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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](http://www.hawthornefire.org)

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order on February 7, 2023 at 7:30 pm by Chief Speranza

*The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, January 14, 2023 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email ([FireClerk@Hawthornenj.org](mailto:FireClerk@Hawthornenj.org)) to forward questions to the Board of Fire Commissioners.*

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*  
John Carlo *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*  
Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*  
Marc Walker, *CO. 4 Captain*  
Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*  
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

### **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:** Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

**Second:** Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

**Approved:** John Carlo *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*  
Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*  
Marc Walker, *CO. 4 Captain*  
Anthony Manzo, *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*

<b>New Jersey Fire Equipment Co.</b> (2023 Annual Compressor Contract)	\$ 2,212.18
<b>CNP Fit Test of NJ, LLC</b> (SCBA Fit Testing - FF. Dutzar, FF. Park)	\$ 50.00
<b>Bergen County Public Safety</b> (Firefighter 1 Class FF.M Fiedler)	\$ 465.00
<b>RICOH USA Corporation</b> (QTR (09/24/2022 - 12/23/2022) BW & Color)	\$ 175.43
<b>RT Office Products</b> (Certificate Holders, Label Tape)	\$ 182.89
<b>RT Office Products</b> (Radio Room: Toner Cartridges)	\$ 131.80
<b>1st Responder Newspaper</b> (2023 Annual Department Bundle Renewal)	\$ 85.00
<b>Passaic County 200 Club</b> (2023 Annual Dues)	\$ 250.00
<b>Passaic County Mutual Aid Association</b> (2023 Association Dues)	\$ 100.00
<b>New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association</b> (2023 Annual Dues)	\$ 80.00
<b>Witmer Public Safety Group</b> (Truck 2: FireHooks 8lb Force Entry Axes)	\$ 294.00
<b>New Jersey Fire Equipment Co.</b> (HFD - SCBA Repairs)	\$ 102.69
<b>Tanis Hardware Supplies</b> (Various Supplies)	\$ 100.00
<b>Bill Fox, LLC.</b> (FF Badges, AC Badges)	\$ 1,695.60
<b>Some's Worldwide Uniforms</b> (Various Citation Bars + Numbers)	\$ 510.00
<b>Clean Air Company, Inc</b> (Company 2 - Repair Exhaust System)	\$ 554.50
<b>Orion Equipment Service, Inc.</b> (Rescue 5 - Plasma Cutter Repair)	\$ 155.75
<b>Crazy Car Vinyl, LLC</b> (Unit 58: Additional External Lettering)	\$ 933.00
<b>Hawthorne Auto Lab</b> (Unit 60 - Preventative Maint.)	\$ 693.63
<b>East Coast Emergency Lighting</b> (Unit 61 - High AMP Time Delay)	\$ 300.00
<b>Superior Plus Propane</b> (Tank + Service Charge)	\$ 227.97
<b>Penguin Management. Inc.</b> (6 Month Service - Jan - June 2023)	\$ 894.00
<b>Macluso's</b> (2023 Annual Installation & Awards Dinner)	\$ 9,520.00
<b>HFD Co5</b> (Chief Houtsma - 8x10 Award Plaque w/ Engraving)	\$ 74.45
<b>Strategic Safety Dynamics, LLC</b> (PPE Turnout Coat & Pants - FF. R. Ita)	\$ 2,600.00

**Total: \$22,387.89**

**Motion to pay the bills:** John Carlo CO. 1 Assistant Chief

**Second:** Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

**Approved:** John Carlo CO. 1 Assistant Chief

Travis Lodder, CO. 2 Assistant Chief

Joseph Longo CO. 3 Assistant Chief

Marc Walker, CO. 4 Captain

Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

*Presented by Clerk Mogen*

- Received a resignation letter from FF. Christopher DeBella, Jr. of Company 1. Approved by Company 1 and notification was made to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank FF. Christopher DeBella, Jr. for his dedicated service to the department and the residents of Hawthorne.
- Received resignation notification of FF. Matthew Garrison of Company 1. Resignation letter is pending to the clerk. Approved by Company 1 and notification was made to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The

department and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank FF. Matthew Garrison for his dedicated service to the department and the residents of Hawthorne.

- Received a one (1) month Medical Leave of Absence letter from Lt. Daniel Dube, Company 2. Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a two (2) week Medical Leave of Absence letter from FF. Richard Genberg, Company 2. Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:**

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

- For the month of January, 2023, Engine 1 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 0 Special, 4 Drill(s) for a total of 18 alarms.
- Received a resignation for FF. Matt Garrison and Chris DiBella Jr., effective Jan. 16, 2023. Both FF were unable to fulfill their obligation as a Vol FF and have resigned. All FF gear, pagers, badges are handed in.
- 501 handed in VFIS Beneficiary Forms, missing 2 FF reports provided.
- 501 handed in LOSP for 2022 showing FF who made it.
- 501 handed in Fire percentage for the month of January 2023.
- 501 is collecting W-9 forms at this time
- 501 is requesting the following submitted in codes.
- 2 Milwaukee M18 5.0 Batteries, we have 1 damaged battery.
- Old Business;
  - 1 size 12 extra wide boots for FF. K. Foley there was a PO but never received them.

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

### **Tower CO. #2; presented by Assistant Chief Travis Lodder:**

- For the month of January 2023, Truck 2 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 1 Chief Call, 0 Still Alarm, 8 Mutual Aid calls including 5 to Glen Rock, 1 to Paterson, and 2 to North Haledon. Held 1 drill and 3 additional training, for a total of 28 alarms.
- Letters turned over to the clerk for FF Genberg (medical leave) and Lt. Dube (FMLA).
- LOSAP report for 2022 has been handed in.
- The plymovent hose in the firehouse was replaced by Clean Air and seems to be working properly.
- Our Natural gas meter was calibrated by PSE&G and is back on the truck. Calibration gas for both meters is still needed for calibrations in the near future.
- Truck 2 had 1 pack out of service due to an air leak, NJ Fire Equipment checked the pack and determined it to not be worth fixing with new packs due soon.
- Truck 2 spent a few hours last Sunday morning driving through and testing the aerial restrictions of the buildings in the new Hedges complex.
- Truck 2 has requested new flat head axes to replace our old ones, one of which had been damaged at the North Haledon fire.
- On March 27th Fire & Safety will be coming to take Truck 2 to their shop for the annual PM and to do some pre-discussed work.

**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 January 2023, Engine 3 responded to 18 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarm, 2 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, and held 2 Drills with 2 additional training for a total of 22 alarms.
- Co#3 would like to congratulate the following firefighters for their continued dedication of service to our company as followed; Ken Silvestri for 71 years, Bo Lamb Sr. for 40 years, Tom Bakker Jr. for 25 years, Lt. Mike Van Lenten for 15 years, Rob Byfield for 5 years. Co#3 Thank you.
- Co#3 would also like to congratulate firefighter Joe Wojtecki Jr. on the birth of his son. We wish him and his family all the best of health and happiness.
- Firefighter Byfield will be put on medical leave due to a shoulder injury, a medical note will be provided to the fire clerk

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

**Engine CO. #4: presented by Captain Marc Walker:**

- For the month of January 2023, Engine 4 responded to; 17 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 1 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill, for a total of 20 Alarms.
- Engine 4 has received the replacement radio for Passaic Fire and 110 volt charger for the CO Meter.
- Engine 4 is still waiting for the 110 volt chargers for our TIC and all hose that have been previously ordered. Also, we will need our radio's reprogrammed, as they are not programmed properly for all mutual aid frequencies.
- Members also removed the remaining hose from the old E4.

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

**Rescue CO. #5: presented by Assistant Chief Anthony Manzo:**

- For the month of January 2023, Rescue 5 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Stand-by, 2 Training /Drills, 0 Special Detail for a total of 22 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
  - Rescue
    - Good working order.
  - Unit 58
    - Emergency lights/sirens have been installed
  - Unit 57/Communications
    - Good working order
  - 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*

- Hedges walk-through for the FD is pending - TBD
- Additional items, refer to the Chief's report.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;**

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

I would like to thank our auxiliary, Joni Houston, Barry Houston, Staci Speranza, Clerk Mogen, Chief Tamburro and anyone else who assisted in the delivery of our installation dinner last week. Your help was paramount in making this event another well presented program.

With items noted in our dinner venue we will be addressing dinner costs, type of dessert options, DJ vs Jukebox type music, fundraising to offset cost and location of the event.

To control and keep responsibility for our membership our next dinner will include payment of bar costs for attendees and guests from each fire company. Bar costs are not covered by the department and in previous years our fire companies have funded bar expenses.

Payment from their respective fire companies must be provided with head counts 10 days prior to the dinner.

This year's dinner was over budget due to rapid cost increases of food etc. and venue cost increase by over \$7.00 per attendee and last minute cancellations.

Asst. Chiefs and their presidents will be the responsible party for providing accurate attendee counts and payments.

We are looking into an end of the summer bash fundraising event to assist in the reduction of the cost for our dinner and further info on this potential event will follow.

Last evening we attended a meeting with the finance committee and administration. Our requests for portables, mobile radios and pagers were met with good regard by the group and we hope to move forward shortly. Ty AC Longo, AC Manzo and AC Lodder for attending.

With the department's fund drive and membership indicating a significant drop we will be presenting the department through numerous outlets. They will include social media and programs for the town to boost volunteer awareness.

We have also spearheaded a drive to congress through Congressman Pascrell for a federal tax incentive for members and businesses that utilize, hire, and allow volunteer first responders to actively participate in their borough.

This issue, being a national problem, which demands national attention, is causing delays, strain and stress on existing membership and safety concerns in response for fire and EMS as well as utilization of multiple departments to conclude even minor incidents.

I encourage each of you to voice your concern via email to all congressional and senate members as much as possible.

## UPDATES

**New SCOTT SCBA training - Wednesday, Feb 15th - 7:15 pm** - For all Hawthorne and Glen Rock Fire members. RIT packs for each company are now in our possession and will be placed into service following the acquisition of our SCBA packs. Likely location of training will be Hawthorne Fire Headquarters.

