



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 6, 2026 at 7:30 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.
Van Dyk Park Place at 644 Goffle Road in the facility community room.

*Notice was provided to the Borough Clerk and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel.
The public was provided an email (FireClerk@Hawthornenj.org) to forward questions to the
Board of Fire Commissioners.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*
John Carlo *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Daryl Kallenberg *CO. 2 Captain*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*
Christopher Mogen, *Fire Dept. Clerk*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

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.

Motion to disperse the minutes: Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Second: Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Approved:

John Carlo, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Daryl Kallenberg *CO. 2 Captain*

Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant Chief
Peter Van Der Velde, CO. 4 Assistant Chief
Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;

provided and presented by Clerk Mogen

Passaic County Academy (ICS 300 - Capt. B. Frei, Lt. M. Cook)	\$ 250.00
Bergen County Public Safety (ICS-200 Class - FF. L. Warner)	\$ 250.00
Witmer Public Group (Engine 3 - Replaced Damaged Hoses)	\$ 1,207.00
Witmer Public Group (Truck 2 - Rescue Throw Bag / Fire Hooks / MSA Altair Gas Meter / Mounting Bracket)	\$ 1,686.00
New Jersey Fire Equipment Co. (HFD - SCOTT AV3000 SCBA Masks)	\$ 2,580.66
Witmer Public Safety Group (HFD - Cairns Fire Helmets / Gloves / Hoods)	\$ 5,628.20
Barnwell (Truck 2 - Tire Repair)	\$ 130.00
Campbell (Engine 3 - Steering Column Repair)	\$ 1,323.82
Campbell (Engine 4 - Service: Coolant Leaks / Value Issues / Intake Screens)	\$ 1,302.25
Northeast Communications Inc (HFD - New AC Vehicle Lightbar Equipment + Installation)	\$ 24,315.80
Joe Speranza (HFD - HQ Conference Room TV)	\$ 540.06
All Hands Fire Equipment (Rescue 5 - Carabiners)	\$ 217.80

Total: \$ 39,431.59

Motion to pay the bills: John Carlo, CO. 1 Assistant Chief

Second: Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

Approved:

John Carlo, CO. 1 Assistant Chief
Daryl Kallenberg CO. 2 Captain
Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant Chief
Peter Van Der Velde, CO. 4 Assistant Chief
Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- Received a letter of resignation from FF. Craig Irvolino of Company 4. The Board of Fire Commissioners wish to thank Craig for his dedicated service to the residents of Hawthorne and wish him all the best.
- Received a letter from Ex-Assistant Chief John Tripicchio of Company 1, requesting a one (1) month medical leave. Approved by Assistant Chief Carlo.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of December, 2025, Engine 1 responded to;
 - 37 Box Alarms
 - 1 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 1 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

40 Total Alarms

- Engine 1 submitted a medical LOA 30 days for Ex-Assistant Chief Tripicchio, letter was handed in.
- Engine 1 has 1 regulator out for repair, and 1 SCBA pack out of service due to vendor check.
- Engine 1 received a new nozzle - 1 ¾
- Engine 1 handed in truck checks and SCBA checks for the month of December 2025.

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

Tower CO. #2; presented by Captain Daryl Kallenberg:

- For the month of December, 2025, Truck 2 responded to;
 - 36 Box Alarms
 - 5 Still Alarms
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 1 Mutual Aid (Paterson)
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 1 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

43 Total Alarms

- Happy New Year to all. Truck 2 Officer and Drivers list for 2026 turned over
- Fire & Safety was out to repair a few punch list items, there are still a few more to take care of supposedly later this week.
- Truck 2 had aerial testing done and passed. A few minor issues were found and will be addressed by Fire & Safety when they're out later this week.
- New gear received for Lt Tamburro
- Barnwell Tire was out to inspect a tire we had with a screw in it. The screw was removed and the tire found to not be leaking. Barnwell will also be assisting us in getting snow chains for the apparatus.

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

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

- For the month of December, 2025, Engine 3 responded to;
 - 36 Box Alarms
 - 8 Still Alarms
 - 2 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 0 Stand By
 - 0 Training/Drills
 - 0 Additional Trainings

46 Total Alarms

- Squad Co#3 would like the Board of Commissions to send a letter to FF. Kevin Park Jr., to see what his intentions are and if he is still interested in being a member of Squad Co#3 or has moved on. Our company has tried numerous times to reach out with phone calls, emails and text messages, with no result of a response back from him.
- Squad has put our Chain Saw OOS after the Goffle Road house fire. Parts on the chain saw were damaged and compromised. The saw will need to be looked at and serviced. Also, one 50' length of 2 ½ hose has been damaged from the same fire, it has several holes in the outer jacket from melted aluminum which burned through the outer jacket.
- Squad is asking for an update on the helmet shields.

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

Engine CO. #4: presented by Assistant Chief Peter Van Der Velde:

- For the month of December, 2025, Engine 4 responded to;
 - 37 Box Alarms
 - 0 Still Alarms
 - 1 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 1 Stand By
 - 0 Training
 - 0 Drill

39 Total Alarms

- Engine 4 would like to say happy new year to all.
- Engine 4 received 3 black helmets for the replacements of old helmets.
- Campbell Supply was out to check our engine for antifreeze loss and found nothing at this time. Antifreeze was topped off. They do say there is a smell from time to time on the new engines and will notify if any issue comes up further.
- Turned in four receipts for antifreeze and three for the book and class for rescue tech for Lt. Geier and FF. Rodriguez. Congratulations to both on passing the class.
- Received and turned in a resignation letter from Craig Irvolino for 2/6/26. We wish him and his family the best on their move to Pennsylvania. He will be missed.
- We would like to welcome Carlos Morales, who will be sworn in tonight.

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

Rescue CO. #5: presented by Assistant Chief Anthony Manzo:

- For the month of December, 2025, Rescue 5 responded to;
 - 33 Box Alarms
 - 7 Still Alarms
 - 1 Mutual Aid (Glen Rock)
 - 1 Special Event/Stand By
 - 2 Training/Drills

44 Total Alarms
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Completed and submitted driver's license paperwork
 - Completed and submitted bloodborne pathogens training.
 - Company completed Fit Testing
 - Thank you to all who supported Rescue at our Christmas Village
 - Wishing all outgoing and incoming officers good luck
 - Wishing all members a happy and healthy new year
 - Unit 58
 - Good working order
 - Unit 57/Communications
 - Good working order
 - Boat
 - Good working order
 - Personal
 - Congratulations to Jake Hoekstra becoming a member of the Hawthorne Fire Department.
 - Taskforce
 - Taskforce will resume this month, details on IamResponding

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Refer to the Chief's report.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

Submitted by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

Wish each of you and your families a healthy and safe New Year, on behalf of the department we wish retired administrator Maurer the best in his future.

The department has issued our Asst. Chiefs the 2026 county and state approved mutual aid plan with minimal changes for year.

We will be updating and issuing the HFD Drivers Training Guideline and Operational Procedures as well as the 2026 Fire Officers Handbook in the next few weeks.

Currently we are auditing our Class A and B FF for their annual physicals, requirement and any members not in compliance will be notified as to their reclassification to "Class C, Non-Fire Ground".

Thanks to Fire Official DiBella, he has identified current ordinance that is of issue with faulty and false fire alarms. The ordinance has been addressed and likely amended to allow summons as needed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

1/7 - Borough Council Meeting - Meeting at 6:45pm at Borough Hall in full dress

1/11 - Gas Explosion Dynamics Training - 9am - Noon at Fire HQs

1/15 - Mayors Meeting - Borough Hall at 4pm (1 or 2 Assistant Chiefs)

1/20 - Officer's Training - 7:30pm at Fire HQs - Lts and Capts upstairs training (Fire Flow Dynamics), Chiefs downstairs discussing board topics.

We expect the WAWA process to begin shortly and asap we will schedule drills at the property. In addition, training will likely commence on Swift Water Training sometime in March. Hopeful to gain use of the property at the Old Hawthorne Chevy for training and drills as well. Walk throughs will be requested asap at the Goffle Road complex and Pan Chems complex.

Respectfully,
Chief J.Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - No written report submitted.

Cadets:

- *Captain Brandon Frei & Ex Assistant Chief Brian Warner*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, January 15th.

Auxiliary:

- *President Joni Huston*
 - No written report submitted.
 - All members are good.

- The truck is running well.

Citizen Fire:

- *Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - No written report submitted.

Task Force:

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Taskforce will resume in January 2026.

Training Center:

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Met with the Boys Scouts about the Training Center confidence course and will review the proposed rough draft plans.

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Thursday, January 8th - Meeting at Company 1

Passaic County Sheriff's Department:

- *Ex-Assistant Chief John Arturi - OEM*
 - No written report submitted.

Radio Communications

- *Ex-Assistant Chief Mike Nelson*
 - No written report submitted.
 - No issues to report.

Technology/CODES

- *Assistant Chief John Carlo & Assistant Chief Lodder*
 - No written report submitted.

Awards Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - No written report submitted.

Department Open House Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza & Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - No written report submitted.

Honor Guard

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*
 - No written report submitted.

Safety Committee

- *Chief Joseph Speranza*

- No written report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Company 1:
 - Waiting for the apparatus vendor to connect and set up a time to complete the punch list.
 - *Chief: Keep me updated, I can call and voice our concern. I had a similar call about Truck 2 with the same vendor.*
- Company 2:
 - None
- Company 3:
 - What happened with the road signage near the Fire Companies?
 - *Chief: Waiting to meet with the new administrator to discuss the topic.*
- Company 4:
 - Whatever happened to the standby reimbursement from the Passaic Water Commission?
 - *Chief: I'll bring up the topic with the new administrator.*
- Company 5:
 - None
- Chief:
 - None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Company 1:
 - None
- Company 2:
 - None
- Company 3:
 - None
- Company 4:
 - None
- Company 5:
 - OME is hosting the ICS 200 Class
- Chief Speranza:
 - Chief Speranza swore in a new members;
 - FF. Carlos Morales Barriga, he will be stationed at Company 4.
 - FF. Jacob Hoekstra, he will be stationed at Company 5.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Company 1:
 - None
- Company 2:
 - Keep Bill Redmon in your prayers.
 - Keep Alan Ribbe in your prayers.
- Company 3:
 - None
- Company 4:
 - None

- Company 5:
 - None
- Chief Speranza:
 - None

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- None

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to disperse the minutes: Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Second: Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Approved:

John Carlo, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Daryl Kallenberg *CO. 2 Captain*

Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*

Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza