

Chief Joseph Speranza
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Clerk Christopher Mogen
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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 April 7th at 7:30pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

The meeting this evening was located at Fire HQ and closed to the general public. *The notice was provided to the Borough Clerk on Saturday, March 28, 2020 and published to the Fire Department's website and social channel. The public was provided an email (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*
Dominick DeGroot, *CO. 3 Captain*
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.

DEPARTMENT BILL LIST OF EXPENSES;

provided and presented by Clerk Mogen

Hawthorne Fire Company 1 (Annual Rental)	\$ 7,480.00
Hawthorne Fire Company 2 (Annual Rental)	\$ 7,480.00
Hawthorne Fire Company 3 (Annual Rental)	\$ 7,480.00
Hawthorne Fire Company 4 (Annual Rental)	\$ 7,480.00
FireFighter One (SCBA - Maintenance & Repairs)	\$ 1,000.00
State Line Fire & Safety Inc. (HFD - Fire Extinguishers Maintenance Repair - Blanket PO)	\$ 400.00
First Priority Emergency Vehicle, Inc. (Engine 3 - Bodyshop Repair)	\$ 1,250.00
First Priority Emergency Vehicle, Inc. (Engine 3 - Diesel Fuel)	\$ 70.38

Total: \$ 32,640.38

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- FF Thomas Kennedy from Company 1 submitted his retirement letter. He has asked to join the Cadets program to offer his 23 years of experience with the Hawthorne Fire Department. The letter will be forwarded to Ex-Assistant Chief Warner.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of March 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 22 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill(s) for a total of 23 Alarms
- Engine 1 also held one (1) trainings
- Engine 1 received;
 - gloves and hand sanitizer. Waiting for N-95 masks.
- (4) members have notified us that they are quarantined. One of them has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Hydro testing was completed. (1) SCBA and RIT pack was deemed to be out of service.
- Good & Welfare: Thomas Kennedy resigned from Co 1 Effective March 2020 and is submitted with regrets.
- Mondo's father passed away.

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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 2020, Company 2 responded to; 24 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 3 Mutual Aid, 0 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 28 Alarms
- All of Towers 2 SCBA bottles have been hydro tested
- As we all know, Fit Testing has been postponed until further notice
- The town's new Ladder Truck is moving right along. Still projected to be completed early May of 2020.
- Middle of March our truck as well as our social area was cleaned by Capt. Carlo and his magic box. Thank you.
- There are currently 3 members of CO#2 who are out due to symptoms, three (3) members who are to stay away unless a major incident comes in due to their activity near possible code 100 patients. And one (1) member who is self quarantining due to past health issues. For a total of 7 members. The three (3) members who have symptoms or had them are on their way to recovery.
- We have requested thru codes. AA and 9volt batteries for packs, premixed fuel for saws and 2 batteries for HT1250 radios.
- Members are being updated regularly and we wish the best to the rest of the Department. Stay well and those sick have a speedy recovery.

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

Engine CO. #3; presented by Captain Dominick DeGroot:

- For the month of March 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 25 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 1 Drills for a total of 26 Alarms.
- FF. Jim Bakker remains on medical leave, doing well.
- FF. Andrew Massey remains on medical leave and on light duty.
- Engine 3 is back from getting warranty and body work completed at 1st priority. There are still some items that need to be attended to, this will be scheduled in the near future. All bottles went out for hydrostatic testing, 1 bottle was repaired, all are back in service and up to date.
- As of this date Engine 3 has 4 members out due to Covid-19. Three members are self isolating for precautionary reasons and 1 member tested positive. 2 Firefighters will return at the end of the week and/or the beginning of next week. One of the two due back will have a clearance letter toward the end of the week.
- For the training center, as of now it will be off limits and all work is on hold until further notice due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Once the restrictions have lifted we will continue moving forward.

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 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 24 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 1 Drills, for a total of 26 Alarms including 1 mutual aid calls to Glen Rock and 1 mutual aid call to Haledon.
- Engine Company 4's onboard generator repairs are completed and functioning properly now.
- All SCBA bottles have been hydro tested and passed except for our RIT bottle that failed for being out of date.
- Ladder testing is completed and all ladders passed.
- Currently Engine 4 has two members that their leaves of absence are up as of April 1, 2020. (FF Flanagan for medical and FF Hurley for personal). Neither member has been in contact with any of their officers on their intentions. I will be holding this matter off until May Fire Board for review due to the current situations at hand.
- At this time Engine 4, has two (2) members that have returned to duty from beating the COVID-19 virus and seven (7) members that are on reduced response status.

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 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 25 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarm, 0 Special Event, 1 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 26 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - SCBA bottles hydro tested - complete
 - Ladder testing - complete
 - VHF portable radio needs reprogramming - Bergen County frequencies not working - also need 12 volt chargers to mount in the cab.
 - Unit 58
 - Siren is burned out-needs replacement- March 3 – Murphy Communications preparing quote.
 - Request Portable Radio for Cab with charger.
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order
 - Task Force
 - Next drill scheduled after crisis is over.
 - Member Certification – Process to begin next year (Rescue Skill Sheet) and Completion of Rescue School will be required to maintain status.
 - All Companies interested members list.
 - Personal
 - Two members on quarantine due to exposure
 - Two members off quarantine
 - Two members stay at home as per CDC guidelines

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Chief Speranza would like to thank Chief Wanklin, PPPC and Captain Joseph Alvarez Bergen County OEM for the continuous emails and information of the COVID-19 incident.
- Chief Speranza would like to thank the Glen Rock FD in offering to disinfect and spray our apparatuses.
- OEM radios (HD1250 need to be programmed).
- Haircuts to members are being offered this Saturday. Appointments only, you must be in good health and wear a mask. The event will be held at HQ from 9am -3pm.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Most importantly I hope all our members and families are well or improving. This has been a difficult period in our department and our lives. Unfortunately, today's Governor statement expects we may be a few weeks away from the so-called Apex or start of the curve. If that is true, we still may have weeks or months ahead of us until we clear this event. It is likely we will continue to format distant type meetings to conduct our departments business, we will keep the chiefs up to date.
- The department continues with response directives and cautions each of you to do your best in maintaining the directives. Remember exposure forms are critical if an exposure is to occur at an incident or fire house.
- Over the past two weeks I have updated our Asst. Chiefs daily on the department's member status and correspondences from county and borough. As of today, our update of members sidelined due to COVID-19 concerns remain at 31 members, again, mostly precautionary distancing measures.
- Tonight, we are being issued a box of level one surgical masks for each company, you should put these on in response if no air pack is needed. These do not replace N-95 masks which we have a very limited supply of. If you issue a N-95, the mask can be reused and should be maintained by the original user following CDC guidelines provided earlier to the Asst. Chiefs.
- We have also received courtesy of Van Dyk Healthcare hand sanitizer, nitrile gloves and one can of disinfectant for the apparatus for each fire company.
- My thanks to all our members who continue to respond each and every day as needed and also the members of Engine 4 for the response to Ridgewood this past weekend.
- A reminder, each company has been provided training links that members can utilize, if the member uses a link, they should document such and credit can be provided for LOSAP.
- Again there will be some difficult times ahead of us, all I can ask of each of you is to do your best as you always have in the past, be safe, smart and stay healthy, for those affected get well soon the department misses you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- No Submission

· **Cadets:**

- Cadets program is on hold until further notice.

· **Ladies Auxiliary:**

- New Date: On Friday, June 5th, the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual Fish & Chips Dinner at the Hawthorne Boys & Girls Club
 - 6pm - 7pm
 - \$15 for Adults, \$8 for Children
- Our volunteers will be visiting various businesses with the hope that you would kindly consider donating a gift certificate or merchandise.
- Your donation would be very much appreciated, as the proceeds generated go directly towards providing support for the Hawthorne Fire Department & our Community. If you wish to attend this event please contact Sharon at 973-626-2593
- Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

· **Training Center:**

- The Training Center is off limits until further notice.

· **Exempt/Relief:**

- *Ex-Chief of the Department Victor Tamburro* - The next meeting, Thursday April 9th will be canceled.

· **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:
 - 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:
 - No new business to report
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - No old business to report.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Engine Company 1:
 - No old business to report.
- Tower Company 2:
 - No old business to report.
- Engine Company 3:
 - No new business to report
- Engine Company 4:
 - No new business to report
- Rescue Company 5:
 - No old business to report.
- Chief Speranza
 - No new business to report

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- *The April 7th, 2020 meeting was closed 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) to submit any questions. NO submissions were received.*

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk

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