were received.

Thanked all that attended Walt Marston's mother visitation.

The Truck and all firefighters are in good working order.

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of January 2011, Company 3 responded to: 25 box alarms, 1 drill, 0 radio alarm, 3 still alarms, 2 stand by, 1 mutual aid and held 0 training's for a total of 32 alarms.

Federated Emergency Services still need to repair two (2) valves; the magnets for the rear roll up door sensor and the drain line.

FF Joseph Wojtecki is able to return to active duty effective January 25, 2011.

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

### **Company #4**

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut VandDerVelde reported for the month of January 2011, Company 4 responded to: 25 box alarms, 2 still alarms, 0 radio alarms, 1 training, 2 standby's, 0 Chief call, 1 mutual aid calls and held 0 drill for a total of 31 alarms.

One (1) HT 1000 battery

One (1) Strobe light for apparatus

Additional 300 feet of 5 inch hose

One (1) 5 – inch gate valve is still needed.

Two (2) small SCBA masks are being requested at this time.

Batteries for AED

FF Mark Walker injured hand and a medical note is forthcoming.

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

### **Company #5**

Capt. Sutherland reported that for the month of January 2011, Company 5 responded to: 25 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 2 standby's, 1 training, 3 drills for a total of 31 alarms

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

## **Borough Chief Speranza Report:**

Thanked all the members that had attended FF Marston's mother's visitation and all of the members that stood by for the two (2) snow storms.

In anticipation of future inclement winter weather, the Department was detailed to assist the Borough and shovel out hydrants. A communication will be printed in the Hawthorne Press to have the resident's assist in "digging out" hydrants and also have consideration when parking to allow 1<sup>st</sup> responders to respond without delay.

As a result of the recent storms structure collapses, it has been determined that the Building Department will be called in on these type incidents to assist the Department.

The Training Center is now in Phase 2. Once the weather breaks an immediate clean up will take place. As this is a Department Training Center it is expected that each Company will be responsible to assist in the completion of each phase. This is not just a Training Committee project it is Department wide.

The SCBA fill station is not to be used by any unauthorized / trained member. Each member that is certified to fill SCBA's must complete the log book and wear hearing protection. No one with out hearing protection is allowed in the fill station.

A meeting was held with Wyckoff's Chief Michael Rose, Company 1 Asst. Chief Counsellor and Chief Speranza. Discussion was held as to the Mutual Aid response to new Christian Health Care Center development that border's Hawthorne and will have an underground parking garage. Some concerns arose out of the meeting and will be expressed to the proper authorities. It was determined that Hawthorne will respond to the complex via Hillcrest Avenue. Further, the Mutual Aid has grown with Bergen County with Wyckoff leading the fore front. Our relationship is growing and interaction between the two Departments is paramount to stabilize responses in common area.

As a result of the budget not yet approved, the 2011 Installation Dinner is tentative until we secure approval. Further details will be delivered as they become available.

In 2011 an Equipment Committee will be assembled. As in times past a member that needed equipment would complete the equipment request form and then hand it in to their respective officers. The Officers would then turn it in to the Chief in order to secure the equipment. The Committee will now handle all of the requests rather than the Chief. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will commence on February 07, 2011 7:30 at headquarters.

## **Dates to Remember:**

**February 07, 2011 - 7:30pm HQ (Equipment Committee)**  
**February 07, 2011 - 7:00 pm Company 1 (Radio Sub Committee)**  
**February 07, 2011 – 7:00 pm Safety Officers (HQ)**  
**February 10, 2011 – Gear Inspection Committee (HQ) 7:30 pm**  
**March 11, 2011 – RJ Dansen Beefsteak Benefit (7 pm)**  
**March 11, 2011 (Tentative) installation Dinner**

## **COMMITTEES**

**Communication Division:** Asst. Chief Counsellor informed that a sub Committee was formed to develop radio protocols/ training guide. A meeting will be held to go over details and concerns as to radio communication as well as preparing for future of narrow banding.

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

**Ladies Auxiliary:** Unit 59 is not functioning therefore, members will be responding in their personal vehicles.

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

**Safety Officer's:** A single accountability board is being utilized. For the 1<sup>st</sup> arriving company it was suggested that the tags be left on the apparatus and the Safety officer will pick them up and attach to the single board. A list of all Drivers' that DID and DID NOT participate in the Department sponsored driving course must be submitted to the Safety Officers so an accurate tracking report can be composed. Further, a driver's list of each Company is also requested. Lastly, if a driver did not take the 1<sup>st</sup> phase course it was determined that the course can be taught at the Company level with a report to be provided to the Safety Officers so that phase 2 can take place in the upcoming months.

*Chief Speranza stated that Bergen County offers s driver's simulator course that the Department's drivers may attend.*

**In School Program:** No report at this time.

**Van Hook Scholarship:** All packets must be submitted for consideration by Friday February 18, 2011. Further, a list of each company's representatives was also requested.

**Open House:** Chief Speranza stated that by next Fire Board new ideas must be submitted for consideration.

**Mutual Aid Meeting:** OSHA is fining surrounding towns for non-compliance. The Department must be cognizant of same and follow accordingly. There is discussion that the State of NJ is considering of taking action in disciplinary issues within Departments.

**Junior/ Explorer Program:** One (1) student has enlisted, and four (4) members are ready for class. A secondary enlistment will take place in the near future to boost participation. It is requested that each company participate. There is also a Jamboree that will take place in late September. As details become available they will be distributed accordingly. There is also consideration of conducting given for fund raising efforts to purchase shirts hats etc.

**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: 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.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the By Law 17-5 election section 2 (E) was postponed.

**New Business:**

Oath of Office: Jason Goodrich was sworn in and assigned to Company 5.

Asst. Chief George Webber entered appearance replacing Asst. Chief DiVincent at the table.

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Indicated that "jump packs" (medical packet) for EMT personnel within Company 2 will be utilized when required. ONLY the EMT personnel will be using these packs.

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: Requested a single chain for the tires of Rescue 5.

Chiefs Report: All Companies must check their AED's batteries. Also, reminded the Chanel 1 and 4 usage and functions.

#### **Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Thanked all that attended Walter Marston's mother's visitation.

Company 3: Ex-Asst. Chief George DeGroot has requested extension, Carolyn Joustra at the facility and Joseph Wojtecki returned from hernia surgery.

Company 4: No report at this time

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: Thanked all that attended the visitation and stood by for the recent storms.

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

Ex-Borough Chief Tamburro inquired as to his request of personal leave of absence that was questioned. He also stated that the Ordinance 17:6 Absences was written for members that left the Borough and then returned.

*Chief Speranza indicated that Tamburro was correct yet, past practices prevailed and that there should be no question as to Tamburro's leave of absence as it was in compliance with past practices.*

*Tamburro also mentioned that if a member requests a leave of absence that the year that they requested the leave of absence will be deducted for that year and documented as an incomplete year.*

FF Van Duesen inquired as to the jump packs the Department should consider utilizing medical release forms.

*Chief Speranza stated that we do not make that call and will not as that is the responsibility of the EMT's.*

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Tripicchio  
Board Secretary