



Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506
www.hawthornefire.org

Minutes of the meeting held on August 15, 2012.

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with a salute to the flag and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Capt. Christopher DiBella, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief John Marsch, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5: 2nd Lieut. Joseph Pagnozzi.

MINUTES

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

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

BILLS

Tanis Hardware	\$136.46	Diversified Inspections	\$650.00
I.R.S Inc.	\$944.50	Fire Fighter One	\$565.75
AT & T	\$42.15	10-75 Emergency Lighting	\$145.00
FDR Hitches	\$263.00	Hawthorne Auto Lab	\$57.03
Travis Lodder	\$120.00	Verizon Wireless	\$119.91
Verizon	\$49.19	Verizon	\$61.46
E-Dispatch	\$828.00	10-75 Emergency Lighting	\$1,037.08
Campbell Supply Co.	\$778.97		
Bond Ordinance previously approved			
Motorola	\$4,917.83	ESS Inc.	\$13,457.20

Asst. Chief Marsch inquired as to the light tower repairs to Tower 2 as they were not included in the previous Minutes.

Clerk Tripicchio had acknowledged same.

Previously omitted bills from July Fire Board:

10-75 Emergency Lighting \$1,981.37

Communications:

- A medical note was received from Dr. Robert Buis for FF Robert Taglibue extending his medical leave of absence from July 02, 2012 through September 02, 2012.



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- Received excuse correspondence from Asst. Chief John Arturi excusing him from the rescheduled Fire Board meeting, due to personal business.
- A (3) month leave of absence was received from FF Andrew Skae for the dates of September 01, 2012 to December 01, 2012.
- A medical letter from the Northern NJ Pain & Rehab Center for FF Karen Arensault beginning on July 30, 2012 and until further notice.
- Company 1 submitted a request to attend the 7th annual Wallington Parade.
- A medical leave of absence notification was received from Communication Divisions, George Zaggatta for the dates of July 24, 2012 until September 24, 2012.

Company Reports:

Company #1

Capt. DiBella reported for the month of July 2012, Company 1 responded to: 23 box alarms, 4 still alarms, 0 chiefs call, 4 radio alarms, 3 mutual aid call, 0 standbys, 4 training's and held 1 drill, for a total of 39 alarms.

Engine 1's has a continued issue with the Jake brake. The brake will not release or re activate and will be an issue during inclement weather and when ascending and descending. It was discovered that Jake brake was not connected when it was sent out for transmissions repairs. It had been re connected and could be the caused the aforementioned.

The passenger side sight rod has been slightly severed needs to be re-welded.

On August 14, 2012 a discussion was held with Chief Speranza as to future communications when the Chief leaves town for a prolonged time period. There was also a suggestion that, Unit 50 should be left for the Senior Asst. Chief to utilize for responding. In the same token, in the event the chief leaves town and Unit 50 has to be repaired, consideration should be given to utilize Unit 6-1.

Lastly, if the Assistant Chief turns down the responsibility to assume Unit 50, then should be considered to be turned over to the next senior Asst. Chief in line.

As to the rescheduling of any Fire Board it should have been previously discussed at Fire Board for approval. As to the notification of the Chief's leave of absence for vacation it was addressed and it should not occur in the future.

Thanked all members that had attended the Lafayette Avenue Dry Cleaner's fire.

A special thanks to 1st Lieut. Salvatore Occhipinti for assisting and evacuating all of the residents from the 2nd floor, prior to the Departments arrival.

Engine 1 was notified that Ex-Asst. Chief Robert Shannon has moved to Manahawkin NJ and will be residing with his daughter. He was a dedicated member and surely will be missed.

Engine 1 is requesting a new gate valve for the 2 ½ inch supply line and also a new TFT nozzle.

Aside from the above Engine 1 is in fair working order and all members are in good standing.

