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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 05, 2011.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for Ex Firefighter Leo Brady. In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Jay Counsellor, Tower Company 2: Lt. John Marsch, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Lt. Peter Van Der Velde, and Rescue Company 5: Asst. Chief Brian Warner.

**MINUTES**

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

Motions were made by, Asst. Chief Counsellor 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**

Tanis Hardware	\$200.00	MES	\$92.00
Penguin Comm	\$828.00	AT&T	\$47.74
Fregmans	\$99.00	Firestone Tires	\$660.18
HFD Reimb	\$1,100.00	IRS	\$142.68
Pass Cnt Com College	\$320.00	Gilby's	\$90.00
CO1-4 (\$1,550.00)	\$6,200.00	CO5	\$450.00
CO 1-5 (\$45.00)	\$225.00	Chief Speranza	\$30.00
Asst. Chief 1-5 (\$30)	\$150.00	Clerk Tripicchio	\$30.00
Verizon	\$51.61	Verizon	\$60.12
Market Basket	\$325.82	Somes	\$132.50
AAA Emergency	\$594.00	Federated Emer.	\$707.09
HFD Reimbursement	\$474.81	Joseph Speranza	\$96.36

## **Communications:**

- A letter was received from FF Vincent Corasio Jr. returning from Military leave effective June 28, 2011.
- A resignation letter was received from Joseph Fitzmaurice effective June 20, 2011 as he has moved out of town.

*The Board of Fire Commissioners accepted FF Joseph Fitzmaurice's resignation with regrets.*

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Counsellor reported for the month of June 2011, Company 1 responded to: 23 box alarms, 1 still alarms, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 0 Mutual aid calls, 0 stand by 4 training's and held 1 drill, for a total of 29 alarms.

Engine 1 is in fair working order.

A return to active duty letter was received from FF Vincent Corasio Jr.

### **Company #2**

Lt. John Marsch reported for the month of June 2011, Company 2 responded to: 23 box alarms, 1 still alarm, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 0 Mutual aid calls, 0 stand by 0 training's and held 2 drills for a total of 26 alarms.

Asst. Chief Weber, via report expressed a few concerns, in regards to the following: The awards dinner, comedian, flowers as well as their expenses, billing procedures for each Asst. Chief, FF Ken Kotran's resignation letter and the return of his gear, questions that were not addressed in the monthly minutes, and the proper use of dispatching horns.

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

Chief Speranza requested Clerk Tripicchio to answer above.

*Clerk Tripicchio advised Company 2 and the public by advising that awards dinner dissatisfaction was based on the fact of a 15 minute discussion of disapproval from Ex Chief Tamburro therefore, was summarized. Company 2 has requested to amend this month's minutes to reflect a specific mention that will be added below.*

*Further, the Board knew and approved the comedian as a matter of fact CO 2 through Lt. Marsch was directly involved in acquiring the comedian.*

As for the purchasing of the flowers they were not taking out of the general budget or any other accounts. They were purchased by Asst. Chief Counsellor on behalf of me and Chief Joseph Speranza. Asst. Chief Counsellor was reimbursed by both Chief Speranza and Clerk Tripicchio out of our own pocket and again NOT from any account the Department or Borough has.

 As to the resignation of Kenneth Kotran, the Clerk takes orders from the Board of Fire Commissioners and Chief Speranza who are never undermined by the Clerk. Asst Chief Geier secured an email from Kenneth Kotran as he was not responsive in any other way. Asst Chief Geier assured that all of his gear was returned. Asst Chief Geier asked the resignation to be read as communication and the Board accepted the resignation.

Thus any future questions regarding this matter shall be brought to the attention of who made the request and Assistant Chief Geier.

As to the omission of Ex Chief Di Vincent request that the horns sound for every alarm as the pagers are not working was clearly and unintentionally missed and will be added to this month's minutes.

As to the bills the financial books are always available to view for members. In times past we used to print the bills out and hand them out yet that process ceased as the Board was satisfied with the billing process and any questions that were asked were answered properly and in a timely manner.

Chief Speranza added that Company 2 has an obvious disconnect between the Board and or their Assistant Chief. Chief and the Board will attend a meeting with Company 2 to rectify any and all concerns.

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of June 2011, Company 3 responded to: 23 box alarms, 1 Department drill, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarm, 0 standby, 0 mutual aid and held 2 training's for a total of 26 alarms.

Company 3 attended the Pompton Lakes parade on Saturday June 11, 2011 and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for pumpers in the 6-10 year range.

Company 3 will be attending the NJ Firemen's Volunteer Association Parade on Saturday July 16, 2011. All are welcomed to attend.

One (1) SCBA is out for repairs.

Received batteries for box flash lights, 1 set of turn out gear from FF McLean which needed further alteration.

Engine 3 is out of service for repair to the rear axle, open door sensors, tires and right side air intake valve.