**The new SCBA** - Is being shipped via FEDEX on March 3rd, from SCOTT of North Carolina and expected to be in around the 8th. In service date to follow.

**Radio Repairs** - This Thursday time to be determined, ESS Communications will be on site and will need to have all fire apparatus and HIGH band portables at Hqs to have radios repaired and programmed properly for Wyckoff and North Haledon.

**Electric Vehicle Training - Thursday, March 9th - 6:30 pm** - The three-hour course by Northeast Squad concepts covering emergency operations when dealing with Hybrid and electric vehicles. The class will include understanding of Tesla model 3 emergency disconnect locations, high voltage battery and other safety features. Likely location Glen Rock Fire Hqs or Glen Rock High School. Head counts from each company due in by Weds Feb 15th

**The Radio Room and Department Communications** - Continue to progress, and we will update you as we get further info.

**Officers Meeting - Tuesday, Feb 21st - 7:30 pm** - Officers should be prepared to run 5 separate scenarios from dispatch to completion of the simulated incident. In addition, I will be requesting suggestions and proposals to stimulate recruitment company by company as well as company goals and future equipment needs for the department in 2023.

Discussion will be an overview of the potential large-scale drill at the high school this August.

Discussion of department line officer structure will also be reviewed and ideas to improve operations with loss of firefighters.

**Training Center Cost Update (Not including the vehicle)** - Cost update, propane \$2.79-gal, total to fill expected \$1,395.00, 500 gallon tank \$2,400.00, car fire piping to vehicle from tank with regulators etc. \$5,900.00 expected total for simulator without the car costs \$9,695.00

Respectfully,  
Chief J. Speranza

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Communications Division:

- *George Zagatta (Radio Room)*
  - No written report submitted

### Cadets:

- *Captain Brian Patmos*
  - No written report submitted

**Ladies Auxiliary:**

- *President Joni Huston*
  - 2023 Fish Fry - April 7th (\$16/p dinner - Fish or Chicken) - More information to follow.
  - No written report submitted

**Citizen Fire:**

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
  - No written report submitted

**Training Center:**

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
  - The car simulator is complete - Future delivery TBD
  - Training Officers fees are being worked on for those FD's that use the facility.
  - No written report submitted

**Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
  - Submitted the annual Relief report to the state.
  - Thanks to Clerk Mogen for helping with reporting.
  - No written report submitted

**Passaic County Sheriff's Department:**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
  - Hazmat Tech School - 2 Members are in training
  - Radiation meter
  - County has a scuba program
  - No written report submitted

**Radio Communications**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief Mike Nelson*
  - No written report submitted

**CODES**

- *Assistant Chief John Carlo*
  - No written report submitted

**Awards Committee**

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
  - No written report submitted

**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.
- Chief:
  - No old business to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - *Assistant Chief Carlo*: Can the department or vendor provide CODES training for our members about the new NIFIS reporting requirements.
  - *Chief*: CODES will be accepting it going forward. FireSoft is also accepting and might be a future option. Yes, we can reach out and start planning a time for training.
- Tower Company 2:
  - *Asst. Chief Lodder*: Congrats to all members that received awards.
  - *Asst. Chief Lodder*: Road paint markings on Llewellyn Avenue are missing. Can the Borough complete this request before there is an incident?
  - *Chief*: We'll write a letter to the Borough Council about this concern. The topic will also be brought up during our scheduled Thursday meeting with the Mayor.
- Engine Company 3:
  - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - *Captain Walker*: CODES - There is a program issue when entering reports, we are constantly waiting and blocked while the other companies complete their entries.
  - *Chief*: Assistant Carlo + FD Clerk will reach out to the CODES vendor for solutions to this issue.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No new business to report.
- Chief:
  - From the NJ State - Hazmat On-Scene Incident Command class will be available.
  - Last week we met with the vendor for a presentation on the i Am Responding application.
  - The 2023 Mutual Aid Incident SOG has been delivered to all Assistant Chiefs.
  - The NARCAN Program - Used strictly for FD members - Training will be provided - Placing the NARCAN on the FD apparatuses.
  - Lithium Battery Class - TBD

## **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - No Good and Welfare to report.
- Tower Company 2:
  - *Asst. Chief Lodder*: Congratulations to Lt. Dube on the birth of his son.
- Engine Company 3:
  - *Asst. Chief Longo*: Congratulations to FF. Wojtecki Jr. on the birth of his son.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No Good and Welfare to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No Good and Welfare to report.
- Chief:



- Would like to thank all members that supported Ken Silvestri at the numerous events that celebrated his 70+ years of service to the Hawthorne Fire Department.

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;**  
*by Chief Speranza*

- Sharon Abbood (Ladies Auxiliary) - *Please keep Ella Snyder in your prayers?*

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;**  
*by Chief Speranza*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to close the meeting:** Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

**Second:** Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

**Approved:** John Carlo *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*  
Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Joseph Longo *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*  
Marc Walker, *CO. 4 Captain*  
Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm by Chief Speranza.*

Christopher Mogen  
*Fire Department Clerk*