

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 November 7, 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

Occupational Medical Associates (New Member Physicals)	\$ 170.00
Keith Koppenal (Members CPR Recertifications)	\$ 500.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Truck 2 - FLIR K2 Li-Ion Batteries)	\$ 373.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 1 - STORZ Spanner & Bracket Sets)	\$ 325.00
Blue Water Divers (Rescue 5 - High Water Boots)	\$ 312.00
Bascom-Turner Instruments, Inc. (Truck 2 - Gas Meter Repair)	\$ 197.45
Campbell Supply (Engine 3 - On-Spot System Repair)	\$ 2,914.00
Campbell Supply (Engine 3 - Power Inverter Repair)	\$ 1,127.22
Fire File, LLC. (2023 Yearly CODES Service)	\$ 3,235.00
HFD Company 1 (Standby - E. Prospect - Villa Rosa)	\$ 74.09
Puzo's Family Restaurant (HFD - FD Memorial Breakfast)	\$ 800.00
Van Dyk Park Place (HFD - Open House Breakfast)	\$ 551.61
Continental Fire & Safety, Inc. (Engine 3: Paratech Longshore Strut + Extension)	\$ 5,392.20
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 3 + Engine 4 - Nozzles)	\$ 4,300.00

Total: \$ 20,271.57

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Chief Speranza

- 3 month Leave of Absence letter from FF. Josimar Aguilar, Company 4, turned over to the Clerk. Approved by Assistant Chief Devin Hughes.
- Letter of intent from Christian Rodriguez to join Company 4, turned over to the Clerk. Requesting an HFD application.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of October 2023, Engine 1 responded to;
 - 27 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 1 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By

CORE STATEMENT

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

- 4 Training/Drills

34 Total Alarms

- Engine 1 will attend the Wallington Parade on Saturday, November 25th.
- We have a new prospect for daytime alarms, Ryan Tolomeo, Engine 1 will request an application. He is currently a firefighter in Little Falls.
- CODES management is meeting with us November 15th, anyone having issues please send to Asst. Chief Carlo.
- Pagers will be updated in the next few days with George/Radio Room.
- Engine 1's heat alarm is going off, Fire & Safety was notified, and should be under warranty.
- Engine 1 is requesting to get recertified for CPR, need a name/vendor to contact.
- Engine 1 is conducting pack drills with all members; its ongoing will conclude shortly with a list.
- Engine 1 is calling Fire & Safety, the main seal is dripping water.
- After returning from hose testing, our adjustable hydrant wrench is missing.

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 October 2023, Truck 2 responded to;
 - 27 Box Alarms
 - 3 Still Alarms
 - 2 Chief Calls
 - 5 Mutual Aid (3 Glen Rock and 2 to Paterson)
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/ 1 Drills

38 Total Alarms

- Application for new member Michael Akor completed and turned over.
- 2024 budget requests handed in to Chief and Clerk
- Strategic Safety Dynamics measured 2 members for new gear and 1 for a repair.
- Cummins was in to repair an oil leak on the Truck.
- Truck had the aerial tested and inspected, all passed.
- Trucks' water can was deemed unrepairable and replaced by Stateline.
- 62 blew a brake line and is currently at Luschers for repair.
- Truck 2 received a new multi gas meter to demo
- Thank you to our members who attended the Red Mass with the Truck and assisted with the flag detail at the church. Thank you to E4 for sharing your apparatus with us and R5 for hospitality.

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 October 2023, Engine 3 responded to;
 - 28 Box Alarms
 - 0 Still Alarms

- 1 Mutual Aid
- 0 Radio Alarm
- 0 Stand By
- 1 Training/Drills

30 Total Alarms

- Company 3's members have completed the CPR recertification.
- Company 3 has emailed Chief Speranza the list of items needed for the 2024 budget.
- Company 3 congratulates Firefighter Chris Bakker on being sworn in at Fire Board as a member of Company 3. We wish him all the best and all the luck and carry on the Bakker family tradition.

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 October 2023, Engine 4 responded to;
 - 27 Box Alarms
 - 1 Still Alarms
 - 1 Mutual Aid (Glen Rock)
 - 1 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

31 Total Alarms

- Engine 4 has submitted the joint capital request with Engine 3 for nozzle replacements.
- FF. Josimar Aguilar has submitted a letter for a Personal Leave of Absence
- Adara Lusk has submitted her application to the HFD Cadet program.
- FF. Craig Geier has submitted his blue light permit paperwork.
- Letter of intent from Christian Rodriguez to join Company 4 was submitted to the Clerk.

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 October 2023, Rescue 5 responded to;
 - 29 Box Alarms
 - 1 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Special Event
 - 0 Stand By
 - 2 Training/Drills

32 Total Alarms

- Vehicles and Equipment;

- Rescue
 - 1 SCBA out of service
 - Rescue completed Blood Borne Pathogens and other town required classes for 2023.
 - Rescue 2024 budget request has been submitted.
 - New tires were installed on the light tower
- Unit 58
 - Nothing to report
- Unit 57/Communications
 - Generator is not operating correctly. Vendors are being contacted.
- Boat
 - New tires installed on boat trailer
- Personal
 - FF. Mark Fiedler has returned from medical leave.
 - Ex. Assistant Chief Hughes has returned from medical leave.
 - Prayers are with FF. Zach Alkes and family with the loss of their family member.

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.
- Lidl is planning construction in March 2024

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

On behalf of the department and myself, I wish to thank those who assisted and attended the functions presented by the department over the past few weeks. Your dedication has provided seven new candidates which will be joining the department. Welcome to the new fire year and thank you for maintaining a very busy previous fire year.

Odd Hats Movie - The department is grateful for the assistance of Favio Romeo, the Hawthorne Theater and our members who attended this recruitment event. A total of 92 were in attendance.

The Auxiliary Trunk or Treat - This year again, there was a huge turnout and a great time for the residents and children.

Open House and Breakfast - Another product that was excellently attended as we served over 400 plates of pancakes and sausages. This was by far one of the best attended functions by residents in many years even with the persistent rain. Our members in attendance did an amazing job of presenting to the public and our cooks were so good that we hired them again for 2024. Thank each of you as the Hazard House and truck rides were well delivered.

Fair Lawn Coverage - My thanks to our members for the coverage of the Fair Lawn and Glen Rock FDs with the difficult loss of their previous member and Capt. From the Baltimore City FD. I am proud to have had our department participate in the FF Dillon Pizza purchases at Nellie's Restaurant, the attendance at the prayer service in Fair Lawn, and the coverage for both towns as they activity represented in Baltimore City, this is the true meaning of caring in our fire service brother/sister hood.

Narcan - Narcan has been provided to our fire companies and again the SOG has been provided.

Officers Elections 2023 - Reminder that once nominations are completed to provide candidates to Clerk Mogen for proofing of required courses. I implore our companies to not just fill the void of an officer and install a worthy candidate, the role of company officer is changing rapidly and rather demanding, pick the right candidate to succeed in improving your fire company and not just a warm body.

2024 Grants - Currently reviewing several grants that would benefit the department.

UPDATES

Thursday, Nov 9th - Helicopter landing and training at Lincoln Middle School (weather permitting). Time 7:00pm

Sunday, Nov 12th - FD Memorial Service at St. Anthony's RC Church. Be at the church by 8:00 am in full dress uniform.

Tuesday, Nov 28th - Preliminary budget hearing for FD.

Tuesday, Nov 28th - Following our budget hearing will be the school drill meeting for 2024. (Drill is set for Sunday, May 5, 2024)

Wednesday, Nov 29th - St. Barnabas Cancer and Smoke in Firefighting Class at 7:30 pm - Location TBD (Likely Gen Rock High School).

Friday, Dec 1st - Graduation FF1 and FF2 at PCTI

Friday, Dec 1st - Borough's Santa Parade

Saturday, Dec 9th - Operation Toy Train Participation from the department has been requested. Arriving at 10:00 am.

Saturday, Dec 16th - Santa Run begins at 3pm with pizza and for attendees followed by our town wide journey.

Saturday, Dec 16th - Department Photo Shoot - Dove Deodorant from the Dove Corporation. Handing out a sample that was provided from a grant.

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*
 - Written report submitted.
 - We would like to thank Chief Speranza, Assistant Chief Manzo & Zoe Mogen for being Sparky and supporting us with our recently held “Trunk or Treat”. Approximately 150 children were in attendance along with 11 vehicles that were decorated. This event was a huge success and a fun community event.
 - During our Trunk or Treat and the Pancake Breakfast we collected donations in the fire boots we put out. From these donations we would like to donate \$100 to Rescue for their help and support to use for any items they may need for their headquarters.
 - The Auxiliary passed their new By-Laws to accommodate changes in membership. Our new email is: HFdnjAuxiliary@gmail.com
 - Our Newly elected Officers for 2023-2024 are:
 - Joni Huston, President
 - Sharon Bakker, Vice President
 - Sharon Abbood, Treasurer
 - Kathleen Warner, Secretary
 - Shirley Shortway English, Sergeant at arms
 - The Auxiliary has an upcoming fundraiser. “Pizza Kits” by Francesca’s Brick Oven Pizza in Glen Rock. Each kit includes Dough, Sauce, Cheese, and Instructions. We will be selling them for \$15 each with a pickup date of December 19th at Rescue from 5-6 pm. Please encourage members to purchase one and support the Auxiliary! Orders can be given to any member or by calling Christina at (973) 572-6479.
 - Since April the Auxiliary has tried very hard and, in many ways, to obtain a vehicle. Unfortunately, we still have nothing and will probably not be able to participate again in the town Santa Parade or the Fire Department Santa Run. Even for fire calls we keep trying to show up but by the time we load cars the fire has been knocked down. Although unfortunate circumstances we will continue to try and support our Fire Department in any way we can.
 - Our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Rescue at 7:30. We are always looking for new members to join, if you know of anyone, please tell them to stop in or call Joni 973-725-6786.

Citizen Fire:

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Two residents that attended have shown interest in joining the department.
 - Spring planning will begin shortly.

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.
 - 2 members per each company, names will be provided.
 - There is still a safety hazard and is still a concern with the damaged fence that occurred several months ago. Waiting and promised by the Borough to fix the fence.
 - Meeting with the current propane company. We will be discontinuing with this company
 - Suburban Propane was selected as the vendor to provide propane to the Training Center.
 - Planning is ongoing with the current location of the propane tanks.

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - No written report submitted.
 - FD Memorial Service at St. Anthony's RC Church. Be at the church by 8:00 am in full dress uniform.

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.
 - CODES management is meeting with us November 15th, anyone having issues please send to Asst. Chief Carlo.

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.

Honor Guard

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - No written report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - Status of the additional lockbox for Hedges?
 - Chief: Keys were provided a month ago to all companies.
 - Status of Torque Wrench for the Scotts SCBA battery?

- Chief: Working with the vendor to reduce the cost of the tool.
- Status of Class C Uniforms?
 - Asst. Chief Carlo: Spoke with the Bottega owner. The fundraiser is not a done deal.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Lock out tag out kit is still at Glen Rock.
 - Calibration Kit for the natural gas meter is not working.
 - Looking into PSEG about natural gas calibration for the FD.
- 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:
 - New radios - can they be programmed for Wyckoff
 - Need a vendor to reprogram current radios for Wyckoff FD.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Refer to the Company report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - Low on DIF, can we contact Shotmeyer.
- Engine Company 4:
 - Refer to the Company report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - Ex Asst Chief Warner + Boy Scouts are willing to visit the Training Center to assist.
- Chief:
 - Chief Speranza swore in the following new members;
 - FF. Christopher Santana, he will be stationed at Company 1.
 - FF. Christopher Bakker, he will be stationed at Company 3.
 - FF. Adam Geier, he will be stationed at Company 4.
 - The Hawthorne Fire Department and The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank the new members for their future service to the Borough of Hawthorne.

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:
 - Would like to wish all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.
- Rescue Company 5:

- Would like to thank all those that attended FF. Zach's grandmother's service. Are condolences to the family.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Speranza

- Sharon Abbood (HFD AUX) - Presented a patch from the Salam FD Tower 2 to the Chief.
Chief: Thank you

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: 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*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm by Chief Speranza.