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

#### **Company #4**

Lt, Peter Van Der Velde, reported for the month of June 2011, Company 4 responded to: 22 box alarms, 1 still alarms, 0 radio alarm, 2 trainings, 0 standby's, 0 Chief call, 0 mutual aid calls and held 1 drill for a total of 26 alarms.

Ken's Auto Electric is to repair the main & driver's side light bar as the rotation has stopped working. The parts to repair are on order.

A 2 ½ gate vale is still on order.

All equipment and members are in good working order.

#### **Company #5**

Asst. Chief Warner reported that for the month of June 2011, Company 5 responded to: 24 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 0 standby's, 0 training, 3 drills for a total of 27 alarms

A letter of resignation was received from FF Joseph Fitzmaurice.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

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

Congratulated and wished the best to all of the 2011 graduates.

The Department has been selected to receive a mini grant for fire prevention programming. The award will come from Idea Bank and will be utilized for training of residents on fire protection and prevention.

Hawthorne Day is rapidly approaching. Reminding all companies who are selling and conducting fund raising that the dead line to sign up is July 25, 2011. All Companies must notify Charlene Elven of any and all intentions. On a second note, the Department will compose the ground work for the Department Open House.

Training Center Update, the additional container is now in place. The openings between the trailers will now be made as soon as we can place a track on the roof to prevent water infiltration. Following this phase, we can plate the roof and install the railing around the roof line for safety. The last phase will be the placement of the cement blocks to divide to the property and add chambers. This phase will include replacement of the vehicle.

Details from the training committee will be forwarded at the upcoming Officers meeting.

The Department will be hosting a Fire/Police/Ems seminar concerning bed bugs and how to be proactive in response to suspected infestations. This will take place sometime in August.

Chief Speranza would also like to thank the members of Company 2 for their cooperation and understanding with the recent membership incident last month.

A reminder to all Department members that they can schedule an attendance at any officers meeting to present a question to the Board or Chief Speranza. There is never a need to wait for a Fire Board meeting to gain information as the Department has an open door policy.

With summer in full swing Chief Speranza reminded everyone should be cautious when operating in excessive weather.

It was also reported that a Pennsylvania school has been introducing orientation to Fire Service for ages 12-18.

This year will be the 10 year anniversary of 911. The Gospel Church has requested the Department to attend their program. Chief will secure more details and advise accordingly.

Department will be presenting the Borough to adopt a policy for labeling of solar panels dwellings as well also re introduce truss roof & floor labeling.

Ex Chief Tamburro also added that the alternate power source should also be labeled for solar panel dwellings.

### **Dates to Remember:**

**October 01, 2011 – Open House / Hawthorne Day**

## **COMMITTEES**

**Communication Division:** Reported that in June 2011 they responded to 8 box alarms, 1 work sessions, 5 meetings and 0 trainings, 0 drill total of 14 alarms.

All members and equipment both in Radio Room and Field Com are in working order.

All members and equipment are in working order.

**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:** An accountability training program was developed and handed to the Board and the Chief for review.

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

**Van Hook Scholarship:** 2 scholarships were handed out to Adam Geier and Kylie Weber.

Frank Vittorio also informed that a raffle will be conducted in December for a \$500.00 prize and 2 \$250.00 prizes. Also needed is the Department raffle permit.

**Open House:** Will take place at the Hawthorne Day.

**Mutual Aid Meeting:** An OAISI audit was conducted with the Mutual Aid Association and all equipment has been accounted for,

The Wayne Fire Department has switched to narrow banding therefore, discussion is taking place for towns that do not have narrow banding as of yet. It was recommended to use the channel we currently use until a solution has been decided.

**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: Chief Speranza received FF Joseph Metzler's written resignation that was handed to him by Mayor Goldberg.

The Board of Fire commissioners acknowledged receipt of written resignation letter which reaffirmed the previously accepted verbal resignation.

Asst. Chief Van Ek stated that the members that are not going through the Board yet, rather to the Mayor and council are setting unacceptable practices. The Department has the chain of command and should be followed not over looked.

Chief Speranza that the Department will look into additional bylaws to incorporate resignations.

**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: 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: Congratulation to Asst Chief Counsellor and his family for the birth of their daughter.

Chiefs Report: No report at this time.

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

*Ex Asst Chief Van Hook asked about the \$300.00 Tanis Hardware bill.*

*Clerk Tripicchio advised that these were supplies for purchased for headquarters. Both Chief Speranza and Asst. Chief Warner further explained purchases.*

*Ex-Chief Tamburro mentioned that Exempts and Relief meeting is Friday 08, 2011 starting at 7:30.*

*FF Vittorio questioned the charges that the Academy is charging the Department.*

*Ex Chief Tamurro stated that we pay for use of the propane that are used for the simulators*

**\*\*Amendment to last month's Minutes\*\***

- *Ex Asst Chief Anthony Di Vincent requested that the horns be activated on each call as there have been ongoing issues with the dispatches via pagers and/ or radios.*
- *Ex-Chief Victor Tamburro at last month's meeting expressed concern as to the comedian as he is a Roman Catholic and was offended by the comedians comments towards Catholic'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