



Borough of Hawthorne  
Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

**Minutes of the meeting held on December 06, 2011.**

Borough Chief Joseph Speranza called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence was held for William Schmidt, Vincent Olivio (200 Club) & Ex-Chief Paul Salomone Sr. (Ex Chief - Woodland Park). In attendance to this meeting was, Engine Company 1: Asst. Chief James Counsellor, Tower Company 2: Asst. Chief John Marsch, Engine Company 3: Asst. Chief Jared Van Ek, Engine Company 4: Asst. Chief James Geier, 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 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**

Verizon Wireless	\$132.91	AT&T	\$47.90
Verizon	\$61.17	Verizon	\$47.57
Ken's Auto	\$750.00	Company 1-4	\$8,600.00
Company 5	\$450.00	Company 1-5	\$225.00
James Counsellor	\$30.00	John Marsch	\$30.00
Jared Van Ek	\$30.00	Brian Warner	\$30.00
Joseph Speranza	\$30.00	John Tripicchio	\$30.00
Tanis Hardware	\$271.91	Verizon Wireless	\$120.42
IRS, Inc.	\$108.84	AVAN	\$203.32
AAA Emergency	\$219.34	USS Secure net	\$4,507.50
AAA Emergency	\$1,190.00	Froggy's Fog Inc.	\$222.00

*Asst. Chief Counsellor question several purchase orders.  
Clerk Tripicchio explained the purchase orders validity and reason.*

## **Communications:**

- A leave of absence request from FF Kenneth Silvestri from January 15, 2012 to April 15, 2011 (CO3).
- A 3-month leave of absence requested by FF Leon Bay, effective December 01, 2011 to February 29, 2012 (CO1).
- Change of address letter from Michael Thimme who has moved to Midland Park.
- A medical leave of absence from 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Christopher Dibella from December 01, 2011 until January 01, 2012 due to hand surgery.
- A medical note was received from Garden State Orthopedic Associates stating that FF Frank Vittorio may return to light duty effective, November 18, 2011.

## **Company Reports:**

### **Company #1**

Asst. Chief Counsellor reported for the month of November 2011, Company 1 responded to: 21 box alarms, 1 still alarm, 0 chiefs call, 2 radio alarms, 0 mutual aid calls, 0 stand bys, 4 training's and held 0 drill(s) , for a total of 28 alarms.

Engine 1 is in fair working order and all members are in good standing.

### **Company #2**

Asst. Chief Marsch reported for the month of November 2011, Company 2 responded to: 20 box alarms, 0 still alarm, 0 Chiefs call, 0 Radio alarm, 0 Mutual Aid call, 2 stand bys, 0 training's, and held 0 drill(s) for a total of 22 alarms.

Waiting for the MSA multi-gas meter, to be returned from repairs.

Received two (2) batteries for Bullard Thermal Imaging camera and two (2) Kenwood 3180 Officer radios.

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

### **Company #3**

Asst. Chief Van Ek reported that for the month of November 2011, Company 3 responded to: 22 box alarms, 1 drill, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 standby, 0 mutual aid and held 0 training's for a total of 23 alarms.

FF Frank Vittorio has returned back to light duty.

FF Kenneth Silvestri requested a personal leave of absence from the months of January 15, 2012 until April 2012.

Vendor Ken's Auto electric replaced one (1) front oscillator and also verified that no issues were found with the power inverter.

Wished all members and their families, a Happy Holiday Season.

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

#### **Company #4**

Asst. Chief Geier reported for the month of November 2011, Company 4 responded to: 21 box alarms, 2 still alarm, 0 radio alarm, 0 training, 0 standby's, 1 Chief call, 0 Mutual Aid calls and held 2 drill's for a total of 26 alarms.

Fire Officers for 2012 are:

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

The light tower is functioning intermittently as it is not auto parking. Request was made to have it repaired.

Wished good luck to all of the newly elected Company 4 Officers, and offered support and assistance if needed.

Wish all members and their families a Happy Holiday Season.

All equipment and members are in good working order.

