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Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER:

There was a delay to the July 7th Fire Board meeting due to an alarm call at 7:25pm. The meeting was finally called to order at 7:58pm 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, June 27th, 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*
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:

None

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

Ridgewood Press (Company Fire Reports 1-5)	\$ 835.50
Home Supply & Lumber Co. (Various Wood Supplies)	\$ 100.00
Municipal Emergency Service (Gas Meter Repair)	\$ 951.79
Municipal Emergency Service (Ventis Single Unit Truck Mount Charger)	\$ 114.42
Gold Type Business Machines (5-8: Light Bar Repair)	\$ 717.02
Samson Metal Service (Sled Simulator)	\$ 576.80
Goosetown Communications (Kenwood Radio Volume Knob Repair)	\$ 30.00
Sunny Communications Inc. (Kenwood TK-3180 Refurbished Radios)	\$ 670.00
Penguin Management, Inc (Service - July1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020)	\$ 888.00
Hawthorne Co2 (Standby - Food & Refreshments (Hawthorne BLM March))	\$ 44.95
Hawthorne Co3 (Standby - Food & Refreshments (Hawthorne BLM March))	\$ 45.00
Hawthorne Co4 (Standby - Food & Refreshments (Hawthorne BLM March))	\$ 50.00
Hawthorne Co5 (Standby - Food & Refreshments (Hawthorne BLM March))	\$ 44.65
Tastee Pizza (Blanket PO - Food & Refreshments (Drill, Standby, Meetings))	\$ 500.00
Strategic Safety Dynamics ((1) PPE - Company 1 (FF Foley))	\$ 2,074.07
First Battalion (Tower 2 - Various Tools)	\$ 4,324.16

Total: \$ 11,966.36

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD;

Presented by Clerk Mogen

- Prospective member letter was submitted by Mr. Jose Corrales of 7 Vincent Place, Hawthorne, NJ, to join the Hawthorne Fire Department Company 3.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of June 2020, Engine 1 responded to; 24 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Radio Alarms, 1 Drill(s) for a total of 27 Alarms, Held 1 training.
- SCBA remains out of service
- Our hose order remains outstanding
- Need (2) two piston actuators and (2) compartment latches for our side compartment that houses our 5-inch Storz pony length for 6 inch front suction connections. Plus we need the heat shield repaired.
- New member Carter Mascias came down and met with Co 1 officers and is interested in joining HFD and resides on 3rd Ave.
- Applaud, all members who attended the last working fires. It was a job well done and they all deserve recognition when a house is saved and we all come home safe.

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

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Tower CO. #2; presented by Assistant Chief Ronald Walker:

- For the month of June 2020, Company 2 responded to; 24 Box Alarms, 6 Still Alarms, 3 Mutual Aid, 0 Drill, 0 Training, 0 Radio Alarms, for a total of 33 Alarms
- The Stihl saw is out of service to be repaired / all fixed and back on truck
- Tower 2 is down one pack
- Members are happy to be back drilling on Monday nights.
- Truck 2 is currently at Fire & Safety in south Plainfield. It is being serviced and prepped for delivery once the equipment mounting has been completed by their fabrication shop. Delivery is expected within the next few weeks. Our Pierce Factory Training has also been scheduled for August 7, 8, 9. If all goes well with fabrication we have a projected delivery for the week of July 21st.
- I am requesting one membership application

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 June 2020, Engine Co. #3 responded to 23 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarms, 0 Mutual Aid, 1 Chief Calls, held 2 Drill for a total of 28 Alarms.
- Engine 3 status has remained the same as reported in last month's letter to the Fire Board.

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 June 2020, Engine 4 responded to, 22 Box Alarms, 1 Still Alarms, 1 Standbys, 0 Radio Alarm, 1 Drills, for a total of 25 Alarm.
- Engine Company 4 is requesting to have a letter written to the Borough Safety Committee to set up a meeting for the purchase of our new engine.

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 June 2020, Rescue 5 responded to; 21 Box Alarms, 2 Still Alarm, 1 Stand-by, 1 Training /Drills, 0 Task Force Training and 0 Mutual Aid Drill for a total of 25 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
 - Siren is burned - Replacement approved pending scheduling for installation
 - Pending - Request Portable Radio for Cab with charger.
 - Boat
 - Good Working Order

- Task Force
 - Next drill scheduled July 27 at 1930 hours
 - Member Certification – Process to begin September (Rescue Skill Sheet) and Completion of Rescue School will be required to maintain status. (Need Certification of members from members on Task Force) due August 1.
 - All Companies interested members list due August 1
- Personal
 - One member out on medical leave - return August

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

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT;

reported by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- 198 - 208 Diamond Bridge Ave. business will be reviewed by Fire Prevention due to multiple calls during the July 4th weekend.
- Chief Speranza will meet with Fire Prevention about bringing on additional resources to backfill when needed.
- New eDispatch mobile app is now available, June 16, 2020
- 117 apartment mix-use complex is in the development planning phase on Wagaraw Road

CHIEF’S REPORT AND CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY;

by Fire Chief Joseph Speranza

- Tonight’s meeting remains the distant Zoom meeting we were hopeful would end last month, but as we press on through the COVID pandemic process I am hopeful and expect we will conduct some type of open Fire Board meeting in August.
- Over the past few weeks, we have had significant increase in activity in alarms, I do know I can be a little unforgiving on some of our response processes, please understand our common goal is to improve our members and officers so if we point out corrections kindly understand.
- I would like to thank each one of our members that responded to the Union Ave house fire, the seriousness and fire spread was substantial, and the fire was handled with good attack and coordination. It was excellent to see members stage as needed, be ready to work with tools and coordinate fire attack and ventilation together. This was an excellent stop and a job well done!
- **Communication** — The new ICOM portables are being issued tonight to the company Asst. Chief’s for distribution. Each is identified to each officer and will be utilizing the preemptive signal on keying up to indicate communication availability. Old portables MUST be returned before issuing the new officer portable. The old Kenwood radio will be sent out for evaluation and tune up prior to redistribution. Once this is completed the Truck portable radios will undergo the same process. The radios will be reidentified for apparatus and team use.
 - Recommended ID:
 - Engine 1 — 101A - 101B - 101C / Option — 101 - 111 - 121
 - Truck 2 — 202A - 202B - 202C / Option — 221 - 222 - 223
 - Engine 3 — 103A - 103B - 103C / Option — 331 - 333 - 334
 - Engine 4 — 104A - 104B - 104C / Option — 441 - 442 - 443
 - Res 5 — 105A - 105B - 105C / Option — 551 - 552 - 553

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- In addition to communications concerns, we met with the mayor, administrator, and police department on the new radio frequency for police. Chief McAuliffe further explained the new portables they are utilizing already have our frequency on the portable. So, they can quickly and directly communicate with the FD/EMS without need for a second radio or to relay through dispatch. The private frequency is to help ensure the safety of our police officers.
- We requested that dispatchers format a process to immediately dispatch Fire and or EMS prior to police units to allow for the lost seconds in hearing patrol being dispatched on the old frequency.
- Chief also provided to us that the HFD dispatch process book developed several years ago which explains dispatch recommendations for FD response will be reviewed and utilized by dispatchers.
- As if issues arise, I will work with the police department to help us work together as we enter a new world of communication.
- The officers and communications committee will be reviewing procedures on excessive radio transmissions to reduce radio traffic on incidents.
- **PCMA** — A concern coming from PCMA about PSEG gas re-dispatching fire departments to incidents that we may have cleared prior to PSEG arrival. This has been confirmed by the county fire coordinator and is being addressed through PCMA.
- **COVID-19** — A reminder to help control and avoid issues with COVID we recommend use of masks for use in and on the fire apparatus or fire house out of respect for others.
 - This is especially important with cadets at our fire houses and incidents that could be potential calls of assistance without use of SCBA.
- **Truck 2** — As you are aware the new truck is days away from arrival and we wish Truck Co2 and the borough the best.
- **Training Committee** — Meetings are on-going, and we are working on building and examining existing SOGs. We are also working on training opportunities for the department.
 - The training committee will tie in with our safety committee and the training center manager to bring all aspects of the training center together as we move forward.
- **Fire Prevention** — Our Fire Marshall has been informed of the issues located this past weekend and will be working on a resolution to the concerns.
- **Lockbox Ordinance** — The meeting with Administrator Maurer and the Mayor have produced some progress for probable ordinance for lockboxes on commercial structures and other high-risk buildings.
- **FYI** — Leadership camp and Hawthorne Day both have been canceled for 2020, we are working on a possible First Night Celebration for the borough.
- **Good and Welfare** — Please be cautious as the COVID concern continues. We also are encouraged to see Carly Tamburro getting around a bit and wish her well as she enters the rehab phase from her injury. The department is currently looking for a grant writer that would only work off a successful award, we feel we have some missed opportunities that we could pursue.

I wish to thank all of you who assisted in the drive by celebrations over the past few weeks.

Respectfully,

Chief J. Speranza

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications Division:

- For the month of June 2020, the Communications Division responded to 11 Alarms, 2 Special Details, 3 Work Details and 3 Division meetings were held via Zoom teleconferencing.
- Currently one member is on medical leave, one inactive per CDC guidelines and two responding normally.
- All equipment in the Radio Room and in '57 (cascade and communications sections) is in good working order with the following exception:
 - Noise/interference issues with Fire One remain unchanged, especially with hand-held radios. We are awaiting the results of the evaluation of the receivers in the system by the vendor and their recommendation for abatement, if possible. The higher power vehicle radios continue to operate well within the system's footprint.
- Submitted 7 July 2020 by G.E. 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.
- Clean up detail is scheduled for July 8th @ 7:30pm
- Tank Removal is pending
- DC Electric is repairing lights

· **Exempt/Relief:**

- Next scheduled meet is on July 9th, 7:30pm at Company 1
- 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:
 - Social media posts by the department and individual companies;
 - Asst. Chief Devin Hughes and Asst. Chief David Hughes brought up concerns that the department was not following the Social Media Policy (11/18/14).
 - Paragraph 5; “The Fire Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners shall approve all Department social media pages.”
 - Recent posts on individual company Facebook page, department Facebook page and website did not follow the policy.
 - The referenced 6/30 post on the department website and Facebook page has been turned off until it is reviewed and approved by the Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners.
 - Due to the age of the current Social Media Policy (11/18/14), Chief Speranza will review the policy with the Borough attorney. Additionally, the possibility of adding a new PIO (Public Information Officer) position to the department to help expedite reviews and approvals of communications.
- 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 July 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 8:51 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza.

Christopher Mogen
Fire Department Clerk