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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 August 1, 2023 at 7:31 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*  
Brian Patmos, *CO. 5 Captain*

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*  
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

### **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:** Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 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*  
Brian Patmos, *CO. 5 Captain*

#### 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*

**Deferred until next month**

## **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;**

*Presented by Chief Speranza*

- Received a completed application from Christopher A Santana, he will be joining Fire Company 1 and will be sworn in upon completion of required physical.
- Receipt of acknowledgement for the NJFSAB Fire Sprinkler Trailer will attend Hawthorne Day.
- The Division of Fire Safety advised that tracking of Lithium Battery Incidents must be electronically tracked, information provided to the chiefs.
- St. Anthonys and our Exempts Association date set for our annual Memorial Service on November 12, 2023.
- Resignation letter from FF. Flanagan from Engine 4 was accepted with regrets.
- Letter requesting to join Truck 2 from Christina M. Dayman turned over to AC Lodder.
- Letter requesting to join Truck 2 from Michael Akor, turned over to AC Lodder.
- FF. Scott Finch requested and approved a three month Personal Leave from duty.
- Ex-Asst. Chief David Hughes requested and approved a three month Medical Leave from duty.

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

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

- For the month of July, 2023, Engine 1 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 1 Radio Alarms, 0 Special, 4 Drill(s) for a total of 31 alarms.
- Engine 1's laptop has been updated.
- Engine 1 is scheduled for the Passaic Fire Academy on August 21st and will be asking Rescue 5 to join.
- Engine 1 calibrated CO meter on July 23rd at Company 2, thank you Truck 2.
- Engine 1 called Fire & Safety for the parts replacement still waiting, no call back.
- FF. A. Dutzar and FF. C. Santana were measured for gear.
- FF. S. Finch will be extending his LOA until September 1, 2023, letter was handed in.
- Engine 1 is handing in C. Santana application all complete waiting on physical.
- Engine 1 is requesting a pager for C. Santana
- Engine 1 will create a list of ger that needs repaired or over the ten year mark. The list is in CODES.

### **CORE STATEMENT**

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

**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 July 2023, Truck 2 responded to; 28 Box Alarms, 0 Chief Call, 4 Still Alarm, 9 Mutual Aid calls including 7 to Glen Rock, 1 to Fair Lawn. Held 1 drill and 1 additional training, for a total of 43 alarms.
- Letters for 2 prospective members turned into the Clerk.
- Truck 2 received our laptop back from Borough Hall.
- All hose on the Truck was tested and passed.
- Milwaukee 18v Circular Saw repaired and returned.
- The Multi-Gas meter has an issue with O2 sensors. Will be looked at by Olympic Glove.
- Truck 2's natural gas meter remains out of service.

**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 July 2023, Engine 3 responded to 30 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarm, 0 Mutual Aid, 1 Chief Calls, and held 2 Drills with 1 additional training for a total of 34 alarms.
- Engine 3 is requesting AED pads to replace the outdated ones. Also inquiring about the Infant/Child, Adult BVM masks for oxygen tank.
- Hose testing has been completed with minimal lines taken OOS.

**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 July 2023, Engine 4 responded to; 27 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 3 Standbys (1 Hawthorne, 2 Ridgewood), 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill, for a total of 32 Alarms.
- On behalf of myself and the members of Engine 4, we would like to send our condolences to Ex Asst. Chief Polito and his family for the loss of his mother.
- Thank you to all the members last night from Truck 2, Engine 4, and Bergenfield Fire Instructors that aided and assisted Lt./Clerk Mogen when he suffered a medical emergency during training. Lt. Mogen will be on a Medical Leave of Absence until further notice.
- Albert Santana-Padilla has submitted his application for the HFD Cadet and as a member of Engine 4.
- Engine 4 has received their laptop back from the Borough after updates were completed.

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

**Rescue CO. #5: presented by Captain Brain Patmos:**

- For the month of July 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
    - 4 Gas Meter is out of service due to faulty sensor.
    - Rescue was returned by Hudson County Motors and is still experiencing the same fuel issue. They advised they will be having a technician come out during the week to finish the repairs that were not made along with the air conditioning.
  - Unit 58
    - Awaiting PO for emergency lighting
  - Unit 57/Communications
    - Air Compressor was recently serviced due to a bad sensor. It is fully operational.
  - Boat
    - Obtaining quotes for preventive maintenance
  - Personal
    - Firefighter Mark Fiedler's medical extended until August 25 and it has been put 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.

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

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

I am offering my thanks to the fire companies and auxiliary members for presenting at the annual National Night Out program tonight. The time of our members and presence is greatly appreciated.

