

Chief Joseph Speranza
973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



Clerk Christopher Mogen
973.423.2536 Office
973.423.5089 Fax

Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order on October 3, 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) 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: 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*
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

Passaic County Community College (Engine 1 + Rescue - Burn Building Training)	\$ 350.00
Company 5/Radio Room (Radio Room - SSD Computer Drives)	\$ 59.97
Witmer Public Safety Group (Truck 2 + Rescue 5 - Elevator Key Set)	\$ 483.00
The Olympic Glove & Safety Co. (HFD - VENTIS Repair + Recalibration)	\$ 500.00
Strategic Safety Dynamics, LLC. (HFD - Xam 2500 Gas Meter-Ex/O2/CO/H2S-LC)	\$ 1,167.64
Fire & Safety Services, LTD (Truck 2 - Bumper mount bolt)	\$ 68.47
FDR Hitches (HFD - Boat + Light Tower trailer tires)	\$ 375.30
Alkin Compressors (Company 2 - Horn Compressor - Parts)	\$ 200.00
Puzo's Family Restaurant (HFD - Hawthorne Day Sept. 30th - FD+ Mutual Aid FD)	\$ 500.00
Shortways Barn (HFD - Fire Prevention School Visits - Refreshments)	\$ 500.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Truck 2 - Helmet Shields)	\$ 988.77

Total: \$ 5,193.15

Motion to pay the bills: 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*

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Chief Speranza

- Letter requesting to join Engine 4 as a cadet from Adara Lusk, turned over to the Clerk. Requesting a HFD Cadet application.
- Letter requesting to join Engine 4 from Albert Santana-Padilla, turned over to the Clerk. Requesting an HFD application.
- Received a letter from Mayor Lane, thanking the fire department for the various demos and showcasing equipment at Hawthorne Day.
- Received the complete application from returning member Adam Geier from Company 4.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of September 2023, Engine 1 responded to;
 - 36 Box Alarms
 - 0 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid

CORE STATEMENT

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

- 1 Radio Alarm
- 0 Stand By
- 4 Training/Drills

41 Total Alarms

- FF. S. Finch is off his Leave of Absence.
- Engine 1 members completed physicals except 2 members, Lt. J. Counsellor Sr. and FF. J Counsellor Jr.
- Engine 1 received notice that the Wyckoff fireworks were canceled, 2 times.
- Engine 1 is requesting to go to the Wallington parade.
- Engine 1 members list handed in who made clothing allowance for the fire year 2023.
- FF. Dutzar and Santana received new gear.
- Engine 1 will be going to the High School bonfire.

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 September 2023, Truck 2 responded to;
 - 37 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms
 - 7 Mutual Aid (6 Glen Rock and 1 to Paterson)
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/ 1 Drills

47 Total Alarms

- Application for new member Michael Akor, turned over.
- Final percentages for 2022-2023 fire year have been handed in.
- All members have taken the right to know, bloodborne pathogens, and HazMat classes. DVDs for the classes turned back in.
- Truck 2 has 2 members left still needing their annual physical.
- The air compressor has been replaced at the firehouse by Ex-Asst. Chief Nelson and horns are working again.
- Fire & Safety and Cummins were out to look at an oil leak on the truck. They believe they found the leak and have repaired it but will be back out to check it again.
- Truck 2 has a battery for our FLIR K2 TIC that is not charging and in need of replacement.

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 September 2023, Engine 3 responded to;
 - 37 Box Alarms
 - 0 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By

- 0 Training/Drills

37 Total Alarms

- FF. Chris Bakker is submitting paperwork to join Co#3, along with his application. He is scheduled for a physical this week.
- Co#3 would like to thank all firefighters and their families who helped support us on Hawthorne Day buying sausage + pepper sandwiches.

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 September 2023, Engine 4 responded to;
 - 34 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms (1 to Prospect Park)
 - 4 Mutual Aid (Glen Rock)
 - 2 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 0 Training/Drills

42 Total Alarms

- On behalf of myself and the members of Engine 4, we would like to thank Rescue 5 for their hospitality during the Wildwood convention as well as their members and Engine 3 members that assisted us during the convention.
- Engine 4's CO Meter is currently out of service and repairs are complete. Waiting on PO to pick up the meter.
- Adam Geier has submitted his application to rejoin the HFD as a member of Engine 4.
- Adara Lusk has submitted a letter of intent to join the HFD Cadet's and as a member of Engine 4.
- End of Fire Year Percentages Certification letter has been submitted to Clerk Mogen.
- Albert Santana-Padilla has submitted his letter of intent to join HFD as a member of Engine 4.

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 September 2023, Rescue 5 responded to;
 - 36 Box Alarms
 - 3 Still Alarms
 - 2 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Special Event
 - 0 Stand By
 - 2 Training/Drills

41 Total Alarms

- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Received a loaner 4 gas meter until Rescue's meter is returned
 - 1 SCBA out of service
 - Numbers for clothing allowance have been submitted.
 - Discrepancies on CODES with alarm numbers
 - Unit 58
 - Emergency lighting has been installed.
 - Unit 57/Communications
 - Good working order.
 - Boat
 - Still awaiting proper paperwork from the vendor to complete preventive maintenance on the boat.
 - Personal
 - FF. Mark Fiedler medical extended until October 5th
 - FF. Bryn Aderson returned to active duty from family leave.

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 thanks to the members and companies who participated in the outstanding delivery of our program at our Hawthorne Day. The smoke trailer, fire sprinkler trailer and bounce house were excellent draws and had very good attendance.

We appreciate the assistance from the many members in providing support at the tent and with recruitment, AC Lodder for obtaining the smoke trailer, Clerk Mogen for the tent and supplies and Zoe Mogen for working as Sparky.

I also wish to thank all our drill attendees, our evaluators AC Longo, Chief Tamburro, Glen Rock Chief Jennings and our Ladies Aux for providing refreshments. This drill was not a good or poor drill, it was an opportunity to build team concept/strategy and development of a safer fire ground operation.

The department has an exceptional opportunity on Thursday, Oct. 19th at 7:30pm with a presentation of the Nationally Produced recruitment movie "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat" to be presented at the Hawthorne Theater free of charge to anyone attending. Myself and FF Gengerg worked on this endeavor with the National Volunteer

Firefighter Council, and we offer our special thanks to Favio Romeo from the Town cast and the Hawthorne Theater for providing us with the opportunity.

We will be setting up a recruitment and information table in and outside the theater and likely will be inviting additional townships to participate. (Chiefs and Aux, I will be looking for your input and assistance with a meeting at 6:45 pm on Monday Oct 9th at HQs.).

Great job at the water operation this past week and thank you to Wyckoff FD and Bergen OEM for use of the high-water rescue vehicle. The high-water unit must be pursued for the borough of Hawthorne as promised two years ago by our previous administration. I intend to work with OEM Coordinator Lt. Veenma to ensure we move forward in obtaining one of these units.

The Department wishes to thank our members for providing an outstanding service to the borough of Hawthorn and our mutual aid partners over the past fire year. 2023 turned out to be one of the busiest year in recent history so on behalf of the borough, thank you and your families for your continued support.

After conferring with the mayor and Hawthorne Police Dept. we will progress with the potential opportunity of having a Fire Police program. I will assign a lead on investigating this opportunity.

Would like to thank FF. Glenn Rees for many hours organizing the recent gear locker order which is now ready to be picked up by the individual fire companies.

UPDATES

Thursday, Oct 6th - Citizens Academy - 7:00pm at Fire HQs - Members should be in attendance by 6:30pm.

Friday, Oct 7th - Due by this Friday, the fire year 2023's Clothing Allowance annual member percentages.

Monday, Oct 9th - At Fire HQs, anyone interested and available in assisting the recruitment movie presentation, we will team up on this at 6:45 pm, this followed by an Open House meeting at 7:15 pm and whoever can assist should attend. Meetings will be kept to ½ hour due to fire company meetings that evening.

Tuesday Oct 10th - Annual Red Mass, 7:00 pm - St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Main and Grand Streets, Paterson, NJ (Full Dress Uniform). Mayor is urging us to attend.

Wednesday Oct 11th - 6:30 pm Engine 1 at the HHS BonFire.

Thursday, Oct 12th - Friday Oct 13th - Fire Prevention Visits beginning at 8:30 am followed by members attending for lunch at Shortways.

Tuesday, Oct 17th - Fire Officers meeting and review of this past week's drill.

Monday, Oct 23rd - At 7:00 pm at Fire HQs, training for "Stop the Bleed" and "Safe Lifting Practices"

Tuesday, Oct 24th - At 6:30 pm sharp - JIF Insurance mandated training at Fire HQs, downstairs conference room. Chief, Asst. Chiefs required. All other officers are highly recommended in attending.

Saturday, Oct 28th - Ladies Aux Truck or Treat at Fire HQs.

Sunday, Oct 29th - 9:00 am - 11:30 am - FD Open House & Pancake Breakfast at HQs, anyone interested in assisting and providing the presentation we will be meeting next Monday, Oct 9th at 7:00 pm at HQs.

Thursday, Nov 9th - At 7:00 pm, Helicopter Landing - More details to follow.

Respectfully,
Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- *Chief Speranza*
 - No written report submitted

Cadets:

- *Captain Brian Patmos*
 - No written report submitted

Ladies Auxiliary:

- *President Joni Huston*
 - No written report submitted
 - The Auxiliary will be holding their annual “Trunk or Treat” on Saturday, October 28th at Rescue from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We are asking for volunteer vehicles to be decorated and to hand out candy to the children attending. Please let any auxiliary member know if you are willing to participate by emailing HFDnjAuxiliary@gmail.com

Citizen Fire:

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - No written report submitted
 - Kick off this Thursday, October 5th
 - 12 participates have signed up

Task Force:

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - No written report submitted

Training Center:

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
 - No written report submitted
 - Organizing the committee - talking to members from each company
 - Waiting and promised by the Borough to fix the fence.
 - Would like to schedule a meeting with the propane company. The car simulator requires a second tank and lines to fuel the simulator.

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - No written report submitted
 - Exempt + Relief meeting - Oct 12th, 7:30 pm at Company 1

- The Fire Department Memorial Service is scheduled for November 12th

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

Department Open House Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza, Assistant Chief Manzo & Assistant Chief Hughes*
 - No written report submitted
 - Planning meeting on **Monday, Oct 9th** at 7:15 pm and whoever can assist should attend. Meetings will be kept to ½ hour due to fire company meetings that evening.
 - **Sunday, Oct 29th** - 9:00 am - 11:30 am - FD Open House & Pancake Breakfast at HQs

Honor Guard

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - No written report submitted

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Status of the additional lockbox for Hedges?
 - *Chief: Check with Fire Prevention for the status.*
 - Status of Torque Wrench for the Scotts SCBA battery?
 - *Chief: Currently the department has one torque wrench located at HQs. If any company requires it, please reach out to schedule a time to stop by. Due to the cost of each SCOTT pack and the possibility of damage, it was recommended by the vendor to be careful when using the tool.*
 - Status of Class C Uniforms?
 - *Chief: Please connect with Ex-Asst. Chief DiBella who would know the status of the fundraising.*
 - Status of Training Center fence repairs?
 - *Chief: Waiting on the Borough to make the repairs.*
 - Status of NFIRS in CODES?
 - *Chief: I was notified that CODES was certified to provide NFIRS in their software. We are still currently looking at other vendors such as CSI.*
- 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Status of the funds from the sale of the Ladies Aux vehicle?
 - *Chief: The Borough would receive the funds from the sale of the Ladies Aux vehicle, which would probably go into the Borough general funds.*
- 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:
 - There was an issue with the CODES alarm count for the year, missing 6 alarms for Rescue?
 - *Chief: The CODES committee will forward your concern to the vendor.*
- Chief:
 - Chief Speranza swore in FF. Michael Akor, he will be stationed at Company 2. The Hawthorne Fire Department and The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank FF. Michael Akor for his future service to the Borough of Hawthorne. Michael's completed application is pending approval before he can sign the Borough Ledger.

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:
 - Condolences to the family of ex-member FF. Jay Goodrich's mother who passed away.
 - FF. Anderson's father has returned home.
- Chief:
 - Covid is around again, please use caution when responding.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Speranza

- FF. Craig Geier (Company 4) - What is the status of reprogramming the new pagers?
Chief: Waiting on the reprogramming by George from the Radio Room when he returns - The full updates to the new pagers will occur in early March.
- Asst. Chief John Carlo (Company 1) - I'm not hearing the full dispatch message on the new pagers. Can it be fixed?
Chief: The new pagers have a 8 sec window for tones. When George from the Radio Room returns shortly, he'll help with programming.
- Captain John Arturi (Company 1) - I was having an issue with the new pager in the beginning. Now it seems that it's working fine.
Chief: As mentioned, once George returns, he'll be able to help with re-programming the pagers. Also, note that new buildings will be required to add radio repeaters, which will help with radio transmission.
- Captain John Arturi (Company 1) - At the last Fire Board meeting, there were disparaging remarks made by a board member towards Asst. Chief Carlo and Company 1. Since the meeting was a public forum, the remarks should be in the meeting minutes, they were not. I would like the board member to apologize.
Chief: Was hopeful that the remarks would be kept in house. I instructed that the remarks be struck from the meeting minutes.
Asst. Chief Joe Longo (Company 3): "It was my opinion, I'm allowed to have an opinion."

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 Carlo CO. 1 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 8:25 pm by Chief Speranza.