

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

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order on June 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm by Chief Speranza

*Notice was provided to the Borough Clerk 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*  
Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*  
Anthony Manzo, *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:** Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

**Second:** Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

**Approved:** John Carlo *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*

#### 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>Occupational Medical Associates</b> (New Member Testing Physicals)	\$ 170.00
<b>Hawthorne Fire Company 5</b> (Rescue Technician - Basic Reimbursement)	\$ 80.00
<b>RT Office Products</b> (Radio Room: Label Tape - 1/2, 3/8, 1/4)	\$ 65.27
<b>RICOH USA Corporation</b> (HQ Printer Repair)	\$ 1,196.18
<b>Allied 100 LLC.</b> (AED Philips Pads)	\$ 1,810.00
<b>Teledyne FLIR Commercial Systems</b> (Rescue 5 - FLIR K53 Repair)	\$ 495.00
<b>Fremgens Power Equipment</b> (Truck 2 - STIHL Oil)	\$ 54.00
<b>Witmer Public Safety Group</b> (Engine 3 - Task Force Tips Adapter 5" Storz x 4.5")	\$ 239.00
<b>Firefighter One</b> (Helmet Shields)	\$ 85.00
<b>State Line Safety &amp; Fire</b> (Extinguisher Inspection + Repair)	\$ 287.15
<b>GoldStar Products, Inc.</b> (Fire Department - PPE Cleaner 2x Orders)	\$ 998.50
<b>Campbell Supply</b> (Engine 3 - Repairs based on Annual Maint.)	\$ 4,036.75
<b>Clean Air Company, Inc.</b> (Truck 2: Elbow Spiral 6" 90 Deg Repair)	\$ 40.08
<b>Penguin Management. Inc.</b> (6 Month Service / June - Dec 2023)	\$ 900.00
<b>Strategic Safety Dynamics, LLC</b> (PPE Turnout Coat & Pants - FF. S Geier, FF. C. Geier, LT. C. Mogen, Capt. M. Walker)	\$ 11,859.00
<b>Continental Fire &amp; Safety, Inc.</b> (Engine 3: Paratech Highway STRUTs)	\$ 11,816.10

**Total: \$ 34,131.95**

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

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION;**

- Members of the Elizabeth Parcels DeVoe Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. along with the President of the Washington Elm Society National Society Children of the American Revolution honored Borough Chief Joseph Speranza. Chief Speranza was awarded the NSDAR Community Service Award and pin for his dedication to the Fire Department and the citizens of Hawthorne. Chief Speranza has been with the fire department since 1978 and has served the past 23 years as borough chief overseeing four companies and one rescue unit. His dedication and commitment to the men and women of the department, and of his hometown are unparalleled.

*Presented by Mrs. Melissa Mogen*

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

*Presented by Clerk Mogen*

- Received a 2 month Leave of Absence letter from FF. Scott Finch of Company 1. Approved by Company 1 and notified the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a 3 month Medical Leave of Absence letter from Lt. Jorge Padilla of Company 4. Approved by Company 4 and notified the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a 3 month Medical Leave of Absence letter from Lt. Daniel Dube of Company 2. Approved by Company 2 and notified the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a letter of resignation from FF. Jose Corrales of Company 3. Approved by Company 3 and notified the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- FF. Joseph Gaglione has not been an active member of Company 5 since 2019. Requesting the Fire Board to remove this member from the active roles and forwarded an update to the State Exempt/Relief.

### **Motion to remove FF. Joseph Gaglione as an active member of the HFD:**

*Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 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*

*Devin Hughes, CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

*Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

## FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of May, 2023, Engine 1 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 1 Radio Alarms, 0 Special, 4 Drill(s) for a total of 34 alarms.
- Received Leave of Absence letter from FF. Scott Finch for 60 days leave, personal LOA.
- Engine 1 emergency repair for pump overheat sensor is all repaired.
- Engine 1 is waiting on the Fire Safety vendor for our parts to arrive then we will schedule repair.
- Engine 1 request for training at Passaic County Fire Academy and Bergenfield.
- Captain Arturi put in CODES the following with email quotes;
  - 4 - 5" x 50' Rubber Jacket Hose
  - 2 - 2.5' x 10' Green cloth jacket national standards
  - 2 - Firefighting hose straps
  - 2 - 2.5' NSTF Inlet x (2) 1.5' NSTM Outlet Gated Y

**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 May 2023, Truck 2 responded to; 29 Box Alarms, 0 Chief Call, 0 Still Alarm, 4 Mutual Aid calls including 2 to Glen Rock, 1 to Paterson, 1 to Clifton. Held 1 drill and 1 additional training, for a total of 34 alarms.
- Letter has been turned over for Lt. Dube's FMLA Leave.
- The aerial certification has been received and a copy has been turned over.
- The Plymovent in the firehouse has been replaced after it melted and failed.
- All members have gone over the new SCBA and received necessary equipment. We spoke to NJFE to order adapters for new packs to work with the breathing air in the bucket.
- Fire & Safety was out today to repair a faulty seat belt sensor on a seat and the officer mirror mount. They will be checking on warranty and if needed providing quotes for broken speaker on the pump and battery charging monitor.
- Truck 2 is still awaiting on calibration gas for meters and the lanyards for our TIC's

**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 May 2023, Engine 3 responded to 28 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarm, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, and held 2 Drills with 1 additional training for a total of 31 alarms.
- Engine 3 congratulates Firefighter Flaker on completing his basic Rescue Technician course.
- Company 3 has also received a letter of resignation from firefighter Jose Corrales, due to a career change. He is moving out of state. Company 3 wishes Jose the best of luck in his new endeavor.
- Engine 3 has conducted its annual PM service by Campbell Supply. Several items need replacement. Repair will advise when time and date are to be scheduled.
- Advise members if they are assisting with a water supply that our LDH intake on the Officer side of Engine is O.O.S.
- ESS looked at the high band radio on the Engine and found loose and broken power connection and loose antenna connections. Waiting on a new high band portable. Captain DeGroot spoke with Chief Lodder and Chief Speranza about it.
- Engine 3 is requesting one 4.5" NST male to 5" STORZ connection for front bumper 6" intake. Due to hydrants at the Hedges complex, being direct STORZ connection hydrants.

**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 May 2023, Engine 4 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarms, 2 Drill, for a total of 32 Alarms.
- On behalf of myself and the members of Engine 4, we would like to congratulate and welcome Andrew Padovani being sworn in tonight to the HFD as a member of Engine 4.
- Lieutenant Jorge Padilla is on a Medical Leave of Absence beginning May 21, 2023. Letter has been submitted to Clerk Mogen.
- Engine 4 received the final shipment of hose for the new engine, as well as the new SCBAs. All equipment has been placed in service.

- Currently Engine 4 is still waiting for all our truck radios to be reprogrammed properly. Majority of the mutual aid frequencies are programmed incorrectly and not working.

**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 May 2023, Rescue 5 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 4 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Stand-by, 2 Training /Drills, 0 Special Detail for a total of 34 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
  - Rescue
    - Good working order.
    - Rescue received new packs last night and one is out of service due to broken waist buckle
    - Rescue is experiencing air in the fuel system. Truck girls upon start then run efficiently.
    - 2nd Stage regulator to the air compressor has failed in the firehouse.
  - Unit 58
    - Will be quoted for rear warning and scene lighting.
  - Unit 57/Communications
    - While operating at Prospect Parks working fire, the generator failed due to overheating.
  - Boat
    - Good working order
  - Personal
    - Firefighter Mark Fiedler was placed on medical leave from April 27 to May 25 and is being extended until mid July. Medicine was inputted into CODES.

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

**FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;**

*reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

- Refer to the Chief's report.
  - The Hedges facility will be providing additional lockboxes at the West + East staircases.
  - Working with Dispatch an updated calls list will be used (Official list will be provided to all AC's)
- NOTE: All calls weekdays from 06:00 - 18:00 are always a FULL BOX unless otherwise requested by the Fire Chief.

**AFTER HOUR Dispatch - Box alarms**

Reported structure fires  
 activated alarms  
 Natural or propane gas leaks  
 order of smoke in a structure  
 power line down burning near a structure  
 bomb threats  
 flooding with possible entrapment  
 hazardous spill or fire  
 evacuations  
 severe storm warning for the borough

snow emergency/standby  
missing person  
tree down on a structure  
confined space / trench rescue  
vehicle into a structure with significant damage

**Multiple Company Response**

MVA with entrapment  
MVA overturned vehicle  
Fluid spill from a MVA  
Lighting detail  
Other department assist  
Helicopter landing  
Carbon Monoxide alarm

**Single Company Response**

Power line down bringing with no exposure  
Transformer fire with no exposure  
Brush fire with no exposure  
Exterior Smoke Condition  
Vehicle Fire with no exposure

**CHIEF’S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;**

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

I would like to start off with a thanks to the members and officers who attended our Memorial Day Parade and Service, your dedication is appreciated. We also would like to thank the Memorial Day Committee for the placement of the department in the parades line march.

The new SCBA packs have been placed in service and excellent attendance made the process as seamless as possible even with multiple fare calls between. Members who did not attend must have documented knowledge and instruction from the fire company officer of their company and then forwarded to the department for documentation of the members inservice training.

A reminder the pack checks are now the responsibility of our fire company officers or their assignee, and they must be tested often and documented accordingly. Batteries will be changed at a minimum of twice annually or as needed dependent on use.

**UPDATES**

**Wednesday, June 7th at 7:00 pm** - The training is scheduled for tomorrow, the course is approx two hours.

**Saturday, June 10th** - Fireworks detail, department assets should be in place around 7:00 pm. Fireworks program expected at approx 8:45 pm. Incident Action Plan has been provided to each company previously.

**Thursday, June 15th at 4:00 pm** - Meeting with mayor and administrator, need two attendees.

**Tuesday, June 20th** - Officers training on reports, fire ground, and the Sunrise Dr. review.

**Tuesday, July 25th** - Hose testing at Fire HQs, a schedule will be developed and provided as soon as possible.

**NJ PPE Equipment Grant** - The department will apply for a Unimac 20lb PPE rated washer and RAM Air Dryer unit for 8 sets of gear. Approx cost of the grant is \$40,000.00. We will be applying for the grant as soon as final guidance is available from the state.

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*
  - Thank you for the ongoing support and fundraising
  - AUX will be attending the Helicopter landing training
  - Purchase of a new vehicle is pending - Under Borough Review
  - No written report submitted

### **Citizen Fire:**

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
  - No written report submitted

### **Task Force:**

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
  - Drill is scheduled at the end of the month on May 28th.
  - No written report submitted

### **Training Center:**

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
  - Car simulator - was delivered and installed. Thank you to the Ladies AUX for all the support and financial donations. Gas piping will be funded by the Glen Rock FD funds.
  - Ladies AUX raised 5K to fund the car simulator - thank you again for the support
  - Setting up a committee that will be structure with HFD + Glen Rock FD members
  - Vendor is currently on scene making repairs with tree damaged, sections of the fence and lighting.
  - No written report submitted

### **Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
  - Relief meeting this Thursday, June 8th at Boys and Girls Club, starting at 7:00 pm

- No written report submitted

#### **Passaic County Sheriff's Department:**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
  - Members were sent to a dirty bomb training event.
  - 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:
  - Milwaukee Batteries are needed.  
*Chief: Contact Henry's and request a quote.*
- 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:
  - Boat Launch update - County OEM is moving forward with the ramp.
- Chief:
  - No old business to report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Thank you Chief for the Hedges Lockbox update.
  - Issues with the dispatch tones. Are the AC's going to review the tone options? A lot of our older members are having trouble hearing the current tones.  
*Chief: We can sit down with dispatch and the vendor to review options.*
- Tower Company 2:
  - Company 2 members have complained about how department members are driving to calls.  
*Chief: Please remind your members that all driving laws should be adhered to while responding to calls.*
- Engine Company 3:

#### CORE STATEMENT

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



- At the most recent calls, we have noticed smoke detectors that have been discarded and placed garbage containers in alarm mode but the general public are still placing calls for the FD.  
*Chief: Understand the concern but it doesn't hurt to be safe and make that call.*
- Engine Company 4:
  - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - Combustible Gas Training Class - Looking into for the FD
- Chief:
  - Gear lockers funds will be reviewed and approved by the Borough Council this Wednesday, June 7th
  - Ford recalled vehicles due to car fires
  - HFD Softball Team - Best of luck in the upcoming playoffs

### **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Ex-Asst Chief Fox is doing well, keep him in your prayers.
- Tower Company 2:
  - Congratulations to FF. Andrew Skae on his upcoming marriage.
- Engine Company 3:
  - Congratulations to FF. Flaker on completing his basic Rescue Technician course.
- Engine Company 4:
  - We would like to congratulate and welcome Andrew Padovani being sworn in tonight to the HFD as a member of Engine 4
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- Chief:
  - Wishing a few happy birthdays to FF. Silvia Fonseca-Araya and FF. Justin Speranza.

### **MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;**

*by Chief Speranza*

- Craig Geier (FF - Company 4) - *Work at the Training Center by Downs has been completed.*
  - *Chief: Great news, Thank you.*
- John Arturi (Ex-Assistant Chief - Company 1) - *Would like to thank those members that stop by at Company 1 for the BBQ before the Memorial Parade.*  
*Chief: Thank you, it was appreciated by all.*
- Victor Tamburro (Ex-Borough Chief - Company 2) - *Where is the Helicopter landing training? Is it on the field?*  
*AC Manzo - Landing is scheduled at the parking lot, on the pavement.*
- John Carlo (Assistant Chief - Company 1) - *Will the 125th Anniversary event on Saturday going to be tape off?*  
*Chief: Yes, you can come down early.*  
Joe Longo (Assistant Chief - Company 3) - *What time is the FD supposed to arrive?*  
*Chief: Arrive between 5:30-7pm time frame.*

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- John Arturi (Ex-Assistant Chief - Company 1) - *Was the recent helicopter landing a good place at the High School field?*  
Chief: *Yes, it was. Great support from our members and mutual aid partners during the landing.*

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;**

*by Chief Speranza*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to close the meeting:** Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

**Second:** Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

**Approved:** John Carlo *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 8:28 pm by Chief Speranza.*

Christopher Mogen  
*Fire Department Clerk*