Chief Joseph Speranza
973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



Clerk John P. Tripicchio
973.423.2536 Office
973.423.5089 Fax

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Company #2

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of July 2012, Company 2 responded to: 21 box alarms, 0 still alarm, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 3 Mutual Aid call's, 0 standbys, 0 training's, and held 1 drill for a total of 25 alarms.

On August 20, 2012 Company 2 will be presenting Jacob Baum the 50 years of service award. All are welcomed to join and to arrive at the Christian Healthcare Center at 7:15pm.

On July 20, 2012 the Truck was sent out for aerial ladder testing. It was found that the aerial rotation was slow. A discussion was held with the aerial ladders manufacturer who assisted by providing guidance to re set the timing and thus increasing its rotation.

Tower 2 received (1) new K saw yet is still waiting for its cradle so it can be installed and placed in service.

(1) Pair of a wide calf Globe boot is being requested.

Requested that in the future, there should be clearer communications when the Chief is leaving town for a given period of time. Further, all emergency issues / situations that may arise should be communicated all Asst. Chiefs, not just a selected few.

The Truck, equipment and all firefighters are in good working order.

Company #3

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of July 2012, Company 3 responded to: 28 box alarms, 1 drill (s) 0 radio alarm, 1 still alarm, 1 standby, 0 mutual aid and held 2 training's for a total of 33 alarms.

Engine 3's air tank was repaired utilizing the correct air tank. The air brake, the front suction and the air conditioning needs to be looked at by vendor Campbell Supply.

(1) set of gear needs to be replaced as the gear has failed during testing.

(1) water thief appliance is needed to be replaced.

An application from Rick Greenberg was returned to the Clerk for further processing.

Engine 3 will be attending the Passaic County Fire Academy on August 27, 2012.

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

Company #4

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of July 2012, Company 4 responded to: 23

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973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



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box alarm's, 1 still alarms, 1 radio alarm, 1 training, 0 standby's, 3 Chief's call, 0 Mutual aid calls and held 1 drill for a total of 30 alarms.

Engine 4 is having electrical issues with the warning lights, the rear revolvers and the side marker lights. Also, the front bar revolver is having illumination issues and at times will not rotate.

There is a water leak near the booster tank and nearest side of right side pump panel. Also large diameter hose discharge is leaking for the second time and needs to be repaired.

FF Robert Tagliabue has requested a 3 month extension to his medical leave of absence.

(1) Gas meter was received.

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

Company #5

Lieut. Pagnozzi reported that for the month of July 2012, Company 5 responded to:

31 box alarms, 1 extrication, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 0 standby, 0 training (s), and 4 drills for a total of 36 alarms.

Vendor Campbell supply repaired various items on Rescue 5.

Requested (1) windshield saw.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

Borough Chief Speranza Report:

Thanked all members and the Assistant Chiefs for the understanding for the move of the Fire Board meeting. As to the response to Assistant Chief Arturi, proper notification was given publically and also via letter that was placed in each of the Asst. Chief's mailbox on August 02, 2012. In the future all Asst. Chief's will be notified far in advance to avoid any such issues.

As Asst. Chief March's emergency water situation, Chief Speranza stated that he had communicated the emergency to the Engine companies being that they would be immediately be effected and assisted in negating the issue thus did not communicate with Rescue or Tower 2. Chief stated that he will advise all companies no matter who is affected or not.

On August 28, 2012 Borough Id's will be available from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm via the Mayor's secretary, Charlene Elvin. Only members that are the Department roster will be able to receive these id's.

The remaining radio/pager has been received and will be distributed.

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We also received the remainder of the portable radios and that the radio re-programming will soon be under way as it has been cleared via Borough Administrator. Once all of the radios have all been programmed the radio will be distributed accordingly. The Communication Division has been working diligently to assist and reprogramming these radios and pagers. A special thanks to both George Agate and Fred Buckner for heading this project.

The Fire Headquarters driveway will be repaired in the upcoming weeks pending final approval from the Borough.

The FOB system will be installed in (2) weeks.

Vendor Campbell Supply will be the vendor to conduct the repairs to Engine 1 & 3.

The Division of Fire Safety will need to be notified if there are 2 or more families that become displaced due to an unfortunate event.

The Morris County Co / Op Pricing Council provides competitive pricing and the Department will look into saving money for both the Borough & Department.

A Fire Suicide Bag a/k/a Exit Bag awareness pamphlet was distributed to each Asst. Chief.

Dates to Remember

August 20, 2012- Jake Baum Award presentation 7:30 pm @ the Christian Healthcare Center

August 28, 2012 – Borough id's from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

August 29, 2012- Department Drill

September 24, 2012- Social Event- Headquarters 7:30 pm

October 06, 2012- Hawthorne Day

COMMITTEES

Communication Division: No report at this time.

Fire Prevention: No report at this time.

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time.

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

Safety Officer's: *No report at this time.*

In School Program: No report at this time.

Van Hook Scholarship: No report at this time.

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Open House: No report at this time.

Mutual Aid Meeting: No report at this time.

Hawthorne Day: No report at this time.

100th Anniversary: Chairman George DeGroot requested input from the Board. With no responses Chairman DeGroot advised that since no cooperation was given, the Committee will be disbanded.

Chief Speranza advised Chairman to attend Tuesday August 21, 2012 Asst. Chief / Captain's meeting for the final push to resolve one way or another. In addition all President's of each company has also been requested to attend this meeting.

Memorial Park: Next meeting will be on Wed, August 22, 2012 7:30 pm at Borough Hall. On 09 11 12, the project will begin and expected to be unveiled on 09 11 13.

Old Business:

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: No report at this time.

Company 3: Indicated that since there has been dispatching errors that the each Asst. Chief should reinforce to the long standing 6:00 am to 6:00 pm and 6:00pm–6:00 am protocols to their members.

Chief Speranza added that he is hopeful that when the new Cad System is implemented this would clear up the ongoing issues.

Company 4: Confirmed that there on going communications issues yet some of is due to the antiquated equipment.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

Oath of Office: None

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: *Stated to Chief Speranza that the alleged August 02, 2012 letter to move Fire Board was not placed in his mailbox.*

Chief Speranza stated it was placed in each Asst. Chief's mailbox on August 02, 2012.

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

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Good & Welfare:

Company 1: Ex-Asst. Chief Robert Shannon has moved to Manahawkin NJ.
Nancy Peccini wife of FF Joseph Peccini passed away.

Company 2: August 20, 2012 Jake Baum Award presentation 7:30 pm @ the Christian Healthcare Center

Company 3: 09 14 12 - Applebee's Breakfast fund raiser. See any Company 3 members for tickets. There is also a Blue / Purple 5 k marathon that will take place on 10 14 12. Chief Van Ek is looking for a 4 member FD team. Anyone interested, see Asst. Chief Van Ek for details.

Company 4: Polaris ATV raffles. See any Company 4 member for raffles.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: The Department will be awarding Jacob Baum his 50 years of service award on Monday August 20, 2012. The Department is asked to be in Class "A" and meet at the Christian Health Center at 7:15 pm.

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

2nd Lieut. David Maher provided a map and details as to the Christian Healthcare Center parking for the apparatuses for the presentation of the Jacob Baum 50 years.

Relief Secretary Kenneth Silvestri requested Company Roster's.

Retiree and Ex - Asst. Chief Joseph Metzler stated that he had spoken to Retiree Ex Asst. Chief Robert Shannon who is angry at Company 1 and especially Chief Speranza.

Metzler added that Shannon appreciated 1st Lieut. Tripicchio for bringing the "younger Company 11 members" to the Christian Healthcare center when Shannon was a temporary resident.

Chief Speranza understood Shannon statement and apologized for same and will contact Robert Shannon in near future.

Chief Speranza also publically thanked Joseph Metzler's accomplishments as the part of the Board of Trustees.

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 Marsch that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Tripicchio
Board Secretary