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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 April 6, 2021 at 7:32pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

*The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, March 20, 2021 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 Carlo *CO. 1 Captain*  
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:**

John Trippichio *CO. 1 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*

### The Doctors' Office Urgent Care of Midland Park

(New Member Testing - Physicals/Blood work/Drug Screen)	\$ 890.00
<b>Keith Koppenal</b> (60 CPR Recertifications)	\$ 3,000.00
<b>St. Joseph's University Medical Center</b> (60 CPR Cards)	\$ 600.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#1</b> (Annual Rental)	\$7,480.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#2</b> (Annual Rental)	\$7,480.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#3</b> (Annual Rental)	\$7,480.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#4</b> (Annual Rental)	\$7,480.00
<b>FireCompanies.com</b> (1 Year Hosting & Maintenance - HawthorneFire.org)	\$ 816.89
<b>New Jersey State Volunteer Fireman's Association</b> (2021 Association Dues)	\$ 40.00
<b>First Battalion</b> (Truck 2 - Gemtor Belts)	\$ 523.20
<b>Metropolitan Compounds</b> (HFD - Hose & Gear Cleaner)	\$ 415.00
<b>HFD Company Allied 100 LLC</b> (Philips AED Batteries, Pads, Child Keys)	\$ 1,685.00
<b>10-75 Emergency Vehiclese</b> (Engine 1 - Move Radio Charger Units)	\$ 380.00
<b>ESI Equipment Inc.</b> (Rescue 5 - Holmatro Tool Service Program)	\$ 1,038.00
<b>P &amp; A Auto &amp; Truck Parts</b> (Various Supplies throughout year)	\$ 250.00
<b>HFD</b> (5-0 Car Wash)	\$ 22.95
<b>AGT Battery Supplies, LLC</b> (Minitor V Desktop Charger, Minitor Batteries)	\$ 396.64
<b>HFD Company 1</b> (3/19 Training w/ Wycoff FD - Training Center)	\$ 125.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#1</b> (Annual Phone Reimbursement)	\$ 45.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#2</b> (Annual Phone Reimbursement)	\$ 45.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#3</b> (Annual Phone Reimbursement)	\$ 45.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#4</b> (Annual Phone Reimbursement)	\$ 45.00
<b>Hawthorne Company#5</b> (Annual Phone Reimbursement)	\$ 45.00
<b>Strategic Safety Dynamics</b> (Boots - Company 1-FF. M. Thimme)	\$ 359.99

**Total: \$40,687.67**

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

*Presented by Clerk Mogen*

- Received a letter from a Hawthorne resident, Mrs. Halma, thanking the Fire Department for stopping the house fire at her family's home at Metro Vista Drive.

## FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

### Engine CO. #1; presented by John Carlo CO. 1 Captain:

- For the month of March 2021, Engine 1 responded to; 19 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 3 Drill(s) for a total of 24 Alarms.
- 5 members of Company 1 had COVID and 3 members are back with negative results and 2 members are still inactive due to COVID-19. The Chief has been kept apprised of the progress.

### CORE STATEMENT

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

- Equipment:
  - The one outstanding item is a fire shield for the engine compartment. This remains outstanding as it remains on backorder from Pierce. Once the item arrives it will be installed.

**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 March 2021, Company 2 responded to; 22 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 4 Mutual Aid, 1 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 28 Alarms
- Requesting thru CODES 9Volt and AA batteries for air packs
- Minor issues on truck have been fixed by fire and safety
- Smoke machine with controls mounted on top needs to be looked at. Kept malfunctioning during drill last evening
- Requesting that a work order be placed with the Borough to trim trees on Warburton Ave., especially between Lafayette Ave and Goffle Rd.

**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 March 2021, Engine Co. #3 responded to 24 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 2 Drills for a total of 27 Alarms.
- Firefighter Jim Bakker, Jack Tancos remain on medical leave.
- Firefighter Andrew Massey has been upgraded to light duty.
- Firefighter Tom Bakker Sr. has been hospitalized as of two days ago with intestinal issues, an update will be given when the Bakker family releases information from the doctor and the hospital. We ask that you keep Tom in your prayers.
- Engine 3 received a 55 Gal drum of DEF fluid, which is being stored in the engine room.
- Also Engine 3 is waiting to hear back from KME on when the engine will be scheduled for repair work still under warranty.
- CO.3 is selling t-shirts for Autism fundraiser, please see captain DeGroot.

**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 March 2021, Engine 4 responded to; 22 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms including, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 2 Drills, for a total of 24 alarms.
- Engine 4 has requested a new charging base for our thermal imaging camera through CODES. Due to no longer properly charging batteries.
- Engine 4 currently has one member in quarantine for testing positive for COVID and showing minor symptoms.

**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 March 2021, Rescue 5 responded to; 21 Box Alarms, 1 Extrication (Door Removal at MVA), 2 Still Alarms, 0 Stand-by, 2 Training /Drills, 0 Special Detail for a total of 26 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
  - Rescue
    - Nothing significant to report.
  - Unit 58
    - Snow chains located - no longer missing
  - Boat
    - Good Working Order
  - 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*

- *All companies should plan on visiting and do a walk-through of the Vista Property.*
- *Additionally, all companies should do a final walk-through of the Royal Ave building.*

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

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

- By far the biggest thank you comes in the form of numerous thank you, donations as well as many kudos from other departments make us proud of what we do daily.
- With this, my thanks to our members, our mutual aid partners, Hawthorne Ladies Aux, Hawthorne EMS and Hawthorne PD who aided in the extinguishment of the fire at 49 Metro Vista.
- This was a serious fire which included 35mph winds, a propane tank failure and significant fire conditions. Had it not been for the determination, training, and expertise of our department this could have been a tragic incident, job well done!
- In our continuing drive to provide a healthier and safer fire department member, I met with a cardiologist from the "Blue Stress Test Group", they are located off River Rd in Garfield at 160 Lanza Ave and can provide full cardio testing and workups for our members similar to the Buchio program. They also offer sleep disorder programs. Your assistant chief will have the info for scheduling if interested.
- The groups facility is new, clean and offers quite a bit in cardio, sleep disorders, carotid doppler and additional testing of arteries. The facility works with all insurance companies and is offering no out of pocket expenses for fire, police, and EMS.
- After several complaints of private vehicles with multicolored lights responding to calls, we have provided the departments SOP and state law on the same. The department will and cannot regulate state law, but the director of public safety can revoke your emergency light permit if found in violation of state law. I am asking each chief to review the policy and state law again at your company meeting so as a member they understand that law enforcement can summon you if found in violation.

- Updates
  - We continue virtual, but we are hopeful the end to virtual meetings are near and will update each of you asap.
  - Engine 4 completed their prebuild meeting and the apparatus is not in build, expected delivery early 2022.
  - This year's Memorial Day Parade has been canceled.
  - Hawthorne Day remains on target for Sat. Oct 2nd.
  - The SCBA Committee has met with two vendors and so far, we are making progression towards a choice of SCBA for our future purchase. The SCBA and training committee will be meeting with a vendor on April 26th at Fire HQ at 7pm, to test the unit and acquire demos.
  - On behalf of the department, we will be pursuing the Cares Grant for the following;
    - SCBA Air Compressor - estimated expense \$38,000.00
    - Mask Fit Testing Unit - estimated cost \$9,800.00
    - Ford F250 Pickup with bed cover for COVID response items - \$48,000.00
  - The request has been provided to administrator Maurer, Mayor Goldberg and Council members and will be formalized as a grant request in a few days as quotes come into the department.
  - Ground ladder testing completed with minor issues, thanks for the cooperation.
  - SCBA flow testing being scheduled and dates will follow.
  - SCBA Fit testing being worked out with Hackensack FD, dates will follow.
  - There are new Passaic County Fire Academy applications available and will be in the chief's mailboxes this weekend.
  - PCOEM - offering a Blood Control Class at the academy, interested members should see their assistant chief.
  - We have applied for a low margin grant from USA Grant, this iff approved would be to assist in the purchase of Motorola radios. Grant opportunity is \$8,000.00 max provided.
  - Air Testing - TRI air testing will be sending a new update manifold kit and quarterly NFPA1989 test kit. The annual cost of breathing air certification testing will be about \$496.00 plus SxH, the new manifold will be \$564.00. (New manifold will be usable for any compressor going forward).
  - April 20th, Lts and Capts training with TO Chief Debella, 7:30pm Fire HQs. Chief will have a work session downstairs at HQs concerning bylaws and SOP/SOGs.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Communications Division:

For the month of March 2021, the Communications Division responded to 21 Alarms and held 7 Work Details.

Submitted by Robert Stonier

**Cadets:**

- No Submission

**Ladies Auxiliary:**

- No Submission

**Training Center:**

- General walk-through is required and a clean-up is needed, date and time will be provided.
- Currently waiting on Downes on provide dates on future Training Center updates
- Car Simulator is in the planning phase

**Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
  - Exempt Meeting - Thursday, April 8, 7:30pm
  - Relief Meeting - Thursday, April 8, 8:00pm

**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:
  - Capt. Carlo - requested when can we get our Fit Tests? - *Chief Speranza responded that the plan would be requesting the Fit Test unit through the Cares Grant.*
- Tower Company 2:
  - Assistant Chief Walker - When will the Truck 2 license plate and paper work be provided? - *Chief Speranza responded that an email will be forwarded to the Borough clerk for an update.*
- Engine Company 3:
  - Assistant Chief Longo - When will the roadway lining in front of the fire houses be done? - *Chief Speranza responded that an email/communication will be forwarded to the Borough for an update.*
- 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 - Pet Mask Training Kit will be forwarded to the next company for training.
- Assistant Chief Walker - Asked if the NJ code should be added to all alarm calls. - *Chief Speranza responded that there is no need going forward since the Care Grant was awarded.*
- Engine Company 3:
  - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - Assistant Chief Hughes - Asked about the tones/emergency
- Chief Speranza
  - No new business to report.

### **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - No good and welfare to report.
- 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:
  - Assistant Chief Hughes - The white fence between the 9/11 Memorial and Rescue, the gate has been blown down. - *Chief Speranza responded that he will inform the Borough.*
- Chief Speranza
  - There have been several emails and conversations with Borough administration about unfinished work at the Rescue building that has been ongoing for over a year. Zero progress has been made.
    - Internal painting and wood work
    - Outside downspouts repair
    - Trimming of trees around the radio antenna
    - AC condenser repair

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

*by Chief Joseph Speranza*

- The April 6, 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.
- No emails were received from the public.
- Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamurro - Wanted the Fire Board to understand that he took offense at how the current HFD Ordinance are being talked about by the Chief, Fire Board, officers and department. He explained how much time and effort that was made by the Ordinance Committee

back in 2006. He would like to continue to help with future Ordinance and By-laws Committees.  
- *Chief Speranza responded that over time Ordinances and By-laws should be updated due to changing times and changing environments. He welcomed the help and opened it up for any member to additionally help.*

- Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - Voiced his concern that the Ordinance Committee that he was part of didn't have a dedicated chair to move the committee forward. He would also like to be part of any future Ordinance Committee. - *Chief Speranza thanked Ex-Assistant Chief Arturi for his assistance.*

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

*by Chief Joseph Speranza*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Christopher Mogen  
*Fire Department Clerk*