

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Borough of Hawthorne
Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506
www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order on October 10th, 2017 at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Chief*
Christopher Di Bella, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
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 Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

MINUTES: Previous month's minutes have been dispersed. No present who are opposed.

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

Swearing in of Matthew Garrison to Fire Company 1 by Police Captain Garrison.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Amber Hechinger presents Troy Greer Jr.'s notice of change of address and request to continue serving in the Hawthorne Fire Department Company 3. This is noted as permissible. Assistant Chief Longo states there will be a trial of a few months to gauge if the distance becomes an issue and will aid him in relocation to a different department if necessary. Chief Joseph Speranza motions for approval; No are opposed.
- Amber Hechinger presents Robert Tagibue's letter of resignation from the Hawthorne Fire Department due to the fact that he has moved out of town. His resignation is as of October 1st, 2017. Chief Speranza makes a motion to accept; Assistant Chief DiBella motions and Assistant Chief Brian Warner seconds the motion.
- A reminder to Assistant Chiefs that a headcount for the Memorial Service at the Gospel Church is needed by the last week of October. A second request for the join dates for all members be delivered to Amber Hechinger at the earliest date possible.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Engine CO #1 ; by Assistant Chief Christopher DiBella

- 26 box alarms; 2 still alarms; 1 mutual aid; 1 drill for a total of 30 calls. Engine 1 includes 1 additional training.
- Engine 1 is scheduled to be out of service on October 21st to repaint wheel wells for 1-2 days.
- Fire call percentages and retired member allowance paperwork was previously submitted.

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- 1 application packet requested—provided for in mailbox by Amber Hechinger; Request for paperwork for a junior member from Assistant Chief Longo.
- Firefighter Finch and Firefighter Malandrino remain out on a medical leave of absence.
- A report was submitted for missing equipment from the fire at 50 Sunrise Drive.
- Company 1 also welcomes Matthew Garrison to the Hawthorne Fire Department.

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

Tower CO #2; by Assistant Chief Anthony DiVincent:

- 24 box alarms; 1 still alarm; 2 mutual aids; 2 drills for a total of 29 alarms. Tower 2 held 0 additional trainings.
- CO #2 finished the year with 321 total alarms. Final percentages and qualifying members list were previously submitted.
- Awaiting one (1) gear set for FF Brenden Marsch. (Ref: August 1st, 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:

- 27 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 1 mutual aid; 1 Chief's call; 1 drill for a total of 30 alarms. Engine 3 held 0 additional trainings.
- FF Jim Bakker is back on active duty.
- FF Troy Greer Jr. has submitted his letter of change of address to Fire Board (as read by Amber Hechinger).
- The turn-out gear of FF Lamb, FF DeGroot, FF VanLenten, FF Foca, and FF Bakker Jr. has been cleaned from the house fire on 50 Sunrise Drive.
- Engine 3 continues to have issues with its pump. Work is schedule for repair on October 10th, 2017 for replacement of command zone control unit, repair of pressure release valves, and repair of leaking from discharge valves—All to take place in-house.

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

Engine CO #4; by Assistant Chief Peter VanDerrVelde:

- 34 box alarms; 13 still alarms; 0 radio calls; 1 drill for a total of 48 alarms. 7 mutual aids to Glen Rock have not been included in this total. Engine 4 held 0 additional trainings.
- Engine 4 received further pump repairs and was returned yesterday with only the side inlet working (Ref: September 5th, 2017 minutes) by means of borrowing Wyckoff Fire Department manifold--lent by the Wyckoff Fire Department. Engine 4 will be going out

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to Firefighter 1 for two (2) days during the week of October 15th, 2017 once receipt of value parts are confirmed.

- Request of: Small box light charger base holder; one (1) new pager; one (1) pager battery.
- Two (2) sets of gear were sent out for cleaning.
- Receipt turned into clerk's for the Tanis account in regards to replacement of broken axe handle.
- Percentages for clothing allowance were submitted as well as attendance for fire prevention school visits.
- Company 4 sends well wishes to Chief Joseph Speranza while he recovers.
- Robert Tagibue has submitted his letter of resignation (as read by Amber Hechinger) effective October 10th, 2017 due to having moved to Wayne, NJ. He will remain a social member with Company 4.

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

Rescue CO #5, by Assistant Chief Brian Warner:

- 27 box alarms; 0 still alarms; 2 drills for a total 29 alarms.
- Rescue was serviced by Fair Lawn (Ref: September 5th, 2017 minutes). Shortly after being returned, it was noted that apparatus was returned with low oil.—Usage of oil on the apparatus is being closely monitored as a result. Chief Speranza recommends speaking with Dominic from Fair Lawn to discuss this issue; Voicemail was left with follow-up pending.
- All new hand tools and fan were installed on the truck.
- Company 5 extends a welcome to new member Brandon Adair—sworn in October 9th, 2017 so he could attend rescue school on date of Fire Board.

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT; by Assistant Chief Longo and Fire Inspector

- Assistant Chief Longo has nothing to report.
- Fire Inspector requests to speak near the end of Fire Board on the Good and Welfare of our Firefighters.

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

- Pompton Lakes has a hose dryer that they are no longer using—Chief Speranza to speak to Company 2 for usage.
- Clothing allowance has all been submitted—Process to begin shortly.

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- Fire 1 and Fire 2 fliers to be distributed via Assistant Chiefs' mailboxes—Class dated for October 22nd, 2017.
- Capital budgeting to be submitted shortly—Assistant Chief's must put in any budgetary requests by no later than October 25th, 2017. If something significant is needed, it **must** be submitted in order for proper preparation and financial inclusion in the upcoming year's budget.
- Passaic County has offered to pay the expenses for the upcoming drill—expcting 100 attendees at \$200-\$300.
- Fire Academy is looking to honor the twenty-five (25) year members from the first Fire Academy at their upcoming graduation night. (Ref September 5th, 2017 minutes). If any of these members can be contacted and an invitation extended it would be appreciated as a representation of Hawthorne's presence at the Fire Academy.
- Chief Speranza extends thanks to our Assistant Chiefs for maintaining the safety and integrity of the Hawthorne Fire Department throughout his unexpected absence due to surgery and recovery. For the duration of the current week—until Sunday, October 15th—Assistant Chief Longo will have charge of the department with utilization of previously retired 50 vehicle as the current vehicle will be in for repairs.
- Additional thanks is extended to Assistant Chief Longo, Assistant Chief VanDerrVelde, Lt. Johnson, FF Lettich, and fire clerks Amber and Chris for their assistance in this year's successful live burn demonstration. We did not exceed expenses this year.
- Recognition and thanks is also extended to the Hawthorne EMS and Chief Houstma for the usage of their building and the joy of their company.
- In regards to the fire at 50 Sunrise Drive, Chief Speranza extends thanks to those present. Water was never lost and while the second floor of the house suffered immense damage, due to the actions of our department the scene was brought under control. Injuries sustained were minor and both parties are recovered.
- It is brought to the attention of Fire Board that the department has been slandered by several people from within on multiple occasions, seeking to disrupt a positive and courteous environment. The Board is advised that suggestions such as drawing up a petition against Engine 3's truck, that it is a rescue pumper meaning to replace Rescue 5, and an approach to council members and administration in order to interfere in the purchase of said truck are behaviors shown from within the Fire Department.



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- A mention of a member, without communication to the Fire Board, visiting the Mayor and attending a council meeting in which concerns on the moving of this Fire Board's date were expressed.
- Chief Speranza believes that attention instead towards programs in need of people to run them and/or efforts to focus on how to make a positive impact on the Fire Department and community would be more than greatly beneficial vs. choosing to divide the Department. Cross training, the training center rebuild, mutual aid relationships, and the new task force setup has been an excellent example of unity with members and officers helping to build a strong future.
- Upcoming Events:
 1. October 17th, 2017: Department Officers Meeting and critique of the Sunrise Drive fire will be at 7:30pm at headquarters.
 2. October 22nd, 2017: Department drill and county drill at 9:00 AM.
 3. November 4th, 2017: Memorial Service and Dinner. Further information on the time will be dispensed in the near future. **Headcounts for all Companies must be handed into Fire Clerk by October 29th, 2017.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Reminder by George DeGroot for Saturday October 14th, 2017 is the Department Coin Drive
- Radio room committee will be needed for the drills as 80-100 attendees are expected. Setup will be in the parking lot near the pool with any expenses being refunded by the Passaic County Mutual Aid Association.
- **TRAINING CENTER; by Assistant Chief Joseph Longo:**
 1. Completion of the third floor is estimated to be a week away once the bail-out system is completed. Donations of 2x8x10's in good shape are requested for the completion of the floor.
 2. Sunday, October 22nd, 2017 Assistant Chief Longo and Assistant Chief DiVincent will be putting together a layout drawing to present to the contractor for the roof operations and structure. AC Longo spoke with Michael Hagen who asked him to draw up a list of materials with the possibility of receiving donations from a contact he has. **Reminder that the third floor is not yet ready to be used.**
 3. Request for a scheduled early day clean-up with volunteers to help remove clutter and trash. Weekend of the 29th is a possibility in need of being confirmed.

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4. Hawthorne DPW and Downes Tree Service are going to relocate their equipment to a specified area which has been made for them.
5. Next big purchase is a crash pad that is 36 inches high, 10 feet high by 10 feet long. Pricing estimate is \$2,400-\$4,000 with the possibility of getting a custom-made pad.
6. Assistant Chief Longo reminds that usage of the Training Center requires the proper paper work to be filled out for the State. One copy is kept by the person filling it out, one copy is given to AC Longo and one copy is given to the Clerks.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Engine Company 1: No old business to report.
- II. Tower Company 2: Question on dates for make-up physicals for those that could not attend. Chief Speranza has no solid information yet and will communicate it to the Companies once secured.
- III. Engine Company 3: No old business to report.
- 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: Request of a review of the Ordinance for Emergency Senior Officer fill-in and rankings in when Chief is absent. Chief Speranza suggests something is drawn up and presented to the Board as a recommendation in order to satisfy concerns, questions and misunderstandings. Assistant Chief DiBella recommends order to be determined by availability at time of a fire call.
- IV. Engine Company 4: No new business to report.
- V. Rescue Company 5: No new business to report.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1: Nothing to report.
- Tower Company 2: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 3: Nothing to report.
- Engine Company 4: Nothing to report.
- Rescue Company 5: Nothing to report.



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- Fire Inspector: The State of New Jersey has enacted new legislation for carbon monoxide detector requirements. Effective as of September 3rd, 2017 state:
 - I. There must be a carbon monoxide on every level of the home, business, and commercial building.
 - II. Carbon monoxide alarms are required to be installed in the vicinity of the fuel fired appliance (ie. Near a boiler room).
 - III. With a forced air system, the first vent coming off of the system has to have a carbon monoxide alarm in the vicinity.
 - IV. For larger buildings, there must be a carbon monoxide detector two (2) floors above and two (2) floors below the floor with the fuel fired appliance (ie: A school with a boiler in the basement must have carbon monoxide detectors on the two (2) floors above—or below—at LEAST.)
 - V. As inspections are being done on commercial properties, violations will be written with the instructions of getting a professional to determine where the ducts are and where the carbon monoxide alarms are required—most likely taking more than one (1) week to complete.
 - VI. In December, new construction areas will be required to tie-into their alarm systems/central stations a trouble alarm. Device must have a specific alert to sound for presence of carbon monoxide.
 - VII. Any food establishments with 50 or more seats have experienced a raise of fees by 29% as mandated by the State of New Jersey. Local fees stayed the same.
- Copies of the new requirements will be drawn up and distributed to each Company.
- Chief Speranza mentions consideration in reducing response to carbon monoxide calls in the near future.

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

- I. Ex-Chief Tamburro clarifies that he had voiced his concerns at the Council Meeting about the time change for this Fire Board meeting. He explains that, while he understands why Chief Speranza was unavailable, he believes that the Assistant Chiefs are more than capable of running the meeting in the event of his absence and should have done so. He believes that their reports could have been delivered regardless. Chief Speranza responds that he had no doubt of that fact but did not have time to communicate and distribute information he needed to provide due to his immediate incapacitation. He continues to express that the Board should be able to change the date of the meeting under the



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- Sunshine Law as justified by their needs for the benefit of the department with limitations. Ex-Chief Tamburro is concerned of trivial changes of the date of Fire Board.
- II. Ex-Chief Tamburro also requests the letter of resignation from Jose Dominguez. At the time of his resignation there was no Borough Clerk and the meeting minutes were not posted. The letter is needed for authorization before he can be resigned from the State. Assistant Chief Longo is able to e-mail him proof of his resignation.
 - III. Request to send letter of thanks for Wyckoff Fire Department to Sicomac Ave.
 - IV. George DeGroot mentions that Company 3 is doing a 50/50 drawing and reminds any interested parties to see any member of the Company.
 - V. Ex-Chief Tamburro comments that the Volunteer Department Picnic was very enjoyable and the food was excellent. He reiterates a comment made at the Memorial Service last year that if it were not for Chief Speranza and his wife Stacy Speranza (and a few other people for clean-up) it would not have been such a success. A reminder to our members to help with clean-ups at future functions and to allow our elders to be first in line for food.
 - VI. In response to a bus company taking off a sign from the Training Center (Ref: August 1st, 2017 minutes), information regarding the party responsible is being researched via multiple bus companies with vehicles decommissioned due to accidents.
 - VII. Ladies Axillary member Ellen asks for clarification on Amber Hechinger's request for the join dates of all members at the beginning of Fire Board. Amber Hechinger explains her collection of dates for member records. Chief Speranza offers to have the Radio Room member dates collected as well in order to keep a running tally of years of service.
 - VIII. She also speaks, as a taxpayer, of concerns of damaged cars kept alongside of Rescue Company 5 building. She states it makes it look like a junkyard with additional concerns of the scattered glass and asks if cars can be kept at the Training Center. Chief Speranza responds that the location of these cars is strictly for convenience and mentions of plans to have a fence installed in order to keep people from touching the cars as well as to keep them out of sight.
 - IX. Ex-Chief Tamburro reminds the Board of the Exempt and Relief meeting on Thursday night at 7:30 for Company 1.
 - X. Lt. Gerry expresses regret of not being able to attend Volunteer Department Picnic and commends the Department for a job well done at the Sunrise Drive fire. Chief Speranza speaks of the homeowner's overwhelming gratefulness to him and the Fire Department for their service that night.

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ADJOURNMENT: *Meeting was closed to the floor and adjourned at 8:18pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.*

Amber Hechinger
Fire Department Clerk

Date