

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](http://www.hawthornefire.org)

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to Order on February 9th, 2021 at 7:37pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

The meeting this evening was located at Fire HQ and open to the general public via GoToMeeting. Company 5 welcomed a new member, Mr. Brynmor Anderson, was sworn in by Chief Speranza.

The scheduled February 2nd Fire Board Meeting was canceled due to the State of Emergency in effect by Governor Murphy. The meeting was briefly open while attendance was taken. Since there was not a full "Quorum" the Fire Board Meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30pm. The new GoToMeeting link and information were updated on our website (HawthorneFire.org) and our Facebook page (@HawthorneFireDeptNJ).

*The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, January 23, 2020 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email ([Clerk@HawthorneFire.org](mailto: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*  
Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*  
David Hughes, *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*

#### CORE STATEMENT

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

## MINUTES:

Previous month's minutes have been dispersed.

## DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;

*provided and presented by Clerk Mogen*

<b>Occupational Medical Associates</b> (New Member Testing Physicals/Blood Work/Drug Screen) - Blanket PO)	\$ 1,100.00
<b>Ricoh USA Corporation</b> (QTR 09/23/2020 - 12/23/2020 Black/White & Color Copies)	\$ 106.87
<b>1st Responder Newspaper</b> (2021 Annual Department Bundle Renewal)	\$ 85.00
<b>Passaic County 200 Club</b> (Membership Renewal)	\$ 250.00
<b>Passaic County Mutual Aid Association</b> (2021 Association Dues)	\$ 100.00
<b>Superior Distributors Inc.</b> (Truck 2 - Cable Snow Chains)	\$ 412.48
<b>Tanis Hardware</b> (Blanket - Various Supplies throughout year)	\$ 700.00
<b>FireFighter One</b> (Blanket - SCBA Maintenance & Repairs)	\$ 1,000.00
<b>State Line Safety &amp; Fire</b> (Blanket - Fire Extinguishers Repair)	\$ 700.00
<b>Fremgen's Power Equipment</b> (Rescue 5 - Moto-Mix)	\$ 144.00
<b>Firefighter One</b> (Engine 1 - 6" Helmet Shields)	\$ 179.67
<b>Penguin Management</b> (6 Month Service - January 1 - June 30, 2021)	\$ 888.00
<b>Replace UPS Battery</b> (Radio Room - Dell Smart UPS 2200 Rack Mount Set of 8 Batteries)	\$ 104.95
<b>Strategic Safety Dynamics</b> (PPE - Company 1 - FF CJ Barhorst)	\$ 2,074.07
<b>Strategic Safety Dynamics</b> (PPE - Company 4 - FF. C. Geier)	\$ 2,074.07

**Total: \$9,919.11**

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

*Presented by Clerk Mogen*

- Received a resignation letter from FF. R. Anderson of Company 5. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a resignation letter from FF. B. Adair of Company 5. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a resignation letter from FF. J. Wojtecki of Company 3. ***The Fire Board has accepted this request.***
- Received a medical leave of absence letter from FF. A. Massey of Company 3, requesting a 3 month leave beginning February 8, 2020. ***The Fire Board has approved this request.***
- Received a personal leave of absence letter from FF. S. Hill of Company 4, requesting a 3 month leave beginning January 1, 2020. ***The Fire Board has approved this request.***
- Received a personal leave of absence letter from FF. J. Hurley of Company 4, requesting a 3 month leave beginning January 1, 2020. ***The Fire Board has approved this request.***

### CORE STATEMENT

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- Received a retirement/resignation letter from FF. S. Valente of Company 4. FF. Valente served over 30 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Hawthorne Fire Department. *The Fire Board accepts this request and would like to thank FF. Valente for his service to the department and the residents of Hawthorne.*
- Received a letter from PETA, thanking the department for rescuing 22 cats from the December 16, 2020 house fire. *Copy of the letter was provided to each Company.*

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

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

- For the month of January 2021, Engine 1 responded to; 16 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 1 Radio Alarms, 4 Drill(s) for a total of 23 Alarms.
- We have added FF. Matt Garrison as an alternate to the driver list as he has been active and is ready to take on that role.
- After FF. Charles Barhorst completed FF1 he was sized for new gear as he was given a temporary set for fire school.
- Equipment:
  - All but 1 item that were identified by E1 drivers have been repaired. The outstanding item is the fire shield for the engine remains as it is on backorder from Pierce. Once that arrives it will be installed.
  - 4 ½ Storz for our front suction/hydrant connection is being requested.
- I would like to thank all of Company 1 members who stood by for the standby on 02/01/2021
- Good & Welfare
  - Ex. Assistant Chief and Department Chief Edward Warr is not doing well. We spoke to his wife Dot Warr. We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

**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 January 2021, Company 2 responded to; 16 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 1 Mutual Aid, 2 Drill, 1 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 18 Alarms
- I would like to thank all members who spent their time on the storm standby with a special thanks to those who stayed the night.
- Truck received our new natural gas meter
- Still awaiting plates and registration, but have heard that there is positive movement on this
- Two members received their new turnout gear
- Truck 2 will be out of service for a few hours, Wednesday and Thursday for communication work
- 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 16 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 1 drill for a total of 19 Alarms.

- FF. Massey will be presenting a letter for a medical leave, due to back issues.
- FF. Bakker is still on medical leave, along with FF. Tancos.
- A letter was sent to KME by Captain DeGroot for outstanding warranty issues on our Engine. Along with tail pipe modification instruction and specs will be given to the installer.
- We are waiting to hear back from KME about warranty issues for a date they will be addressed.

**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 January 2021, Engine 4 responded to; 16 Box Alarms, 3 Still Alarms including 1 M/A to Passaic, 1 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 1 Drills, for a total of 20 alarms.
- FF Stephanie Hill has requested to extend her personal leave of absence beginning January 1, 2021. Letter has been previously handed in and approved.
- FF. Sal Valente has handed in his retirement/resignation letter from the Hawthorne Fire Department after serving this department for over 30 years. His resignation and retirement will begin as of March 1, 2021.
- FF. John Hurley has submitted a letter for a COVID personal leave of absence in correspondence to the official letter sent by the board. This request is pending board discussion and decision after numerous leaves of absence have already been taken along with 13 months of inactivity.

**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 January 2021, Rescue 5 responded to; 17 Box Alarms, 3 Still Alarm, 0 Stand-by, 1 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 21 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
  - Rescue
    - Received 3 Motorola HT 750 radios (Need charging cups)
  - Unit 58
    - Scheduled for brake service completed
  - Boat
    - Good Working Order
  - Task Force
    - Drill - February 22 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*

- After an early morning alarm call at 1600 Route 208, the building owners are investing in Lock-box
- New Nissan dealership is moving into the building across from Dunkin Donuts
- Hawthorne Fire Department, hydrant snow clearing is scheduled for February 15, 2021

- Apparatus drivers should take caution with the snow mounds on the side of the roadways.
- Received a notice from the Department of Community Affairs - Notification and Response Guideline Firefighter Fatality and Serious Injuries. ***Copy will be provided to each company.***
- Received a notice from the Department of Community Affairs - FireFighter Situational Awareness - Life Liner Protective Hoods. ***Copy will be provided to each company.***
- Received a notice from the Department of Community Affairs - Notification and Response Policy State Fire Investigation / K-9 Unit. ***Copy will be provided to each company.***

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

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

- I would especially like to thank each of you and our members for the efforts through the recent snowstorms and incidents. Special thanks to the companies who removed snow on details from snow covered fire hydrants.
- The department budget meeting is scheduled for March 1st, we will be introducing a request for a 4x4 pickup truck as an amendment to our 2021 budget.
- Snow tubing set for Friday with the Glen Rock FD, a total of 63 members, family etc will be attending this fun event. If a member still wishes to participate, they can contact me asap cost is \$23.00 per tuber.
- New Jersey Firemen's Home 2021 Golf Outing, Tuesday May 11, 2021. ***Copy will be provided to each company.***
- Shotmeyer Bros is providing Prime Guard Diesel Exhaust Fluid, 2.5 gallon units, starting 2/22/21. ***Copy will be provided to each company.***
- Hawthorne Fire Department ID scheduling will be provided shortly.
- The new extra large washing machine for our PPE will be delivered this Friday.
- Once again, we would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for the generous donation of radios and programming.
- Amtrak will be offering a training course, date will be provided shortly.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Communications Division:**

- For the month of January 2021, the Communications Division responded to 18 Alarms and held 5 Work Details.
- All members are responding normally, within CDC guidelines.
- 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 replacements was made on December 28, 2020.
  - 2) The Equipment Room UPS batteries are failing. A request for replacements was made on January 18, 2021
  - 3) 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.

- 4) A new NJ Insurance ID card is needed for 57.
- 5) Intermittent noise issues with Primary Repeater (Fire 1/Channel 1) receive continue.

Submitted 5 January 2021 by G.E. Zagatta RC2

· **Cadets:**

- No Submission

· **Ladies Auxiliary:**

- No Submission

· **Training Center:**

- No Submission

· **Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
  - Thanked all companies for submitting their LOSAP documents.

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

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
  - In case of a Hazmat incident, please call the dispatch center first.

· **Radio Communications**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Status of the CPR Classes. Requested to research a qualified vendor.
- Tower Company 2:
  - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
  - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No old business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No old business to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - No new business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
  - *Assistant Chief Walker - Status of receiving software for our new computer. Clerk will email the vendor for the status.*
- Engine Company 3:

- *Assistant Chief Longo* - Status of the town looking into upgrading the computer lines that enter Company 3. *Chief Speranza will contact the Mayor.*
- Engine Company 4:
  - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - *Assistant Chief Hughes* - Concern with the expense that the Fire Academy is placing on new students (Clothes/Books), out of pocket cost exceeds \$200.
- Chief Speranza
  - No new business to report.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Ed Warr health, please keep him and his family in your prayers.
  - Bob Foley Sr. health, please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- Tower Company 2:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- Engine Company 3:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- Chief Speranza
  - No good and welfare to report.

**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](mailto:Clerk@HawthorneFire.org)) to submit any questions. NO submissions were received.*
- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
  - Formal request, instead of first come Ex-Assistant Chief Arturi for a Hazmat incident, please call the dispatch center first.

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;**

*by Chief Joseph Speranza*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Christopher Mogen  
 Fire Department Clerk