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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 May 4, 2021 at 7:32pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

*The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, April 17, 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 Trippichio *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*  
Ronald Walker, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*  
Michael Van Lenten, *CO. 3 1st Lieutenant*  
Devin Hughes, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*  
David Hughes, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*  
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 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.

Correction on the April 2021 minutes, Open to the Public Section; Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamurro was misquoted, the Ordinance Committee year should have been 2016 not 2006. Chief Speranza entered the motion - Assistant Chief Tripicchio second. Board approved.

**DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;**

*provided and presented by Clerk Mogen*

<b>FireFighter One, LLC</b> (HFD - Premium SCBA Flow Test Service)	\$ 1,925.00
<b>Witmer Public Safety Group</b> (Engine 3 - EMI Oxygen Response Bag+Cylinder)	\$ 176.00
<b>Witmer Public Safety Group</b> (Engine 4 - FLIR Tabletop Battery Charger & Battery)	\$ 321.00
<b>American Trade Mark Co.</b> (Engine 3 - Accountability Tags)	\$ 91.44
<b>State Line Fire &amp; Safety</b> (Rescue 5 - Emergency Repair Hurst)	\$ 283.20
<b>10-75 Emergency Vehicles</b> (Engine 1 - Impact Adapter Cups)	\$ 108.00
<b>FireFighter One, LLC.</b> (Engine 4 - Emergency Repair)	\$ 1,000.00
<b>FireFighter One, LLC.</b> (Engine 4 - Apparatus Preventative Maint. Service)	\$ 1,520.00
<b>FireFighter One, LLC.</b> (Rescue 5 - Preventative Maintenance Service)	\$ 1,120.00
<b>FireFighter One, LLC.</b> (Unit 59 - Preventative Maintenance Service)	\$ 1,120.00
<b>HFD</b> (5-0 Car Wash)	\$ 27.95

**Total: \$7,692.59**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;**

*Presented by Clerk Mogen*

- Received a letter of resignation from FF. Anthony Mazzacca of Company 1. The Fire Board approved the request and thanked Mr. Mazzacca for his service to the Hawthorne Fire Department.
- Received a letter for a 3 month Personal Leave of Absence from Ex-Assistant Chief Anthony DiVincent of Company 2. The Fire Board approved this request, with a start date of May 1, 2021.
- Received a letter of resignation from FF. Mark Lundin of Company 2. The Fire Board approved the request and thanked Mr. Lundin for his service to the Hawthorne Fire Department.
- Received doctor notification for Captain Travis Lodder of Company 2, that he is able to return to full unrestricted duties with the fire department.
- Received doctor notification for FF. Jacob Tancos of Company 2, that he is able to return to full unrestricted duties with the fire department.
- Received a letter of intent from Hawthorne Cadet, Logan Warner, asking to join Rescue 5. The Fire Board approved and an application will be provided to Mr. Warner.

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

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

- For the month of April 2021, Engine 1 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 3 Drill(s) for a total of 20 Alarms.
- All members that had contracted COVID are back on the line.
- Six (6) of Company 1 members were called and discussed lack of response to all Firematic functions. Five (5) of the members assured that they would correct this. I will follow up in 30/45 days to then determine if the statues have changed and if we need to take further action.
- Of the six (6), we had 1 member resign as he has moved out of town seeking employment in a Police Dept. FF. Anthony Mazzaca submitted his letter of resignation.
- All members who need AED/CPR training are now certified.
- Equipment:
  - Our radios have been repositioned and installed on the Engine.
  - We had issued a purchase order to the Fire Store for lights and we haven't received the product. Requesting we change the PO to Goodwin Tool as they also have the tripod lights.
    - Clerk - This request/order was done and completed in 2020. As communicated by Company 1, they had ordered the wrong brand tripod lights. The lights were offered to the other companies, Truck 2 requested the lights and are currently in service. New equipment requests should be added to CODES.
  - Do we have any CO and Smoke Detectors available as we have used all of our's
    - Chief Speranza - The state has provided 6 units which includes a new process and forms to fill out when providing a CO/Smoke Detector to a homeowner.
  - AED Pads are outdated and need status.
    - Clerk - AED products will be delivered to Borough Hall 5/5/2021.
  - Requesting 5 feet of 2 ½ (pony length) to fill Engine from hydrant
    - Clerk - Equipment request should be added to CODES.
  - We have (1) Scott SCBA respirator that needs to be replaced. At the last Engine check we noticed that several SCBA packs head ups display are no longer working even though we changed out the batteries.
    - Clerk - Drop off the respirator by Saturday 5/8/2021 so it can be sent out for repair.
  - We need to update our first aid kit as many of the items have expired.
    - Clerk - Equipment request should be added to CODES.

**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 April 2021, Company 2 responded to; 20 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 2 Mutual Aid, 3 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 22 Alarms
- Received our batteries for the SCBA packs.
- Received the demo of the SCOTT pack and passed along to another company.
- Letter for personal leave submitted to clerk.
- Letter of resignation submitted to clerk.
- Letter to return to full duty submitted to clerk.

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

**Engine CO. #3; presented by 1st Lieutenant Michael Van Lenten:**

- For the month of April 2021, Engine Co. #3 responded to 18 Box Alarms, 3 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 2 Drills for a total of 23 Alarms with 1 additional training.
- FF. Jack Tancos is off medical leave and able to return to full unrestricted duties for the Hawthorne Fire Department.
- Congratulations to FF. Brad Flaker for passing FF II course.

**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 April 2021, Engine 4 responded to; 18 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms including, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 1 Drills, for a total of 20 alarms.
- Engine 4 AED is out of service for battery failure and pads are expired.
- Engine 4, one member that was in quarantine for COVID is now back in service.

**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 April 2021, Rescue 5 responded to; 19 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Stand-by, 2 Training /Drills, 0 Special Detail for a total of 22 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
  - Rescue
    - Membership request from Logan Warner
    - SCBA mask fit scheduled for May 10, 1930 hours
  - Unit 58
    - Nothing to report
  - 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*

- Passaic County Community College Public Safety Academy-Fire Division will be offering Firefighter II courses - Monday and Wednesday, 7pm - 10pm. 2 Saturdays involved 8am-3pm. Tentative start date August 2, 2021
- Responding on Mutual Aid calls; Please note that when responding on mutual aid under the new rules of engagement, items 16 and 17 give clear direction on how to respond;

- 16: to the scene, use of lights and sirens permitted
- 17: to cover assignment: lights and sirens not permitted

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

*by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza*

- A reminder the training center is blocked by the new recycling fencing and gate. Keys have been provided to each company and AC Longo as well as the Chief’s car. Be sure to lock up after completion at the center.
- The department is awaiting repairs at fire HQs in painting and gutter repairs, electrical issues as well as fencing and landscaping around the property.
- I wish to thank our Administration and Council for approving the allowance increase requested in the 2021 budget for active firefighters and officers.
  - Volunteer Firefighters: There shall be paid to all Borough Volunteer Firefighters who are certified as having met annually the attendance standards established in the Fire Department Ordinance, \$599.00 annually as a clothing allowance. Qualified retired firemen may receive \$179.00. Firematic officers shall receive the following additional sums: Assistant Fire Chiefs are an additional sum of \$818.00, Captains \$297.00, Lieutenants \$209.00, per annum for performing electrical duties and attending meetings in connection with their duties.
- SCBA - I would like to thank the SCBA committee and officers who attended the presentations from three different vendors and two separate air pack companies for their time and input. The SCBA will be field tested and reviewed by our committee and officers as well as gaining input from our members. As I have reminded each of our officers that the purchase is a twenty-year commitment and their attendance in these meetings was critical for our future. This cooperative effort will guide us in making the final decision before moving towards a finance presentation to council on replacement options. We will be setting a date for field demo likely in Bergenfield under live fire conditions so our members can provide guidance and their confidence of the potential SCBA purchase.
- Batteries - The department will be purchasing batteries in larger amounts from AGT Battery in the next few weeks and expect this will save us in the long haul. AGT also manufactured most every battery we could need.
- Police Chief Meeting - Tomorrow at 4:30pm at police HQs we will be conducting our first meeting with Chief Knepper, we will be reviewing general operations together, communications and purchases. (Attendance by any Asst Chief if interested and issue if any.)
- Bylaw - The committee met on April 20th and reviewed existing Bylaws, Ordinance and SOP as well as operating guidelines. We also introduced potential bylaws for review and adjustment before final review. The committee will meet again on May 18th 7:30pm fire HQ.
- Grants - Awaiting info on grant requests from administration.
- Officers training (Capts & LTs) - May 18th at 7:30pm with TO Dibella
- Memorial Day Parade - has been cancelled
- Leadership Camp and Helicopter landing - Helicopter landing, Monday August 16th, 9am. Leadership program Thursday, August 19th at noon.
- Hawthorne Day is still a go in September.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Communications Division:**
  - No Submission
- **Cadets:**
  - No Submission
- **Ladies Auxiliary:**
  - Annual Fish Fry is scheduled for September
- **Training Center:**
  - Downes has been engaged.
- **Exempt/Relief:**
  - *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
    - No Submission
- **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 - When will we receive the pet masks for the truck?  
*Chief Speranza responded that training is still ongoing with all companies. The department will receive two (2) pet mask bags, that will be given to Truck 2 and Rescue 5.*
  - Assistant Chief Walker - When will we receive the AED order?  
*Chief Speranza responded that the order will be deprived on 5/5/21.*
  - Assistant Chief Walker - Can members who needed to complete their physicals go to the Doctor's Office of Midland Park?  
*Chief Speranza responded that yes all members that still need to complete or need a follow up should visit the Doctor's Office, there is a purchase order set up that the clerk will provide.*
- Engine Company 3:
  - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No old business to report.

- Rescue Company 5:
  - Assistant Chief Hughes - In front of Rescue, can we get fire zone enforcement?  
*Chief Speranza responded that a letter will be drafted to the County/Freeholders.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Engine Company 1:
  - Assistant Chief Tripicchio - Can the department pre-order rock salt and calcium for next winter?  
*Chief Speranza responded that the department can definitely start looking for a local vendor and even provide sand for additional options.*
- Tower Company 2:
  - Assistant Chief Walker - Requesting permission to use Unit 62 to help transport members to mutual aid calls. - *Fire Board approved.*
- Engine Company 3:
  - No new business to report.
- Engine Company 4:
  - No new business to report.
- Rescue Company 5:
  - No new business to report.
- 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:
  - 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 May 4, 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 to confirm that the date was corrected from last month Fire Board minutes - from 2006 to 2016.  
*Chief Speranza responded that it was communicated at the beginning of the meeting.*
- Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - his call was cut off but wanted to communicate that the NJ Sheriff's Dept. will be providing the fire department Mask Fit Testing. Ex-Assistant Chief Arturi is requesting that all companies provide their member list in advance of the testing to help speed the process. Future dates and times will be provided to the companies. Starting with Company 3.  
*Chief Speranza thanked Ex-Assistant Chief Arturi for his assistance and the Sheriff's Dept.*

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

*by Chief Joseph Speranza*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Christopher Mogen  
*Fire Department Clerk*