



Borough of Hawthorne  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

**Minutes of the meeting held on March 06, 2012.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with a salute to the American Flag. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief John Arturi, 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: Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

**MINUTES**

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

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

**BILLS**

AT&T	\$48.94	Yankee Propane	\$36.00
Verizon	\$61.72	Verizon	\$51.39
Northern NJ Council	\$350.00	AAA Emergency	\$285.44
The Sharp Shop	\$99.61	E-Dispatch	\$828.00
The Body Works	\$500.00	Federated Emer. Service	\$1,087.06
AVAN	\$13.96	Verizon Wireless	\$120.52
Ruscon Truck Repair	\$3,172.00	Firestone Tire	\$1,372.20
The Home Depot	\$200.00		

Asst. Chief Marsch indicated that he was not in attendance at last Fire Board and was included in Minutes.

Clerk Tripicchio confirmed it was a typographical error.

It was noted that the Chief's phone line and fax machine are not functioning

Asst. Chief Nelson advised he is working on this issue.

## **Communications:**

- A leave of absence was requested from FF Leon Bay from March 01, 2012 to March 30, 2012.
- Ex-Asst Chief Lane requested a medical leave of absence eff. Feb. 16, 2012 thru March 30, 2012 for knee surgery.
- A request for an application was submitted by resident Mark Totaro (CO2).
- An application was received for Matthew Ryan (CO4).

Clerk Tripicchio noted the application was missing the hearing test on the Exempt Application and was returned.

*Chief Speranza advised that Valley Health was to conduct the hearing test and this was not conducted due to error of communication. In addition, this is a new vendor and would be looked into so that we do not have this situation reoccur for future members.*

The Board accepted the leave of absences with no opposition.

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Arturi reported for the month of February 2012, Company 1 responded to: 21 box alarms, 2 still alarms, 0 chiefs call, 0 radio alarms, 0 mutual aid calls, 0 stand bys, 0 training's and held 4 drill (s) , for a total of 27 alarms.

The passenger side rear door was repaired.

There is an oil leak near the valve gasket in the engine block.

The Nedereman exhaust system in the engine room is not functioning and needs to be repaired.

The Apparatus "on board" radio keeps on receiving transmissions from Irvington FD and has been interrupting Department transmissions / communications.

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

### **Company #2**

Asst, Chief Marsch reported for the month of February 2012, Company 2 responded to: 23 box alarms, 0 still alarm, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 0 Mutual Aid call, 0 stand bys, 0 training's, and held 3 drill(s) for a total of 36 alarms.

The annual Truck maintenance was conducted by Federated Emergency Service.

The two (2) cutters edge chain saws and the Fire Rescue K12 saw were serviced. The service vendor informed that the K12 may have to be replaced as parts are obsolete.

All of the Trucks ground letters have been inspected and tested.

The SCBA batteries have all been replaced. The MSA multi gas meter is still out for service.

Ex- Chief Tamburro is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Lt. George Lodder is recovering from cataract surgery.

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

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of February 2012, Company 3 responded to: 19 box alarms, 1 drill, 0 radio alarm, 1 still alarm, 0 standby, 2 mutual aid and held 1 training for a total of 24 alarms.

Engine 3's intake repair vales were repaired. In addition the annual preventative maintenance was conducted by Ruscon.

All ground ladders were inspected and tested.

A request was made for a for 4" Storz to 3½ inch NST reducer, so that they may be compatible with Prospect Park FD.

Request was made for a walk thru of the 555 Westervelt Avenue property.

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

### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Nelson reported for the month of February 2012, Company 4 responded to: 21 box alarms, 1 still alarm, 0 radio alarm, 0 training, 0 standby's, 2 Chief call, 0 Mutual aid calls and held 1 drill(s) for a total of 25 alarms.

Ex-Asst. Chief John Lane has requested a medical leave of absence for six (6) weeks.

Application for Matthew Ryan was submitted to Clerk.

FF Stephanie Hill and FF Frank Giannantonio have completed their make-up physicals.

FF Sal Kojak has not yet taken physical and has been requested to be listed as a Class "C" fire fighter until he is able to attend the physical.

The CO meter has been sent out for service.

Vendor Ken's Auto Electric has yet to respond to repair the light tower and compartments lights.

A request for a new power supply for the Thermal Imaging Camera has been requested.

### **Company #5**

Asst. Chief Warner reported that for the month of February 2012, Company 5 responded to: 24 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 0 standby, 0 training, and 1 drill for a total of 25 alarms.

Requested (1) one winch cable and (1) one winch rollers.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

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

All of the Department's Committee's and Committee Chairmen have been reporting in a proper and timely fashion. This enables all to be properly informed and without delay to achieve the set goals. Thanked each and every one that is participating and reported accordingly.

Also, extended thanks to Capt. Christopher Dibella and Passaic FD instructor John Hayowych for the RIT Team Awareness training.

All final calculations and requests for the Radio Bond Ordinance must be in by March 14, 2012. The Departments final report will be presented at the March 16, 2012 Council Meeting for consideration.

Verizon Blue Force (a SCBA accountability program) was demonstrated to various Departments Chiefs. It will be further explored to see if the product is available through a grant as it will benefit the Department.

All companies were requested to produce an equipment inventory list. Several companies were received. The remaining must hand it in immediately.

A budget meeting was attended. Lines were detailed as to increases and reduction. A Final budget is forthcoming.

A capital budget meeting will be held at a later date. The Department will be proposing replacement of Engine 1, turn out gear replacement of 20 – 25 sets and Fire Headquarters driveway repair.

### Dates to Remember

**March 11, 2012 – Department Work Detail (Fire Headquarters) 9:00 am**  
**March 24, 2012 24,**  
**March 25, 2012 – Training Center Work Detail – 9:00 am**  
**April 21, 2012- Passaic County Mutual Aid Beefsteak Dinner (Bloomingdale NJ)**  
**7:00 pm.**

### COMMITTEES

**Communication Division:** Responded to 17, alarms, 3 work sessions, and held 4 meetings for a total of 24 alarms.

The repeater was repaired by Motorola and will be back in service soon.

All members and equipment are in working order.

**Fire Prevention:** No report at this time.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** The Fish & Chips dinner has canceled. It will be scheduled for the fall.

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

**Safety Officer's:** Asst. Chief Arturi advised that the accountability protocols are continually being discussed. Progress has been made for accountability boards. Company 1 has secured an accountability board for a trial time period. It appears that the newly manufactured board has good functionality and would be duplicated in the near future for remaining companies.

The accountability radios will be given its own accountability tag.

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

**Van Hook Scholarship:** Open for applicant's consideration. Thus far there is only one name that has been submitted.

R.I.T: RIT awareness was conducted with Passaic FD. Next meeting will be March 18, 2012 for Tower 2 & Rescue 5.

There is has been a parallel communication with North Haledon so that both Departments' are on the same page as to RIT deployment.

**Open House:** No report at this time.

**Mutual Aid Meeting:** No report at this time.

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

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** It was discussed that the potential circus would require 7 patrolman and 3 police vehicles. That in itself will defeat the purpose of the fund raiser being that little funds would be raised. Alternative decisions are being considered.

Asst. Chief Arturi advised that being that it is in the County Park and County Road he could inquire as to the use of the Sherriff's Department to handle patrol duty. .

Also being considered will be a Spaghetti Dinner with a murder mystery and is being looked into.

**Memorial Park:** The meeting was held on 02 15 12, plans are unfolding with water fall ideas. The Budget was being raised from 50k to 75k. Various ideas were discussed as to fund raising. The ground breaking will be conducted on June 01, 2012.

#### **Old Business:**

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Stated that there are radios missing of the apparatus and asked if the new radio pagers would be able to transmit on channel 4.  
Also, there are stress cracks on the Tower.

*Chief Speranza stated that the transmit issue will need to be discussed at the next Chief's / Captains meeting.*

As to the stress cracks it was recommended to secure an estimate from Bodyworks.

Company 3: No report at this time.

*Company 4:* No report at this time.

Company 5: There has been numerous vehicle parts and furniture that are being dropped off at Rescue.

Chief Speranza advised that the furniture will be going to the training center. As to car parts no-one is allowed to drop anything off.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

**New Business:**

Oath of Office: None

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

**Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: March 24, 2012 7:00 pm Comedy Dinner, \$35.00 donation. The show will have for 3 comedians that will be headlined by Vic Dibedetto and Goumba Johnny (formerly of WKTU). See any Company 1 member for tickets.

Company 2: No report at this time.

Company 3: Company 3 is conducting a super 50/50. The drawing will be March 17, 2011. See any Company 3 members for raffles.

Company 4: No report at this time

Company 5: No report at this time

Chiefs Report: No report at this time

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

Safety Officer Frank Vittorio asked if the training will still be conducted at the academy on March 28, 2012.

*Chief Speranza advised that it was never canceled.*

FF Joseph Wojtecki advised that a FOB System can be installed by a Hawthorne resident and would be far less than was proposed by another vendor.

*Chief Speranza welcomed that gesture and would contact same to secure a price for the fob system for headquarters.*

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Tripicchio*  
Board Secretary