



## Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
[www.hawthornefire.org](http://www.hawthornefire.org)

### Minutes of the meeting held on January 06, 2015.

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with a salute to the flag and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence was held for, FF Henry Joustra. In attendance at this meeting was, Engine Company 1, Asst. Chief John Arturi, Tower Company 2, Asst. Chief John Marsch, Engine Company 3, Asst. Chief Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4, Asst. Chief Michael Nelson, and Rescue Company 5, Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

**A donation presentation was delivered by Gene Meyer's representative, John Lane.**

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Arturi, to dispense the previous Minutes while a second was made by Asst. Chief Marsch. The Board were all in favor to dispense the previous month's Minutes.

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

The Board were all in favor to submit the bills for consideration.

### BILLS

Passaic County Comm College	\$550.00	Bill Fox LLC	\$1,050.00
Clear Gear	\$196.00	Company 2	\$34.46
Air Purifiers	\$1,020.75	Hawthorne Auto Lab	\$62.45
Campbell Supply	\$1,732.74	State Line Fire Safety	\$166.60
Micro Center	\$3,000.00	HFD Reimbursement	\$65.00
Fire Fighter One	\$32,985.00 (bond)		

### Communications:

- FF Mathew Ryan back to active duty 12/01/14
- Lt. Devin Hughes back to active duty 12/08/14
- Ken Silvestri requested (3) three month personal leave of absence

The Board accepted all communications as read.

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Clerk John P. Tripicchio  
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### Company Reports:

#### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief John Arturi reported for the month of December 2014, Company 1 responded to: 14 box alarms, 1 still alarm(s), 0 radio alarm (s), 0 mutual aid call, 0 standby(s), and held 0 drill (s), for a total of 15 alarms. In addition held 1 training(s).

Fire Safety has conducted all of the necessary repairs to the Engine. We will continue to note any issues that may further arise and will report accordingly.

Requested (2) two portable LED lights for the Engine.

The 2014 Fire Officers are:

Asst. Chief John Arturi  
Capt. Christopher Dibella  
1st Lieut. John Tripicchio  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. John Carlo

Congratulated the 2015 Officers, and looked forward to once again serve as the Asst Chief of Engine 1 and continue to work with the members.

All other equipment are in working order and with the exception to the above. All members are in healthy.

#### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of December 2014, Company 2 responded to: 13 box alarms, 2 still alarms, 0 Chief's call, 0 Radio alarms, 0 standby(s), and held 1 drill (s) for a total of 16 alarms. In addition, held 0 training (s) and responded to 7 mutual aid calls.

The truck had sustained radiant heat damage during the multi-alarm fire in Paterson on 12/18/14. Some of the damages were repaired and the remainder will be conducted this spring.

The Paterson dispatch issues have become worse with duplication of assignments that need to be rectified.

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Received (4) four officer helmet's, (2) two Motorola HT 1250 batteries, and (1) radio for the bucket which needs to be installed. Requested (2) Kenwood batteries.

Thanked the Chief, the Board, and the members of company 2 for the past 3 ½ years for the support that was given during his officer ship. Congrats to Asst. Chief Maher and the 2015 Officers who will continue where he had left off.

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

### Company #3

Asst. Chief Joseph Longo reported that for the month of December 2014 Company 3 responded to: 13 box alarms, 0 radio alarm (s), 1 still alarm(s), 0 standbys, and 1 drill (s) for a total of 15 alarms. In addition held 0 training (s) and 0 mutual aid response(s).

Engine 3 will be out of service for the repair to the tank sensor along with some other various small repairs.

(4) Lists were created. They are for blue light permits, accountability tags, PPE and Class A uniform that will be given to the Chief.

Company 3 wishes Ex -Asst Chief George Degroot for a speedy recovery.

Thanked all of the members that came to Henry Joustra wake and paid their respects to the family.

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

### Company #4

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of December 2014, Company 4 responded to: 13 box alarms, 8 still alarms, 0 radio alarms, 1 drill, 0 standbys, and 0 Chief's call, for a total of 22 alarms. In addition held 1 training (s) and was called for to 5 Mutual Aid call (s).

2015 Officers are:

Asst. Chief Michael Nelson  
Capt. Peter Van Der Velde  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Devin Hughes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt David Sylvester

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Lt. Devin Hughes returned back to active duty 12/08/14.

Attended Glen Rock's installation dinner who thanked both, Hawthorne and Fair Lawn for the assistance.

Broad Hurst Sheet Metal is in the process of scheduling the installation of the equipment boxes.

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

### Company #5

Asst. Chief Warner reported for the month of December 2014, Company 5 responded to: 18 box alarms, 0 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 standby(s), 0 drill (s) for a total of 18 alarms. In addition held 2 training (s).

Rescue, Tower and the juniors had an extrication drill which was a tremendous learning experience.

FF Sascha Goetschenberg has resigned.

Requested training reports.

Keep Gordon Kneppers in our prayers.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

**Borough Chief Speranza Report:** Wished all members and their families for a Happy and Safe New Year.

Thanked exiting Asst. Chief's John Marsch and Jared Van Ek for their professionalism and countless hours that were provided to the Department.

Congratulated all 2015 Officers, while forewarned of a busy 2015 schedule filled with new endeavors and challenges.

The Board will be further enhancing the Opening Public Meeting Act in February.

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The Department has been provided a grant for "Train the Trainer". This is a program on how to drive with all types of trailers. This is a 6 hour course that included hands on training. It is scheduled for April 25, 2015 from 9 AM - 2 PM.

Installation / Awards Program Friday, January 16, 2015 - 7:00 pm. Need head count from each company this week.

LOSAP is due by weeks end.

Officer re organization meeting will be held on January 25, 2015, 9:00 am.

### **Dates to Remember**

January 16, 2015- Installation Dinner  
January 25, 2015- Officer's meeting.

April 25, 2015- Train the Trainer – "Trailing"

### **COMMITTEES**

**Communication Division:** No report at this time.

**Fire Prevention:** 55 Westervelt has continuing issue and are in the process of being addressed by Fire Prevention.

85 Wagaraw there is a large fire load that we have to be aware of.

Asst. Chef David Maher added that there are mattresses' that are stacked to ceiling and are in plain view.

*Chief Speranza stated that he is aware and the Fire Prevention Bureau is aware of it.*

**Ladies Auxiliary:** Thanked all that assisted with the Toy Drive that was once again a huge success.

*Chief Speranza added that USMC's Toys for Tots pick up was a huge success being the largest pick up ever, for the Borough of Hawthorne.*

**Junior FF's (Explorer Program):** No report at this time.

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

**Hawthorne Day:** No report at this time.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** No report at this time.

**Training Center:** (4) mafia blocks were taken from the Center and it being investigated. Additional props are forthcoming. (1) Hydrant was received. (1) 55 gallon drum was requested.

Need additional funding to complete the Center.

**Safety Officers:** Meeting is being scheduled for February.

**Exempt:** The meeting have been changed to Thursday's.

### **Old Business:**

Company 1: A call was placed again with Coastal Fire Service for a sample of the quick connect for the Unit 5-7 Cascade fill station as the one they sent was incorrect.

Requested that any / all special details / messages are to be placed on the 6 PM test not just via E Dispatch.

*Chief Speranza stated that there are ongoing dispatch issues that he is addressing. He would also be selecting a committee to deal with the ongoing issues. These members will have and / or had dispatching experience.*

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:** Asst. Chief John Marsch exited the Board table and Asst.Chief David Maher entered in his place.

Oath of Office: No report at this time.

Company 1: Requested clarification of the bi monthly % report submission.

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*Chief stated that the Borough requires the report and that the first one is due January 2015.*

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's Report: No report at this time.

### **Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: George Lodder seeking additional medical attention

Company 3: Thanked Company 3 for electing him a Asst. Chief. Wished Ext. Asst. Chief George Degroot a speedy recovery.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: Keep Gordon Knepper in thoughts and prayers.

Chief: No report at this time.

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

Ex-Chief Borough Victor Tamburro stated that the departments LED sign has some light issues in the top left.

*Chief Speranza was aware and has placed calls to the manufacturer to rectify same.*

Ex-Chief Borough Victor Tamburro also inquired who is now responsible for salting the aprons at the firehouses during inclement weather.

*Chief Speranza stated that he will speak to the Mayor to address the concern.*

Chief Speranza asked the public for comments / concerns for the ongoing dispatch issues. Various issues / various solutions were voiced and would be taken into consideration.

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

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A motion was made by Asst. Chief Arturi, and a second by Asst. Chief Longo that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Tripicchio*  
Board Secretary