#### **Company #5**

Asst. Chief Warner reported that for the month of November 2011, Company 5 responded to: 23 box alarms, 0 radio alarm, 0 still alarms, 0 mutual aid alarms, 1 standby, 0 training, and 1 drill for a total of 25 alarms

Requested the natural test gas for the four (4) gas meter.

Wish all members and their families a Happy Holiday Season.

All firefighters and equipment are in good working order.

## **Borough Chief Speranza Report:**

Congratulated Engine Company 3 for winning the Annual Santa Parade's "Best Lighted Apparatus".

Reminded that Engine 4 and Engine 3 will be covering neighboring North Haledon and Prospect Park Fire Department on Saturday 10, 2011.

Thanked all that had attended the Borough's Annual Santa Parade and the Department bon fire shortly thereafter. Thanked Asst. Chief Geier & Lt. Van Der Velde for coordinating the refreshments for the bon fire.

A preliminary 2012 public budget hearing was held last week. Future budget meeting with the Finance Committee are being scheduled.

The Department spearheaded the acquisition of the World Trade Center steel. This was not possible without the assistance of Borough Clerk Susan Witowski and Mayor Randy George of North Haledon.

Thanked all that had attended the acquisition / delivery of the steel and the members who saluted the steel's arrival into the Borough.

A Memorial park was proposed to the Borough and has been considered. The Memorial Park will include EMS, Fire Department and Police Department participation and funding.

"Toys for Tots" will be held on November 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Drop off will be at Headquarters between 9: am to 1:00 pm.

Department Toy Drive will be held at 6pm on Friday, December 16, 2011 at Shortway's Barn. Bring an unwrapped toy and receive free admission to the band Bottom's Up show that will commence at 8:00pm.

The Department has proposed to the Borough to see if we can acquire the County House located on Lafayette Avenue which is situated across from Fire Headquarters'. If we are able to acquire the home it will include OEM, Police Department, Fire Department and storage for the Borough Clerk.

The Training Center has been investigated by the insurance company who will render a decision as to coverage or not.

Further there are "live" propane tanks and fire extinguishers at the training center. Members must be cognizant when working around the Training Center.

Wished all members and their families a safe and Happy Holiday.

## Dates to Remember

**December 9 & 10, 2011—Toys for Tots 9am -1 pm.**

**December 16, 2011– Department Toy Drive- Shortway's Barn - 8:00 pm**

## COMMITTEES

**Communication Division:** The issues with the main repeater have been identified and future maintenance is required. Capt. Nelson explained to the Board the issues and suggestions as to maintaining the system.

*Chief Speranza advised expressed interest as to a monthly maintenance plan.*

**Fire Prevention:** A report was placed in the Asst. Chief's mailboxes.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** December 19, 2011 will be the Departments Toy Run. The event will begin at 5:30 pm at Fire Headquarters.

**Junior's/ Explorer Program:** *Capt. Longo will Chair committee.*

**Safety Officer's:** An updated accountability protocol has been recommended and requires final approval from the Board. Once approved, it will be burned onto a disc for future training and would be in effect, January 01, 2012.

**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:** Elections were held. Homeland Security may be providing radio's for Passaic County.

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

## **Old Business:**

**Company 1:** No report at this time.

**Company 2:** Inquired as to the annual physical results as some members didn't receive them.

*Chief advised to have members contact vendor Nassau Diagnostics Inc. for their results.*

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:**

Oath of Office: None

Company 1: No report at this time.

Company 2: Inquired as to the Installation Dinner.

*Chief advised it was requested in the 2012 budget with no commitment from the Borough.*

Company 3: No report at this time.

Company 4: No report at this time.

Company 5: No report at this time.

Chiefs Report: PSE&G has issued an "Overheated Burner Protocol" advising that when they arrive on scene they will shut off all utilities to that house and request the homeowners to evacuate their home for a period of 48 hours.

As to fallen power lines we have and will continue to treat every downed wire as a live wire.

Fire Fighter 1 classes will commence on January 22, 2012.

Fire Fighter II is also being scheduled in 2012. Dates will be provided in the future.

**Good & Welfare:**

Company 1: No report at this time.

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.