

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 January 5, 2021 at 7:32pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

The meeting this evening was located at Fire HQ and open to the general public via GoToMeeting.

The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, December 26, 2020 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email (Clerk@HawthorneFire.org) to forward questions to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Marc Walker, *CO. 4 Captain*
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Led by Chief Speranza

MINUTES:

Previous month's minutes have been dispersed.

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

FDR Hitches (Rescue 5 - Trailer End + Wires)	\$ 24.30
Witmer Public Safety Group (Engine 1 - Streamlight Portable Scene Light)	\$ 1,348.00
Electronic Systems Solutions (Truck 2 - Speaker Mobile Radio)	\$ 955.80
Electronic Systems Solutions (Truck 2 - Microphones)	\$ 878.50
FDR Hitches (50/60/61 Trailer Hitch Ball Mounts)	\$ 450.00
P&A Auto Parts (X2 Def Fluid For Diesel Engines)	\$ 567.98
Downes Tree Service (Training Center Repairs)	\$ 670.00
Hawthorne Company 3 (Standby - Food - Dec 16th Fire Standy)	\$ 97.99
Hawthorne Company 3 (Standby - Food - Dec 16th Storm Standy)	\$ 78.09
Strategic Safety Dynamics, LLC ((3) PPE - Manzo/Patmos/Warner)	\$ 6,222.21
Gill ID Systems (HFD - Datacard Printer)	\$ 3,050.00
Grainger (HFD - Absorbents + Binoculars)	\$ 599.00
Foggys Fog (HFD - Training Smoke)	\$ 304.99

Total: \$15,246.86

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- Received a resignation letter from FF. V. Corasio of Company 1. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a resignation letter from FF. A. Dorta of Company 1. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a resignation letter from FF. N. McLean of Company 3. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a personal leave of absence letter from FF. G. Rege of Company 4, requesting a 3 month leave beginning December 1, 2020. ***The Fire Board has approved this request.***
- Received a personal leave of absence letter from FF. Joseph R. Wojtecki of Company 3, requesting a 3 month leave beginning January 1, 2021. ***The Fire Board has denied this request. Formal letter will be forwarded to FF. J.R Wojtecki.***
- Received a letter of intent from Mr. Brynmor Anderson. ***Letter will be forward to Assistant Chief David Hughes of Company 5.***

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of December 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 26 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill(s) for a total of 27 Alarms.

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- Received Vincent Corasio letter of resignation and retirement and will need to be placed onto the retirement check recipient list. Company 1 accepted his resignation with regrets.
- Received resignation letter from Avian Dorta along with his pager and badges.
- Equipment:
 - Received (1) smaller Little Giant Ladder that has been installed on the truck & binoculars
 - (1) SCBA is out of service as the harness stitches have come undone on the waist belt and (1) SCBA respirator needs to be repaired / replaced.
- Good & Welfare
 - C. J. Barhorst has completed FF1
 - 2021 Firematic Officers are as follows; Assistant Chief John Tripicchio, Captain John Carlo, 1st Lieutenant Frank Audino, 2nd Lieutenant Connor Smith

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

Tower CO. #2; presented by Assistant Chief Ronald Walker:

- For the month of December 2020, Company 2 responded to; 29 Box Alarms, 5 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Drill, 1 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 34 Alarms
- From myself and the members of Co.2, wish everyone a Happy New Year, hoping for a better year.
- Dr. note from FF. Jason Crawford, is placed on active duty, turned in to the clerk Dec. 10th.
- The officers for Company 2 for the year 2021 are as follows: Asst. Chief Ronald Walker Jr., Captain Trais Lodder, 1st Lt. Dennis McCarvill, 2nd Lt. Daryl Kallenberg.
- The drivers and alternates for 2021 has been handed in
- The members who qualify for LOSAP for the year of 2020 have been handed in.
- Welcome to all the new officers
- Receipt for the Snow Standby was submitted to clerk

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

Engine CO. #3; presented by Assistant Joseph Longo:

- For the month of December 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 24 Box Alarms, 4 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 3 Chief Calls, held 1 drill for a total of 32 Alarms.
- Engine Co.#3 has received (2) 50' lengths of 1 ¾' hose
- Would like to welcome all new officers coming aboard
- 2021 Firematic Officers are as follows; Assistant Chief Joseph Longo, Captain Dominick DeGroot, 1st Lieutenant Michael Van Lenten, 2nd Lieutenant Darryl Foca

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

Engine CO. #4; presented by Captain Marc Walker:

- For the month of December 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 28 Box Alarms, 4 Still Alarms, 1 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 0 Drills, for a total of 33 Alarms.
- Engine 4's 2021 Firematic Officers are as follows; Assistant Chief Devin Hughes, Captain Marc Walker, 1st Lieutenant Craig Irvolino, 2nd Lieutenant Dave Sylvester

- Firefighter George Rege has requested a three month personal leave of absence starting December 1, 2020 until March 1, 2021, due to CDC guidelines and work environment in the Paterson F.D. E4 has already approved Firefighter Rege's leave of absence.
- Firefighter John Hurley has been firematically inactive now for 1 year and has not completed his department mandated physical. Back in August of 2020, a request was put into the board for a letter of intention from Firefighter Hurley. Asst. Chief Longo and myself Asst. Chief Hughes verbally spoke with Firefighter Hurley. Firefighter Hurley stated at this point he would be responding again to calls and to this date has not complied and maintains a zero percentage. We are a request a formal letter and a meeting with board to be set up with Firefighter John Hurley with his intentions of remaining a firefighter in the HFD

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

Rescue CO. #5; presented by Assistant Chief David Hughes:

- For the month of December 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 27 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarm, 0 Stand-by, 1 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 31 Alarms.
- 2021 Firematic Officers are as follows; Assistant Chief Dave Hughes, Captain Anthony Manzo, 1st Lieutenant Brian Patmos, 2nd Lieutenant Ted Thoms
- LOSAP for 2020 was submitted to the clerk
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - No issues
 - Unit 58
 - Scheduled for brake service completed
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order
 - Task Force
 - Drill - January 25 at 1930 hours
 - Personal
 - Nothing significant to report.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- None

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- I would like to thank our officers leaving their position and welcome the incoming officers, we wish you well.

- 2020 will be remembered for a lifetime, pandemics, civil unrest just to name a few and ending with over 45 calls being logged in December. Most of the December incidents came following the serious fire on Westervelt where our members did another excellent job in keeping the fire to the original fire building.
- Our members operated again this year well into Christmas day with the fire on Hawthorne Ave and unfortunately slept little Christmas Eve with the overnight storm damage.
- The dedication of our firefighters proves again and again why you are an amazing department and committed group of members. On behalf of the borough and our department, my personal thanks to each of you who responded and assisted over the past month and past year!
- As we enter 2021, we hope for improving results and easing of restrictions so again we could host functions and gatherings for our enjoyment. Sadly, the victim of this pandemic is our annual installation dinner for 2021. In place of this event the department, Mayor and administration will be providing a dinner for each company where earned awards can be presented in the smaller environment of our members. The date for 2022 installation dinner has been set for Friday, Jan 14th, 2022.
- An Officers meeting and training will be held on Tuesday, 19, 2021 at 7:30pm, we will be reviewing 26 Westervelt and Hawthorne Ave. Reviewing our plans for 2021, aligning committee for equipment meetings on SCBA.
- We are co-hosting with Glen Rock FD a Snow Tubing event on Friday, Feb 12th, tickets are \$23.00/ea and will include Snow Tubing, coffee, hot chocolate and donuts prior. Program begins at 8pm, attendees must be at Campgaw by 7pm. CDC guidelines in effect.
- Updates
 - Engine 4 - The truck has been ordered and expected late this year, congrats to the committee and company.
 - Vaccines - We are still awaiting the County OEM to assign dates for firefighters and to date the fire coordinator has not been provided any info.
 - ID Cards - County IDs have stalled and we as a department have purchased a two-sided ID making unit. This will not only allow us to provide IDs with a database, but it will also allow for equipment tags for meters etc. We hope to have this available over the next few weeks.
 - Gas Meters - Ordered and awaiting delivery. Natural gas only meters
 - CO Meters - All companies have units and we now have a spare for meter failures.
 - HT 750 Radios - Radios will be delivered in about a week and mics will be added and units placed on our apparatus for interior fire crew's safety. These units will be specific to fire ground and command channels only, the training committee will roll out assistance in training of the use and limitations. Thanks to Sheriff Berdnick, Ex AC Arturi, Capt's DeGroot, Manzo and Mr. Rob Scott PCSD communications.
 - Equipment - All equipment has been ordered and pending delivery.

Wishing all our members and their families a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- For the month of December 2020, the Communications Division responded to 18 Alarms and 7 Work Details.

- Currently one member is inactive per CDC guidelines and three responding normally.
- All equipment in the Radio Room and in '57 (cascade and communications sections) is in good working order with the following exception:
 - 1) The Fire Desk UPS batteries are failing, a request for replacement batteries was made on December 28, 2020, awaiting replacements.
 - 2) The HVAC system for the Radio Room has failed, no heat or A/C at this time. A repair request was made on December 28, 2020, awaiting repair.
 - 3) Intermittent noise issues with Primary Repeater (Fire 1/Channel 1) receive continue.

Submitted 5 January 2021 by G.E. Zagatta RC2

· **Cadets:**

- The Cadet program graduation is pending.

· **Ladies Auxiliary:**

- No Submission

· **Training Center:**

- Assistant Chief Longo -
 - The Training Center is open, contact Asst. Chief Longo for further information.
 - Waiting on DTS to move forward with Car Simulator

· **Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - Exempt and Relief meeting is scheduled for January 7th at 7:30pm at Company 1

· **Passaic County Sheriff's Department:**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi* - OEM - No Submission

· **Radio Communications**

- *Ex-Assistant Chief Mike Nelson* - No Submission

OLD BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - Assistant Chief Walker - What is the status of the County ID cards for department members?
- Engine Company 3:
 - Assistant Chief Longo - What happened with the scheduled road line painting in front of our fire houses? Plus, whatever happened to the requested flashing hazard lights in front of our fire houses? Chief Speraza has requested that a formal letter be sent to the Borough Council with ongoing concerns that have not been addressed.
- Engine Company 4:
 - *Captain Walker* - Status of the Dry Chem Extinguisher
 - The Ventis Meter charger is working on the apparatus

- Rescue Company 5:
 - *Assistant Chief Hughes* - When will the old Tower 2 apparatus leave the Rescue bay. Equipment that is outside must be returned to inside the bay. Chief Speranza will contact the Mayor on status.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No new business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - *Assistant Chief Walker* - Status of the Dry Chem Extinguisher and Co2 Extinguisher
- Engine Company 3:
 - *Assistant Chief Longo* - Requests the Fire Board forward a formal letter to FF. J.R Wojtecki, has he now lives in Arkansas. Informing him that he has violated a section of the Department of Public Safety, *Article III Fire Department Ordinance, 25-18 Member "...who are residents of the Borough, or reside within a one-mile radius of the Borough..."*
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - *Assistant Chief Hughes* - Two members, FF. Brandon Adair and FF Ryan Anderson have not acknowledged any communications from Company 5 Officers and have not responded to calls in 2020. Requesting the Board of Fire send a letter requesting their future involvement with the Hawthorne Fire Department.
- Chief Speranza
 - No new business to report.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - All members are healthy
- Engine Company 3:
 - Please keep FF. Jim Bakker in your prayers.
- Engine Company 4:
 - Several retired members are in poor health, please keep them in your prayers.
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No good and welfare to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - Wishing all our members and their families a safe, healthy New Year.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- *The January 5th, 2021 meeting was open to the public. The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was*

provided by the Fire Department Clerk's email (Clerk@HawthorneFire.org) to submit any questions. NO submissions were received.

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

ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk