

Chief Joseph Speranza
973.423.5550 Office
973.423.5089 Fax



Clerk Christopher Mogen
973.423.2536 Office
973.423.5089 Fax

Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to Order on June 2nd at 7:32pm 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, May 23rd, 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 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

Ricoh USA Corporation

(QTR (06/29/2019-09/28/2019) Black/White & Color Copies) \$ 144.91

New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association (Annual Dues) \$ 40.00

Strategic Safety Dynamics (Tower 2 - Boots) \$ 307.50

Fire and Safety Services, LTD (Engine 1 Emergency Apparatus Repair) \$ 1,176.83

Tiger Tool Supply ((2) 9lb Dead Blow Sledge Hammers) \$ 204.29

Allied 100 LLC. (Fire & Rescue Training Manikin) \$ 970.00

Electronic Systems Solutions (HFD Radio Replacements) \$ 13,479.00

Total: \$ 16,322.53

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- None

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of May 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 19 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 0 Drill(s) for a total of 21 Alarms
- Engine 1 received additional COVID-19 protection
- All members returned from COVID-19
- (4) members have notified us that they are quarantined to protect other members due to their primary job duties
- (1) SCBA remains out of service
- Engine 1 has a pump leak and has requested repairs to be made as it will eventually leak all water out of the pump.

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 May 2020, Company 2 responded to; 27 Box Alarms, 4 Still Alarms, 1 Mutual Aid, 0 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 32 Alarms
- The new Tower Ladder is in its final stages, the committee is in the inspection stage and expect the truck in town within the next week or two.
- All members are off of any COVID-19 precautions
- We have one SCBA pack off the truck. Pass wouldn't shut off. We are going to inspect it in-house if we can't be fixed. Then will go through codes to have it repaired.
- Batteries for packs have been picked up from Tanis and are in process of being replaced on packs.

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 May 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 29 Box Alarms, 0 Still Alarms, 1 Mutual Aid, 0 Chief Calls, held 1 Drill for a total of 31 Alarms.
- FF. Jim Bakker remains on medical leave, doing well.
- Engine 3 was serviced by Allison Transmissions to up the performance of the transmission.
- The learn mode was cleared and reprogrammed for more power to climb the hills in our district and town.
- Co#3 has asked that we express our concerns about the parking conditions in our district. At a majority of times we are unable to turn down streets due to vehicles parking at the end of corners on both sides of the street in the stop signs zone.
- We ask that the Mayor and administration, please look at these conditions. We have stated this concern in the past and it seems the problem is getting worse. Minutes of delay in response could mean a life could be lost.

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 May 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 25 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 0 Standbys, 1 Radio Alarm, 0 Drills, for a total of 27 Alarm.
- Engine Company 4's, light bars are in. Murphy Communications is looking at early next week to install our lights. The engine will be out of service for the day while the lights are being installed.
- At this time, E4 has 5 members on reduced response and one member on medical leave.

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 May 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 26 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarm, 0 Special Event, 0 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 29 Alarms.
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue

- Pending -VHF portable radio needs reprogramming – Bergen County frequencies not working – also need 12 volt charger to mount in cab.
- Unit 58
 - Pending (4 Months) - Siren is burned out-needs replacement - March 3 – Murphy Communications preparing quote.
 - Pending - Request Portable Radio for Cab with charger.
- Boat
 - Good Working Order
- Task Force
 - Next drill scheduled after the 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 senior 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 discussed the business of Premio Foods & Market Basket and the issues that were documented at a recent alarm call.
- New eDispatch mobile app is now available, June 16, 2020
- Training is available, 6 spots, for the upcoming September 12th, 2020, Eckert Fire Tactics Training Weekend. Members who are interested should contact their Asst. Chief.
- Decon Guidelines for Hawthorne FD will be provided to Asst. Chiefs
- Considerations for Response - Incidents involving Mass Gatherings and Large Crowds during the COVID-19 Pandemic will be provided to Asst. Chiefs.
- Easy Restart Drills and Training coming off COVID will be provided to Asst. Chiefs.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic: Supporting Healthcare, First Responders & Frontline Workers documentation will be provided to Asst. Chiefs.
- A Special Webinar Presentation - First Responder Safety in Times of Civil Unrest - A Focus on Behavior in Groups, Crowds & Mods documentation will be provided to Asst. Chiefs.

CHIEF'S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- I would like to thank all our members for maintaining their diligence and composure through this very challenging period of COVID-19 and the lockdown. We are forever thankful our members who were affected have recovered and are working the front lines with us again.
- I do wish to thank Chief Tamburro and Chief Nelson for attending the very limited Memorial Day Service at borough hall.
- A thanks to the fire companies that had attended the drive by's, I do believe it is appreciated by many.

CORE STATEMENT

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

- We have one very special drive by schedule for June 10th for Ms. Bakker (celebrating her 95 birthday), mom of Jim and Tom Bakker, also a previous auxiliary member. The drive by is slated for a 6:45pm meeting at St. Anthony's parking lot.
- As of today June 2nd, 2020, we will be reducing our COVID-19 guideline for response as we are rescinding the four-member maximum response on the apparatus. We still recommend practice of CDC guidelines including use of a mask and proper sanitization practices of personal and or apparatus. While masks have not been mandated by the state, we ask you to respect each other and utilize the supplied masks.
- The recommendation on investigative calls which limit member activity in and out of structures will remain and we should continue to limit activity in and out of buildings whether it be residential or commercial for investigative purposes.
- Supplies to aid us in protecting our members and residents have started to become available and several items have been distributed to fire companies.
- The department is maintaining a limited stock of response items at HQs and has in its possession a decon unit and has ordered battery decon units for each fire company.
- **Meetings** - As for fire company or department meetings we are still limited to ten people gathered as per state mandates. If a fire company can conduct a company meeting on the exterior (outside of the building) they can do so with up to 25 members as per the state guideline.
- **COVID-19** - We offer our thanks to The Doctor's Office in Midland Park for assisting us in the coordination of antibody tests and nasal testing. A reminder the county continues to offer free testing at the designated sites.
- **Training** - Fire company training can resume under the above requirements.
- If a company is training on the exterior without SCBA, then we recommend use of surgical masks at the minimum while working with your team. Interior training again are limited to ten. Follow CDC sanitization guidelines and if necessary, utilize the department's disinfection equipment. We are hopeful department training will be resuming later this month or early next. Our training and safety committee will be meeting asap.
- **Training Center** - The center can return to use following some minor work that has been requested by Chief Longo, he will schedule the needs of our training center.
- **Civil Disturbance Response** - Guidelines links for this topic have been provided to each Asst. Chief via email from our county coordinator. Any response out of our jurisdiction should include that our operation and safety needs are being met by the requested department. Our county coordinators hope to utilize task force responses, so fare local area protests have been peaceful and respectful.
- **CARES Grant** - The department has requested several items to assist us in response to COVID and similar types of pandemic response. We will update as to the progress of the grant as we are updated.
- **Communications** - The new ICOM portables have been ordered for the department where we are purchasing 20 radios. We expect to have them in a few weeks.
- **Truck 2** - It appears we are just a few weeks away from receiving the new ladder truck for Truck 2. We wish them the best on arrival and safe use through its lifetime.
- **FF Convention** - As most of you are aware the convention for 2020 has been canceled, the caucus will occur on voting only. Executive Committeeman Lane will provide details asap.
- In closing again, I am hopeful we may have begun to regain some normalcy in our day to day operations. Sadly, I expect a lot of products and programs the department presents and delivers will be in jeopardy through the remainder of 2020. If everyone just stops for a moment and realizes how much we may have taken for granted, you begin to realize how important each of you are to the borough of Hawthorne, our department and each other. As a member of our department you provide meaningful honor to a society that has had some moral issues.

I ask you to remember those lost and especially remember those at the firemen's home and keep their families and spirit of tradition they provided in your hearts.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- 3 Meetings were held via Zoom conferencing
- Two work details were held
- Responded to three alarms
- All radio equipment in the Radio Room and in 57 is in good working order as is the cascade system with the following exceptions;
 - Intermittent low pressure from the breathing air compressor, was as low as 3200 PSI two weeks ago and now 4200 PSI as of last night. The 4th stage pressure gauge on the unit shows high pressure cutout at 4500 PSI but only 4200 PSI appears on the air lines to 57 and the stationary unit in the building.
 - Noise issues with Fire One receiver are getting worse. This is assumed to be from the cell phone radios on the Boro Hall tower but has not been verified. In general, the noise issues affect the 5 watt hand-held radios even when used close in, as last night from the Lafayette Ave. fuel spill incident. The truck radios, at the 40-50 watt level with their gain antennas rarely have any problems except when operating out of the Borough or in "shadow" areas.
 -
- Chief Speranza is aware of both of the above issues and now with the State "opening up" it is hoped that we can move forward with resolutions.
- Submitted 2, June 2020 by G Zagatta (RC2)

Cadets:

- Cadets program is on hold until further notice.

Ladies Auxiliary:

- New Date: On Friday, September 17th, 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 in the process of opening up. Contact Asst. Chief Longo for further information.

- BILCO Basement Door was delivered
- New Props are in positions
- Sledge Hammer will be ordered
- Tank Removal is pending
- DC Electric is repairing lights

· **Exempt/Relief:**

- Convention has been canceled
- Credits will still be provided to the delegates and the voting will occur at the Boys and Girls Club

· **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 new 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 old business to report.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- *The June 2nd, 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 8:10 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk