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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 September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:31pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Chief*  
John Tripicchio, *CO. 1 Captain*  
Anthony DiVincent, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*  
Peter VanDerrVelde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*  
Brian Warner, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*  
Amber Hechinger, *Fire Dept. Clerk*  
Christopher Mogan, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christopher DiBella, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**  
led by Chief Joseph Speranza.

**MINUTES:** Previous month's meeting has been dispensed. No present who are opposed.

**DEPARTMENT BILL LIST EXPENSES:** No bills are posted for this Fire Board.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Amber Hechinger presents Ralph S. Mantello's resignation from Rescue Company 5—Member is moving out of Hawthorne and will no longer be able to commit; Chief Joseph Speranza motions for approval of this resignation; Assistant Chief Joseph Longo seconds the motion.
- Letter submitted by Mike Thimme, recording secretary on behalf of Fire Company One, requesting the usage of the Department's dunk tank at this year's Hawthorne Day as a fundraiser. No are opposed to this request; Chief Joseph Speranza reminds Company One of the rental fee for usage of the dunk tank.

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

#### **Engine CO #1; by Assistant Chief Christopher DiBella (reported by John Tripicchio)**

- 23 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 0 mutual aids; 1 drill for a total of 24 calls. Engine 1 includes 3 addition trainings.
- Request of: 3 new black helmets, 2 hat badges, 1 Firefighter badge, 1 pager w/ charger, and 3 portable radio batteries.
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- Report of Portable Radio 101 being out of service; Affirmation of radio being tagged and placed in the Fire Desk room at Headquarters with notification to Chief Speranza.
- Update requested on previously requested items: 1 out of 2 water can (1 water can already reportedly received), 1 water can carrying strap, 1 ratchet hydrant wrench, 1 hydrant gate valve.
- 1 Application packet requested—provided for by Amber Hechinger.
- Firefighter Finch requesting updated medical leave of absence as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017—previously requested up to 3 weeks, request to extend leave for up to 2 months. Medical support reports submitted to Amber Hechinger for filing.
- Firefighter Malandrino remains on medical leave.

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

### **Tower CO #2; by Assistant Chief Anthony DiVincent:**

- 23 box alarms; 2 still alarms; 2 mutual aids; 2 drills for a total of 29 alarms. Tower 2 held 0 additional trainings.
- Firefighter 1 looked at previously reported aerial disable issues on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Reported sensors and aerial were in working order.
- Rear tires of apparatus (total: 8) were replaced on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 by Dave Stern. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes—Request for replacement of tires submitted.)
- Thermal camera was received on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.
- Awaiting one (1) gear set for FF Brenden Marsch. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes—Initial request for bunkers and turnout coat, pending measurements.)

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

### **Engine CO #3; By Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**

- 23 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 1 mutual aid; 1 drill for a total of 25 alarms. Engine 3 held 2 additional trainings.
- FF Jim Bakker remains on medical leave.
- FF Andrew Massey has passed his borough physical—administered by the Borough insurance agency—for his “Class A Firefighter”. Back in active duty.
- TIC camera was received in replacement of older unit.
- Engine 3 sent for repair on headlight electrical issues. Corrosion of headlight switch due to age and usage lead to a replacement switch.
- Pending a scheduled maintenance on apparatus for minor repair from Seagrave to change the pump intake and discharge gauges—Approximate time estimate is two (2) hours for repair.
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- The Borough Road Dept. has replaced the Fire House sign on Goffle Road—Run over by a City Wide Towing truck.

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

### **Engine CO #4; by Assistant Chief Peter VanDerrVelde:**

- 23 box alarms; 7 still alarms; 0 radio calls; 1 drill for a total of 31 alarms. 4 mutual aids to Glen Rock have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- Firefighter 1 began pump repairs (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes); Firefighter 1 also identified valve and inlet switch issues for which parts were ordered. Repairs to be completed within the coming weeks—Approximate repair time one (1) to two (2) days out of service.
- Received and mounted thermal imaging camera which will be wired for power shortly.
- Company's pump key for Shot Meyers is not working. AC Peter VanDerrVelde will be looking to replace it within the week.
- Old tools were replaced in addition to tool boxes for a total of \$315.00. Receipt was forwarded for reimbursement to Company 4.

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

### **Rescue CO #5; by Assistant Chief Brian Warner:**

- 26 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 2 drills for a total of 28 alarms.
- Rescue will be serviced by Fair Lawn on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- New Flir camera was received.
- FF Mike Newmon is back from leave.

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

### **Radio Communications Division:**

- 23 box alarms; 5 meetings; 3 truck checks; 1 work detail; 1 mutual aid for a total of 32 events.
- One (1) broken telescoping ladder still needs to be replaced. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes).
- Ladder replacement—To be paid for by Company 5 and reimbursed by the Borough. ST Form from the Borough required in order for taxes not to apply.

**With above mentioned exceptions, computer and recording equipment in Radio room and Fieldcomm are in good working order.**



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### **FIRE PREVENTIN REPORT; by Assistant Chief Longo**

- No new business to report.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY; by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza**

- Pinnacle Wireless recently went out of business and was taken over by ESSO.
- Fire Academy is looking twenty five (25) year members from the first Fire Academy to attend graduation night and be honored. Copies of members will be given to Assistant Chiefs so they may reach out.
- Thanks is extended to our members in this past week's difficult extrication. The incident will be reviewed with our Chiefs and members of the task force involved on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm at Headquarters.
- Recognition of record number of non-natural disaster driven calls responded to for the period of July and August.
- Thermal imaging cameras were delivered to each Company, which are significantly improved for safety and operations. They have a 5 Year Warranty off the shelf and a 3 Year Warranty on the battery. Old cameras are to be used as spares on Unit 57 and the Chief's car.
- **Reminder that this is the final month of the 2017 Fire Reporting Year pertaining to clothing allowance. All final reports are due by Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.**
- **Upcoming Events for September:**
  1. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Companies are invited to attend the Parade for Prospect Park Day. Line-ups begin at 11:00AM and usually completed by 12:45PM. Their fireworks are being covered by Company 3 and Unit 57 as Field Comm.
  2. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017: From 9:00AM-4:00PM we will be hosting a drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Collection will be held at Headquarters.
  3. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017: from 9:00am-1:30pm: Annual OSHA/SCBA Fire Department physicals. Vendor will utilize two (2) doctors to help expedite the process. Members can complete the forms at [www.nassaudiagnosics.com/online-forms](http://www.nassaudiagnosics.com/online-forms) (previously placed in Assistant Chiefs' mailboxes at Headquarters). Make-up dates will be made available for those who are not able to attend.
  4. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Borough 9/11 Memorial Service. Fire Department members to meet at Headquarters by 6:10pm in full dress uniform.
  5. September 14<sup>th</sup>-September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Wildwood Firefighters convention. We will have lower than normal manpower due to attendance and will likely dispatch with Fair Lawn and Glen Rock on reported structure fires.
  6. September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017: Hawthorne Day with our live burn demo and fireworks detail. Further information to follow. Burn demo tentatively set for 4:00pm with the goal of keeping the day short.



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7. September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Our first emergency services picnic with Hawthorne EMS will be held. Times and final details to be provided shortly. Contracted with Food Town in North Haledon for the food being supplied for our members.
- We have applied for three (3) grants: FEMA for \$48,000; FEMA for \$52,000 for Training Center; Fire House Subs \$2,700

### **TRAINING CENTER COMMITTEE REPORTS; by Assistant Chief Longo**

- Previously scheduled clean-up was cancelled due to weather conditions. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes) Rescheduled date is pending—Any and all help is requested from the Companies.
- Bail-out was not completed—approximate completion estimate is for the end of September.
- Request for donations of wood (preferably 2x8 or 2x10) in decent shape for usage for the Training Center structures.
- Training Center has been repainted with exception of the deck.
- Consideration for a Crash-Pad with funds from one of the grants.
- Note to the Department: Training Center is open for usage. Request to please be sure to clean up after usage.
- Previously mentioned Downe's Tree Service storage area that is causing blockage to a hydrant has still not been cleaned out. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes) *Note to contact Paul Rainey to resolve this issue.*
- Opening of the fence needs to be changed/relocated so Engine Companies can access the water. (Ref: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- I. Engine Company 1: No old business to report.
- II. Tower Company 2: No old business to report.
- III. Engine Company 3: Questions on the pony lengths and updated hardware for pagers—Requisitions have been written up. Currently used pagers are no longer being manufactured and a proper replacement is pending. We are awaiting to receive replacement cables that have already been ordered.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No old business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No old business to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- I. Engine Company 1: No new business to report.
- II. Tower Company 2: No new business to report.
- III. Engine Company 3: No new business to report.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No new business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No new business to report.

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### **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1: Request for an application—provided for by Amber Hechinger.
- Tower Company 2: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 3: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.

### **MEETING IS CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPEN TO THE FLOOR; by Chief Speranza**

- I. Clarification request “Class A Firefighter”. Chief Speranza elucidates that if you are classified as a Class A Firefighter allows you to be part of the grant profile. It is not a required classification and a waiver can be signed to deny classification. We will not process a grant unless it has this classification in order to protect our Department.
- II. Discussion of an incident on a shut-down highway. Taxi driver disregarded any indication that the highway section was closed and proceeded to drive through in the wrong direction, effectively putting our members at risk. Zone was not completely controlled—a mistake that has happened in the past. Concrete communication must exist in order to completely capture these areas and to limit risk to our members. A suggestion to close “north-facing” and “south-facing” areas with a person in place to monitor for faster communication and higher levels of safety for members on highways/roads.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was closed to the floor and adjourned at 7:58pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

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Amber Hechinger  
Fire Department Clerk

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Date