Our condolences to AC Manzo and Ex. AC R. Politio on the loss of their family members, we wish Clerk Mogen a speedy recovery from his incident.

### **UPDATES**

**County Caucus Meeting** - This Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club 7pm, all members are welcome to attend.

**Leadership Program** - A reminder, Leadership Camp is set for Monday, August 14th for the helicopter landing, Rescue and an Engine need to be on site at 8:45am. Thursday, August 17th the department will run its portion of the camp from noon to 3pm, anyone available to assist is greatly appreciated.

**Members Appreciation Night** - On August 21st from 7 to 9pm the department is offering a members appreciation night with Uncle Louie's Italian Ice Truck which will be at Fire HQs. This is a thank you to our members for their dedication and commitment to our department, so stop by for an Italian ice.

**Active Shooter Training Drill Update** - Training will be conducted asap and by virtue of the instructor's availability this fall.

**HHS Drill** - Set for March 2024, meetings and details will follow as they are in progress.

**Dept. Physicals** - September 24th and 25th - Times and schedules will follow.

**State Gear Cleaning Equipment Grant** - We are set to begin the process but are awaiting formal approval from the administration. Grant will be for a 20lb Unimac Commercial Turnout Gear rated washing and drying unit including a boot, glove drying unit. Estimated grant \$38,000.00

**Fire Hose Testing** - Completed on July 25th with a total loss of 6 lengths of hose.

**Odd Hours, No pay, Cool Hat** - The 1 ½ hour video presentation is being sent to us asap. I will attempt to schedule a no cost showing at the Hawthorne Theater. We will also be utilizing the video presentation as a recruitment tool in different venues.

**Paging Tone Update** - Tone frequency were reprogrammed to operate more effectively, volume and operating range improved. We are currently awaiting the importing of our original fire tones and will then remove the current tone.

**Pagers** - New pagers are due on Friday and will be programmed, they will be assigned through the highest percentages in each company.

**Communications Desk (Radio Room)** - Thanks to George Zagatta, the room is functional and improving. George did an awesome amount of work retrofitting the desk that is much appreciated.

**Dept. Training** - September 25th at the Training Center, each company will undergo evolutions in size-up, and scene assessment, search, fire attack completed with personnel assessment.

**Schedule as follows:**

*Engine 1 w/ Truck 2 - 6:45pm to 7:30pm*

*Engine 3 w/ Rescue 5 - 7:45pm to 8:30pm*

*Engine 4 w/ Truck 2 and Rescue 5 - 8:45pm to 9:30pm*

**Training Center** - Car fire simulator unit in place awaiting piping. Delay in payment by Borough administration and finance has led to a stall in movement. Once the board approved payment is processed, we can then have the propane vendor add another 500-gal tank and complete piping to the simulator and begin use.

**Wildwood Head Counts** - Need head counts of available members throughout the period. With this info a decision on placement of apparatus will be formatted for response to the Borough.

**From Fire Prevention** - Liedel on target to be built sometime this year. 542 Goffle Rd also continuing progress may be in process by late fall.

Respectfully,  
Chief J. Speranza

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communications Division:**

- *Chief Speranza*

- The department wishes to thank FF. George Zagatta for his dedicated efforts in reading the radio room and getting functions.

**Cadets:**

- *Captain Brian Patmos*
  - No written report submitted

**Ladies Auxiliary:**

- *Treasurer Sharon Abbood*
  - No written report submitted

**Citizen Fire:**

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
  - Applications being taken for October kick off
  - 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*
  - Still awaiting promised repairs of the fence at the site. Namouf Landscaping has been hired to maintain the site's weeds and overgrowth monthly. Committee for the training center being assembled.
  - No written report submitted

**Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
  - Memorial Service - November 12th at St. Anthony's RC Church.
  - No written report submitted

**Passaic County Sheriff's Department:**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
  - No written report submitted

**Radio Communications**

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

**Technology/CODES**

- *Assistant Chief John Carlo & Assistant Chief Lodder*
  - 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

**Honor Guard**

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
  - *Ex. Borough Chief Tamburro and FF. Chris Tamburro spearheading committee and guidelines to use and program.*
  - No written report submitted

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Tower Company 2:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 3:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Chief:
  - Refer to the Company report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Tower Company 2:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 3:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Chief:
  - Refer to the Company report.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Tower Company 2:

- Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 3:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - Refer to the Company report.
- Chief:
  - Refer to the Company report.

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

No Public comment offered.

**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:** 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*

Brian Patmos, *CO. 5 Captain*

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by Chief Speranza.*