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Borough of Hawthorne  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

**Minutes of the meeting held on July 06, 2010.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief James Counsellor, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief Anthony DiVincent, Engine Company 3: Capt. Joseph Longo, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief James Geier, and Rescue Company 5: 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. William Barclay.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Asst. Counsellor to dispense the previous Minutes while a second Motion was made by Asst. Chief Di Vincent.

A motion was made by Asst. Chief Di Vincent and second from Asst. Chief Counsellor that the following bills be approved and are to be submitted to the Borough Administrator for consideration:

**BILLS**

Verizon	\$49.52	Verizon	\$56.20
AT &T	\$40.14	Foremost Promotions	\$12.73
Gilby's	\$180.00	Tri-Lex	\$91.00
Federated Emergency	\$4,168.79	ESI Equipment Inc	\$199.05
All Hands Fire Equip.	\$1,506.77	All Hands Fire Equip.	\$613.22
AAA Emergency Serv	\$477.36	Motorola	\$83.46
Ken's Auto Electric	\$143.00	Groenwal Ramsey Door	\$1,117.10
Ken's Auto Service	\$111.79	AAA Emergency	\$25.00
Verizon Wireless	\$144.65	Verizon Wireless	\$136.71
Verizon	\$49.68	Verizon	\$56.10
Guard Line Fire Safety	\$425.00	Ace Hardware	\$199.58
Ken's Auto Electric	\$337.50	AAA Emergency	\$175.00
AAA Emergency	\$147.00	Ace Hardware	\$82.43
Ken's Auto Electric	\$150.00	Ken's Auto Electric	\$909.00
Ken's Auto Electric	\$156.95		

*Asst. Chief Counsellor requested clarification of several bills that was addressed accordingly by the Department's Clerk.*

**Communications:**

- A letter of intent to join Rescue Company 5 was submitted by Borough resident Ronald Walker Jr.
- A communication was received from the Stirling Volunteer Fire Department who will be hosting their annual NJ Fire Fighters Bicycle Race to benefit the St Barnabas Bunn Center. The race will take place on Sunday, July 25, 2010 (rain or shine at 11:40 am). *For more info e-mail Frank Reilley at FTR4444@hotmail.com.*
- A medical note was received from the General Oral Surgeons of NJ advising that FF Frank Vittorio may return to active duty on June 28, 2009.
- A Thank you letter was received from Ex. Asst. Chief Russell Snyder and wife Ella for the flower arrangement and support at the visitation of Ella's father.
- A letter of resignation was received from FF Peter Caruso.
- A letter was received from Fair Lawn Rescue Chief Eric Van Kruiningan thanking Rescue Company 5 in assisting them with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual canoe race.

*The Board accepted the resignation and medical return.*

**Company Reports:**

**Company #1**

Asst. Chief Counsellor reported that for the month of June 2010, Company 1 responded to: 23 box alarm's, held 4 training's, 1 drill, 2 radio alarm's and 2 still alarms for a total of 32 alarms.

Engine 1 currently in good working order.

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

**Company #2**

Asst Chief Di Vincent reported for the month of June 2010, Company 2 responded to: 19 box alarms, 0 mutual aid call, 2 still alarm, 0 radio alarm and held 2 drills, for a total of 23 alarms.

The Truck and all firefighters are in good working order.

### **Company #3**

Capt. Longo reported that for the month of June 2010, Company 3 responded to: 20 box alarms, 0 mutual aid call, 2 radio alarm, 2 drill, 0 still alarm, and held 2 training for a total of 26 alarms.

Engine 3 attended the Glen Rock's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for best appearing pumper for the 6 – 10 year bracket Unit 57 was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> place special piece award, Unit 50 received 1<sup>st</sup> place award for the best appearing Chief's vehicle. Thanked all of the members that assisted to achieve the awards.

Services for the hydraulic generator were performed.

Vendor Ken's Auto service was called to address a headlight that is not functioning properly and also an open door sensor.

The required information pertaining the identification card has been submitted.

FF Frank Vittorio has returned to active duty.

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

### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Geier reported that for the month of June 2010, Company 4 responded to: 22 box alarms, 0 mutual aid call, 0 radio alarm, 2 drill, 4 still alarm, and held 0 training for a total of 28 alarms.

One (1) SCBA and One (1) spare SCBA bottle that are out of service.

Requested ten (10) lightweight red jump suits to better assist in water details.

The Borough has committed to purchasing a new CAD system that will be installed at Police Headquarters, The system will better assist in tying in all lines of emergency services. Anyone interested in assisting the Fire Department interest should contact Asst. Chief Geier.

The Engine and members are all in working order.

### **Company #5**

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Barclay reported that for the month of June 2010, Company 5 responded to: 27 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 1 training, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 3 drills for a total of 31 alarms

Rescue had attended the annual DUI simulated drill at the Hawthorne High School with 50, members of Engine Company 3 and members of Unit 57. The drill was held and was once again successful.

Rescue had also participated in a boat and lightning detail to assist Fair Lawn Rescue's annual canoe race function.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

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

Thanked all of the companies for the lending of their bunting to assist the Gene Meyer's family.

Also, congratulated all of the members that assisted those who had attended the recent parades and coming out with trophies for their efforts.

The Departments car show has been postponed at this time. Consideration has been given to host the event at this years Open House.

Due to recent internal audits new procedures are being developed pertaining to the reporting of clothing allowances, LOSAP and fire alarm reports will be adopted. These procedures will set policy with no exception to deviation. Added to the policy will also define "extra credit" that will need to be formulated by the Board.

Due to excessive heat we must be diligent in keeping our selves hydrated and cool after any long periods of activity. Officer must be cognizant of their members during these high temperatures.

The K. Hovanian apartments complex (Layette Avenue Extension) has removed the siren activated gate and have replaced the gate with a lockbox.

We have received word that OSHA may be visiting Company 5 and other fire companies therefore, do not be alarmed.

Hawthorne Day will be here soon. The Department will not be undertaking power supplies. More money was requested to increase the Fireworks show since again the Borough did not have them on Independence Day.

The West Paterson FD will be hosting a Mutual Aid Drill on August 08, 2010 at 7:00 am.

The drill will take place on the Kohl's property located on Route 46 prior to the Department opening for business.

**Dates to Remember:**

**September 09, 2010 Passaic County 200 Club – Annual Beefsteak**  
**August 08, 2010 – Mutual Aid Drill at 7:00am.**

**Committee Reports:**

Communication Division: responded to 6 alarms, 3 work details, 2 training, and 1 meeting for a total of 12 alarms.

Reiterated last month's report as the issues raised have yet, to be addressed.

Transmission lines from three (3) public safety antennas on the tower needs to be fastened to the tower legs as well as one (1) antenna has been entangled in it's bracket and need to be freed.

Lastly, the temperature in the radio room has reached the 96 degree mark and it unacceptable for the radio equipment and personnel. It is requested that this needs to e addressed on a priority level. This needs to be addressed or severe consequences may occur.

All members and equipment are in good working order.

Fire Prevention: The fire report are not being completed correctly. It is urged to complete the fire report to it's full capacity as listed on the report. There have been submitted reports that did not have the completed forms such as correct times and OCA # to name a few. It is urged that all Officer retrain on taking reports.

Ladies Auxiliary: No report at this time.

Junior's/ Explorer Program: The rotation of the Juniors will start by the end of this month.

Safety Officer's: No report at this time

In School Program: No report at this time.

Van Hook Scholarship: No report at this time

Open House: No report at this time.

Mutual Aid Meeting: No report at this time

Web Site: No report at this time.

Relief Association: Next meeting will be on Friday July 9, 2010, Exempts starts at 7 pm and Relief at 8 pm.

**Old Business:**

Company 1: None at this time.

Company 2: We are once again having issues with the pagers. It is also noted that the horns are not being transmitted during dispatches therefore, as a result those that are not receiving the pager dispatch are unable to respond.

*Chief Speranza advised that we will research further.*

Company 3: Advised that their continues to be paging / dispatching of alarms. It is also noticed that there are very low radio communication from the dispatcher.

*Chief Speranza stated that this has been an ongoing issue that was asked to rectify some time ago. We will now send a letter to Chief Scully with cc to Mayor Goldberg as this must be addressed*

Company 4: The horns at Company 4 are still not fixed. It's requested that the horn be fixed at this time.

*Chief Speranza stated that we would need to send a letter to Joseph Clemente, cc Mayor Goldberg and Eric Maurer.*

Chief Geier also clarified Company 3 concern of low radio communication from the PD Desk. It is a result of a loud humming sound at the desk therefore they have to turn the radio down resulting in low communication or no return response.

Vendor B & C Communication is looking into this matter.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report:

**New Business:**

Oath of Office: none at this time.

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

Clerk Tripicchio conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the new by law changes.

Asst. Chief DiVincent requested clarification as to the new Chief absence change.

Clerk Tripicchio explained the change as advised by the Departments Ordinance Committee.

The Board accepted the changes. With no other questions they were so moved to be read at next Fire Board, which will be the second reading,

**Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

Company 2: Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

Company 3: FF Vittorio returned to active duty. Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

Company 4: Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

Company 5: Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

Chiefs Report: Regrets the passing of Gene Meyers and Alice Patmos.

*Chief Speranza temporarily closed the Fire Board session and opened the meeting to anyone from the floor wishing to be heard.*

Secretary to the Relief Association Kenneth Silvestri reminded the public that the previously required percentage was 66 13 has now been reduced to 50% making it easier for those to become exempt.

Glenn Rees emphasized that he would assist Company 5 with the OSHA compliancy issues.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Tripicchio*

John Tripicchio  
Board Secretary