

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Clerk Christopher Mogen
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Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to Order on January 4, 2022 at 7:33pm by Chief Speranza

The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, December 18, 2021 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email (Clerk@HawthorneFire.org) to forward questions to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Ronald Walker Jr., *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Led by Chief Speranza

MINUTES:

Previous month's minutes have been dispersed.

Motion to dispersed the minutes: David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Second: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Approved: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Ronald Walker Jr., *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

CORE STATEMENT

Volunteers providing a professional service in
Fire Protection, Rescue Services and Fire Prevention
To the citizens of Hawthorne.

DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;

provided and presented by Clerk Mogen

Ridgewood Press (HFD - Company Fire Reports)	\$ 875.50
Fremgen's Power Equipment (Truck 2 - STIHL - MS-192 Repair)	\$ 50.00
FireFighter One (Engine 3 - Storz Adapter, Shutoff, Plain Tip)	\$ 680.12
Fire & Safety Service (Engine 1 - PM Defect Repairs)	\$ 1,033.30
FireFighter One (Engine 4 - AC Repair - Labor)	\$ 500.00
Luscher's Automotive, Inc. (Unit 50 - New Tires)	\$ 810.00
Communications Specialists (HFD - Remove Deuplexor for FD)	\$ 69.00
Penguin Management (6 Month Service - January 1 - June 30, 2022)	\$ 888.00
Puzo's Family Restaurant (Annual Fire Department Santa Run - Food & Refreshments for Volunteers)	\$ 195.31
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 3 - Replacement Hook 6', 8')	\$ 173.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (HFD - Mis. PPE Items)	\$ 4,059.23
Witmer Public Safety Group (HFD - Helmets)	\$ 2,890.61

Total: \$12,224.07

Motion to pay the bills: Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Second: Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Approved: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- 2022 Fire Officers
 - **Engine 1**
 - Assistant Chief (501): John Trippicchio
 - Captain (401): John Carlo
 - 1st Lieutenant (301): Connor Smith
 - 2nd Lieutenant (201): Jay Counsellor
 - **Engine 2**
 - Assistant Chief (502): Travis Lodder
 - Captain (402): Dennis McCarvill
 - 1st Lieutenant (302): Daryl Kallenberg

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- 2nd Lieutenant (202): Daniel Dube
 - **Engine 3**
 - Assistant Chief (503): Joe Longo
 - Captain (403): Dominick DeGroot
 - 1st Lieutenant (303): Mike Van Lenten
 - 2nd Lieutenant (203): Daryl Foca
 - **Engine 4**
 - Assistant Chief (504): Devin Hughes
 - Captain (404): Marc Walker
 - 1st Lieutenant (304): Brian Van Hook
 - 2nd Lieutenant (204): Matt Ryan
 - **Engine 5**
 - Assistant Chief (505): Anthony Manzo
 - Captain (405): Brian Patmos
 - 1st Lieutenant (305): Brian Warner
 - 2nd Lieutenant (205): Brendan Frei
- Received a letter of intent to join The Hawthorne Fire Department Rescue 5 from Mr. Michael Brackett of 242 Central Avenue, Hawthorne. An application will be provided to Assistant Chief Manzo.
- Received a letter for a Medical Leave of Absence form FF. Andrew Chartoff of Company 2, starting January 1, 2022. Approved by Company 2 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a letter for a Personal Leave of Absence form FF. Antiono Napolitano of Company 1, starting January 1, 2022. Approved by Company 1 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a letter for a Personal Leave of Absence form FF. Rashawn Byfield of Company 3, starting January 4, 2022. Approved by Company 3 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a return to Active Duty letter from FF. Jorge Padilla of Company 4, starting December 13, 2021. Approved by Company 4 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received the Military Change of Station form for FF. Graig Geier of Company 4. Approved by Company 4 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a Waiver letter from Company 4 for the officer eligibility for Ex. Assistant Chief Brian Van Hook to take the position of 1st Lieutenant. Approved by Company 4 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Motion to accept the waiver: David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Second: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Approved: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Ronald Walker Jr., *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

- Received a letter of Retirement from Ex Assistant Chief Robert Polito from Company 4. The Hawthorne Fire Department would like to thank Mr. Polito for his 45 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Hawthorne and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Motion to accept the retirement: Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Second: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Approved: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Ronald Walker Jr., *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

- Received a letter for a Personal Leave of Absence form FF. Theodore Thoms from Company 5, starting January 1, 2022. Approved by Company 5 and notification made to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

Engine CO. #1; presented by Assistant Chief John Trippichio:

- For the month of December 2021, Engine 1 responded to; 26 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 0 Drill(s) for a total of 28 alarms.
- Engine 1 - 2022 Officers are as follows:
 - 2nd Lieut. - Jay Counsellor
 - 1st Lieut. - Connor Smith
 - Captain - John Carlo
 - Assistant Chief - John Tripicchio
- Company 1 Training will resume this month. Company 1 will be asking each company to cross train to continue and maintain the “same page” mentality.
- The past 2 years we have been COVID stricken making training sporadic. Company 1 will be seeking to increase training seeking to utilize the Bergenfield Burn Building, Flashover Simulator Container and the Passaic County Academy.
- I want to take the opportunity to thank all who were at the last four large fires. Each fire had their challenges as they were fully involved on our arrival. Each of us there worked well together and each Officer ensured that everyone on the fireground came home safely. I would like to personally thank each one of you for your service and the display of dedication during challenging times.
- Tos AC Hughes and AC Walker, it was a pleasure having you on the Board and I wish the two of you the best of luck in your 2022 endeavors. Congrats to all incoming Officers.
- Equipment:
 - We received our one SCBA bottle that was out of service for some time and is now placed back on the Engine.

- Pony length hose remains outstanding
- Received black helmet shields

With the above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Tower CO. #2: presented by Assistant Chief Ron Walker Jr.:

- For the month of December 2021, Truck 2 responded to; 25 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarm, 3 Mutual Aid, 3 Glen Rock Alarms, 0 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 32 alarms.
- Truck 2 is still missing a box light if companies can look again at their firehouses before we request to purchase another one.
- Truck 2 K-12 was repaired after being damaged at the Washington Ave fire.
- FF. Carley Tamburro has been fitted for new PPE gear
- We are awaiting the bullet blade for our cutters edge chainsaw
- Wanted to say good job to all at the recent fires, glad no one was hurt.
- The 2022 Drivers list has been submitted to the clerk.
- Company 2 Officers for 2022 are as follows;
 - Assistant Chief - Travis Lodder
 - Captain - Dennis Mc Carvill
 - 1st Lt. - Daryl Kallenberg
 - 2nd Lt. - Daniel Dube
- Best of luck to the offices for this year.
- I wanted to thank my company for my time as Assistant Chief and The Board of Fire Commissioners for the support it's been a pleasure to serve.

With the above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Engine CO. #3: presented by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:

- For the month of December 2021, Engine 3 responded to 26 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarm, 3 Mutual Aid, 1 Chief Calls, 0 Training, and held 0 Drill for a total of 30 Alarms.
- Congratulations to firefighter Joe Wojtecki Jr. for being reinstated into Co#3
- FF. Jim Bakker remains on medical leave.
- FF. Tom Bakker Sr. returned to active duty
- Equipment:
 - CODES tag is required for FF. Joe Wojtecki Jr.
 - (1) Antenna for iCOM radio
 - 100' of 5" Pony Hose (Red) is needed due to the current hose being damaged in a house fire.
 - 2 SCBA Regulators need repair
 - (2) Pike Poles (6', 8') - Status of order
 - 1-1 ¾ Smooth Bore Nozzle
 - Storz Adapter 2 ½ - 5"

With the above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Engine CO. #4: presented by Assistant Chief Devin Hughes:

- For the month of December 2021, Engine 4 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarms, 0 Training, for a total of 28 Alarms.
- Firefighter Jorge Padilla has returned from his Medical Leave of Absence.
- Ex Assistant Chief Robert Polito has submitted his letter for retiring from the Hawthorne Fire Department effective January 1, 2022 after 45 years of service.
- Firefighter Craig Geier has submitted his current military orders.
- Engine 4 has also submitted to the Board a waiver request for Brian VanHook for 1st Lieutenant.
- Assistant Chief Walker and Hughes, it has been a great pleasure and honor working alongside the both of you. Wishing you both the best of wishes with our future endeavors.

With the above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

Rescue CO. #5: presented by Assistant Chief David Hughes:

- For the month of December 2021, Rescue 5 responded to; 25 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Stand-by, 1 Training /Drills, 1 Special Detail for a total of 27 Alarms.
- Fire Officer for 2022;
 - Assistant Chief - Anthony Manzo
 - Captain - Brian Patmos
 - First Lieutenant - Brian Warner
 - Second Lieutenant - Brandon Frei
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Primary generator burned out and the air compressor seized. Campbell Supply assessed repairs and took the truck to shop. Generator was removed and sent out for repair. Truck was returned to Borough and is back in service. Repair still pending.
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order
 - Personal
 - Nothing to report

With the above mentioned exceptions, all members and equipment are in good working order.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Be aware of the new development at;
 - Nelson Road (Old Boat House) The Fire Department has issued concerns about apparatus turning radius within the complex. Plus, there will be no access to the rear of the complex which will pose issues if there is a fire.
 - For all Companies, plan on visiting The Vista in Wyckoff, familiarize yourself with the complex. Hawthorne will be a mutual aid resource.

- Wagaraw & Lafayette Ave Property - Ongoing construction.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

Most importantly, I wish each of our members and their family a Healthy and Happy New Year.

I also wish to thank our officers who are departing their ranks and thank them for their dedication. We welcome our new officers and wish them the best.

To recap the past calendar year would be challenging to describe at best, our department and our amazing group of dedicated members had overcome much more than an average fire year. The one common factor is the members provided a lot more this year than memory provides. Our thanks again!

With the current issue at hand being this ongoing pandemic we have made a unified decision to move the installation/awards dinner to Saturday, March 5th at 7pm. We specifically wish to thank Macaluso's for accommodating the covid related date change.

With the virus ramping up over the past two weeks we remind our members that use of a mask especially with residents in investigative / MVA type incidents. We also recommend use of the mask in close quarters of the fire apparatus if possible and in quarters. Disinfection with provided spraying equipment should be as common as possible.

The Fire Board will also remain at HQs until further notice. (Library is currently closed).

We will be making every effort to maintain the third Tuesday as our Officers meeting and discontinue changing dates of meeting unless an emergency occurs. (The Chief's meeting will be as needed.)

Mayor Lane will be promoting the department's occurrences and upcoming events at council meetings, this increases department exposure in a positive way and is much appreciated. So monthly prior to the council meeting we will be provided him a report of department activity, incidents and fire department and fire company fundraising events.

We also will be returning to a monthly meeting in person meeting with the mayor as we have done so in the past with Mayor Goldberg. I would prefer each Asst. Chief attends at least two of these meetings with me per year.

We are looking into options which include 3 to 5 Inch Multi Hose Bridge ramps to help avoid driving over fire hose. They are extremely expensive and cumbersome and another piece to place before they are effective. The better option may be training or assigning a member to move fire hose prior to charging. This will be a future discussion and decision with our board.

Dates of importance

Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30pm - Meeting with Mutual Aid partners on cooperative cross training and resurgence of the departments task group. (Location to be determined).

Sunday, January 16 - 9am - Noon - Officers training course with John Hayowyk leadership program at Fire HQs

Tuesday, January 18 - 7:00pm - Officers Meeting beginning with a meeting with Capt. Carr and Lt. Van Der Hook, this will be followed by the critiques of recent fires and Prescott Avenue and a preview of 2022s training expectations.

Respectfully,
Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- No Submission

Cadets:

- No Submission

Ladies Auxiliary:

- No Submission

Citizen Fire:

- No Submission

Training Center:

- Vendor is looking into building leak
- Relocating hose from HQs to the Training Center
- Transporting and relocating the old Unit 58 to the Training Center

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - January 14 - 7:30 pm Exempt Meeting at Company 1
 - January 14 - 8pm Relief Meeting at Company 1

Passaic County Sheriff's Department:

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
 - Ongoing discussion of 8 trainees attending the HFD Training Center
 - Awareness Notice: When providing mutual aid to Paterson - be aware that there have been shootings near East Main St.

Radio Communications

- *Ex-Assistant Chief Mike Nelson*
 - No Submission

CODES

- *Captain John Carlo*
 - No Submission

Awards Committee

- No Submission

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No old business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No new business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Require new accountability tags for (302)
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No new business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Assistant Chief transition;
 - The Hawthorne Fire Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank Ronald Walker Jr. for his service as Assistant Chief of Company 2. The Hawthorne Fire Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to welcome Travis Lodder as the new Assistant Chief of Company 2.
 - The Hawthorne Fire Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank David Hughes for his service as Assistant Chief of Company 5. The Hawthorne Fire Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to welcome Anthony Manzo as the new Assistant Chief of Company 5.
 - Chief Speranza swore in FF. Mark Fiedler, he will be stationed at Rescue 5. The Hawthorne Fire Department and The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank FF Fiedler for his future service to the Borough of Hawthorne.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Checking on the status of the Company helmet shield request. Chief Speranza provided that the cost of reissuing new helmet shield for Truck 2 was placed in the 2022 Budget.

- Engine Company 3:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No old business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - No old business to report.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Speranza

- Victor Tamburro - Ask if the department would require members to wear masks at the firehouses. He has concerns with the new wave of COVID cases and the lack of masks being currently worn by membership.
 - **Motion:** Assistant Chief Hughes;
Requiring all members to wear masks when on apparatus and in apparatus bays.
Second by: Assistant Chief Trippichio
VOTE: PENDING - The motion was tabled until Assistant Chief's returned to their respected companies to speak with their company officers.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Chief Speranza

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to close the meeting: Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Second: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Approved: John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
 Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
 Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
 Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
 Anthony Manzo *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm by Chief Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk