

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 July 11, 2023 at 7:30 pm by Chief Speranza

Notice & location change (Rescue 5 - FD Headquarters - 828 Lafayette Ave) 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) 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

The Olympic Glove & Safety Co. (Truck 2 - Canister Test Calibration Gas)	\$ 400.00
10-75 Emergency Lighting (Unit 58 - SoundOff Signal Upgrade)	\$ 1,030.45
Hawthorne Premier Car Wash, LLC (Unit 50, Unit 61, Unit 62)	\$ 142.00
Fremgen's Power Equipment (Truck - Oil Cap, GAL of Bar Oil)	\$ 39.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 1 - Non-locking Wye, 2.5" NH Inlet)	\$ 644.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (HFD - Hose Strap, Streamlights, Airmask Bag, Glove Straps, Hoods, Black 1044 Cairn Helmets)	\$ 2,780.00
Metropolitan Compounds, Inc. (PPE Degreaser - 5 GAL)	\$ 527.44
Witmer Public Safety Group (Rescue 5 - 6' Hooks)	\$ 685.00

Total: \$ 6,247.89

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*

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- Received a three (3) month FMLA of Absence letter from FF Brynmor Anderson of Company 5. Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Received a letter of intent from Mr. Christopher Santana to join Company 1. Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Application will be provided to Assistant Chief Carlo.
- Received a letter to join the Cadet Program from Albert Santana-Padilla, assigned to Company 4. Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Cadet application will be provided to Assistant Chief Hughes.
- Received a doctor's return to active duty letter for Lt. Jorge Padilla from Company 4.
- Received a letter from FF. Gerry Flanagan of Company 4, requesting a three-month hold on his removal from the department active rolls. Pending approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

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- For the month of June, 2023, Engine 1 responded to; 35 Box Alarms, 4 Still Alarms, 1 Radio Alarms, 0 Special, 4 Drill(s) for a total of 44 alarms.
- Received letter of intent to be a FF from Chris Santana - Requesting application
- Engine 1 emergency repair for pump overheat sensor was repaired. But it had a bad sensor, waiting for a new sensor to arrive - it's under warranty.
- Engine 1 is waiting on Fire & Safety for our other parts to arrive then we will schedule repair. Door handle broke at the 5th Ave fire.
- Engine 1 completed a divers training course for FF Snyder. Paperwork is on file.
- Captain Arturi completed the SCBA operations and maintenance for all class A FF. Paperwork is on file.
- Engine 1 requesting for the November Fire Board meeting moved to the following day, Wednesday, not to conflict with Company 1's meeting night.
- Requesting an update to laptops and security updates.
- Engine 1 will request new STORZ spanner wrenches, we'll put the request into CODES.

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 June 2023, Truck 2 responded to; 34 Box Alarms, 0 Chief Call, 3 Still Alarm, 9 Mutual Aid calls including 6 to Glen Rock, 2 to Paterson, 1 to Prospect Park. Held 1 drill and 1 additional training, for a total of 47 alarms.
- All officers have completed their cyber-security training, certificates will be handed in.
- All members also completed a gear check. CODES has been updated and a list of gear needs will be handed in.
- The horns at the firehouse are out of service due to an air leak in the compressor. Ex-AC Nelson is aware and looking into it.
- Calibration gas has been received for the Multi-Gas and Natural Gas meters. Please schedule a time with us to calibrate your meters.
- Truck 2's natural gas meter would not calibrate last night and has been placed out of service.
- Truck 2 is still awaiting connections from NJ Fire Equipment for bucket breathing air.
- Price received from Fire & Safety for pump intercom/battery monitor.

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 June 2023, Engine 3 responded to 37 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarm, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, and held 3 Drills with 1 additional training for a total of 41 alarms.
- Engine 3 is waiting to hear back from Campbell Supply as to when back order parts will be in, to schedule the engine for service. Also we are having an issue with the interior manual gauge cluster driver side. This will be added to the repair list.
- Checking on the status of the PO for the structural struts and stuart connections for the front bumper.

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 June 2023, Engine 4 responded to; 33 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms (2 M/A to Glen Rock), 1 Standbys, 2 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill, for a total of 39 Alarms.
- On behalf of myself and the members of Engine 4, we would like to send our condolences to AC Carlo and his family for the loss of his sister.
- Lieutenant Jorge Padilla has returned from his Medical Leave of Absence. A clearance letter has been emailed to the Clerk.
- Albert Santana-Padilla has submitted a letter of interest to the HFD Cadets and a member of Engine 4.
- Two members of Engine 4 are being turned over to the Board of Fire Commissioner's for further review with the recommendation from the company officer's for removal from the rolls. Ninety-day review paperwork has been submitted.

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 June 2023, Rescue 5 responded to; 35 Box Alarms, 7 Still Alarms, 3 Mutual Aid, 0 Stand-by, 1 Training /Drills, 0 Special Detail for a total of 46 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Requesting 2 Boston Rake hooks and 2 Lockwood hooks (quote submitted)
 - SCBA pack that was damaged has been repaired
 - Firefighters DeMarco, L. Warner and M. Cook have been sized for gear (quote submitted)
 - Rescue's AC malfunctioned and is still getting air in the fuel. Rescue was picked up by Hudson County Motors for repairs. Rescue was returned Monday, July 10th.
 - Hudson County Motors advised the problem with the fuel was an aftermarket fuel filter housing installed at some point during preventative maintenance which was causing the filter not to sit correctly.
 - Hudson County Motors advised AC is currently working but parts are on order. Once they arrive, HCM will come to rescue and make the repairs in-house.
 - Unit 58
 - Quote has been submitted for the addition to emergency and scene lighting for the rear of the unit.
 - Unit 57/Communications
 - Exploring quotes for generator repair.
 - Radio Room requested 2 new computers due to the age of the current computers. They're running extremely slow for the current system. Also requesting 2 sets of speakers
 - Boat
 - Obtaining quotes for preventive maintenance
 - Personal
 - Firefighter Brynmor Anderson requested a 3 month Family Medical Leave starting July 1, with a return date of Sept. 30.

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.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

My condolences to AC Carlo on the loss of his sister Linda, Lt. Van Lenten on the loss of his partner Roxie, and thank you to our members who provided a great show of support and compassion to each. The department offers condolences to our brothers and sisters in the Newark and Paterson FDs on their loss as well.

My gratitude to the members for their efforts in the very unusual month of June which provided over 50 calls for aid. I will be conversing with our chiefs in an upcoming meeting for considerations in possible realign to our day to night fire call response volume which affect percentages. Also, some questions or concerns about the few daytime still alarms are designated by my authority under strict consideration of the department's members' safety. A specific still alarm helps protect members from unnecessarily expensive equipment use and firefighter response as well as percentage hits.

We offer our congrats to the class of 2023 and wish the graduates well.

A chiefs meeting will be held next Tuesday July 18th at 7:30pm Fire HQs, topic is training and day / night alarms.

UPDATES

New Air Packs - SCOTT is investigating the issue and a fix for the issue. We will be receiving at least 15 new clips as a test for the units having issues with holders falling off.

Unit 59 - We expect to place Unit 59 to be put out for bid in the next few weeks and invite those interested to bid on the unit. The starting bid is \$5000.00. The auxiliary is expected to receive a used patrol unit as a replacement.

Mayor's staff meeting - July 10th, 2023 - HPD will be interfacing with the department on active shooter requirements and training in the next few weeks.

Members Appreciation Night - We are tentatively setting up an Uncle Louie's Italian Ice members appreciation night on Monday Aug 21st. The times would be 7 to 9 pm and further confirmation will follow.

Leadership Camp - Helicopter landing detail, Monday 8/14 approx. 9am, Fire Dept program Thursday 8/17 at noon.

Engine 4X - Truck will be on loan to the Prospect Park FD beginning Friday 7/14. Period of use uncertain dependent on their truck return from repair.

Open House FD - Tentative schedule Sunday Oct 8th, 9am to noon. Free pancake breakfast and equipment display, fire prevention display and recruitment opportunity.

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IDs - We will be scheduling those members with existing IDs updated ones and new members with original department IDs in the next few weeks.

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:

- *Treasurer Sharon Abbood*
 - Planning is ongoing for the annual Trick or Treat event in October.
 - No written report submitted

Citizen Fire:

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - No written report submitted

Task Force:

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - The latest drill went well with all those that attended.
 - No written report submitted

Training Center:

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
 - Car simulator - Is now certified
 - Propane planning is in the works for the car simulator
 - Maintenance vendor has been selected to do monthly clean up
 - Projection planning has been submitted to the Chief to be delivered to the Company Presidents at the upcoming meeting.
 - Glen Rock has provided 10K to be used for the upgrades to the Training Center
 - Downs has removed trees - Thank you
 - Cameras have been installed at the location
 - Fence is pending repair by the Borough
 - Thank you to the Ladies AUX
 - Training Center Committee will discuss new layouts to the smoke building
 - No written report submitted

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - Relief meeting - Thursday, July 13th - Company 1 @ 7:30pm
 - 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

Technology/CODES

- *Assistant Chief John Carlo & Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - Reviewing new vendors that provide the NFIRS aspect to reporting.
 - No written report submitted

Awards Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - No written report submitted

Hawthorne Day Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza, Assistant Chief Lodder & Clerk Mogen*
 - Recruitment and Education - Sept. 30th
 - No written report submitted

Department Open House Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza, Assistant Chief Manzo & Assistant Chief Hughes*
 - Date set tentatively for Sunday, October 8th
 - No written report submitted

Department Drill

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - *Awaiting date*
 - *First meeting is scheduled this coming week.*
 - No written report submitted

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - What is the status of the FD fundraiser at Bottagra?
Chief: Contact Ex-Assistant Chief DiBella for details.
 - Are the lights at the Training Center operational?
Chief: Yes, temporary lights are in place with the generator on site.
 - Are the recent safety concerns brought up during the Chiefs + Mayor meetings?
Chief: Safety issues are brought up during the Mayor's meeting.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Company 2 horns are not working at the firehouse, we have contacted Ex-AC Nelson.
 - At recent calls, police assistance is in question and there are ongoing safety issues.
What can be done?
Chief: I will follow up with HPD's Chief about our concerns.
- Engine Company 3:
 - No old business to report.

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- Engine Company 4:
 - No old business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - The Task Force Drill went well, thank you to all members that attended.
- Chief:
 - Meeting is scheduled with Motorola to discuss the current pager tones, eVAC tones and the possibility of individual company tones.
 - We have brought up our safety concerns with the Police Chief multiple times and will do so again.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - The laptops that each company utilizes for CODES and MEL training courses. Is there an IT vendor available to do maintenance on them?
Chief: We will reach out to the Borough administration for assistance.
- Tower Company 2:
 - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - How long is Prospect Park using the old Engine 4X?
Chief: Currently the length is open due to their current engine being OOS + repaired. All paperwork is in place between the two towns.
- Chief:
 - Hedges Lock Box update - Extra keys have been requested
 - 542 Goffle - Hawthorne Heights - 12" Fire flows are being installed + lock boxes at every stairway + the turning radius has been corrected.
 - Wawa Store is in the planning stage for the corner Lafayette + Goffle
 - 205 Westervelt Ave - Code Prevention is a must at this location.
 - Planning a FD drill with OEM + State for a Mass Event Drill
 - Upcoming State Grant submission -
 - Requesting a washer + dryer for PPE
 - Mutual department submission for a Fire Prevention Trailer
 - Reviewing a vendor that can provide steel information tags that will help read our gas meters.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Condolence to Assistant Chief Carlo and his family.
- Engine Company 3:
 - Condolence to Lt. Van Lenten and his family.
- Engine Company 4:

- No good and welfare to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Chief:
 - Keep retired FF. Tom Kennedy in your prayers.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Speranza

- Victor Tamburro (Ex-Borough Chief - Company 2) - *Is the Borough extending the fence height at the Training Center?*
Chief: Yes, my understanding is that they are planning for an 8' fence.
- Victor Tamburro (Ex-Borough Chief - Company 2) - *Why was Engine 1 traveling up Route 208 during the recent flooding emergency?*
Chief: We will avoid future issues. We won't go into the water, except when someone needs our assistance.
- Peter Van Der Velde (Ex-Assistant Chief - Company 4) - *Can the FD remove any Engine 4 lettering on the old engine since other towns are now using it?*
Chief: Yes, you can remove any reference to Engine 4 but keep Hawthorne lettering.
- Daryl Kallenberg (Captain - Company 2) - *Is the FD getting a new smoke maker for the Training Center?*
Chief: Yes, the FD is planning on 2 smoke makers for the Training Center.

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: Joseph Longo *CO. 3 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 8:48 pm by Chief Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk