



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 7, 2026 at 7:32 pm by Joseph Speranza, Borough Fire Chief.
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:

John Carlo *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*
Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
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:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Led by Joseph Speranza, Borough Fire Chief

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*
Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*
Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*
Peter Van Der Velde, *CO. 4 Assistant Chief*
Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 Assistant Chief*

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

Metropolitan Medical Corp (HFD - Philips AED Pad Package - Smart Pads II / Tourniquets)	\$ 468.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (HFD - Helmet Shield / Structural Fire Boots-10W)	\$ 662.00
Fremgen's Power Equipment (Rescue 5 - Chains 16")	\$ 76.00
PA Motors LLC (Unit 62: Oil Change, Battery Replacement, Wiper Blade)	\$ 368.15
New Jersey Fire Equipment Co. (HFD Air Compressor Annual Service)	\$ 1,273.30
D.C. Electrical Contractors (Radio Room - Install 20 Circuit for Radio Equipment)	\$ 750.00
Pascack Data Services (Radio Room - 4 TB Portable Hard Drive External)	\$ 163.00
Penguin Management. Inc. (HFD - 6 Month Service (Jan 1 - June 30, 2026))	\$ 1,812.00
Bottagra (Hawthorne Fire Dept. Annual Awards Banquet)	\$ 5,200.00

Total: \$ 10,772.45

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

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

Approved:

John Carlo, *CO. 1 Assistant Chief*

Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 Assistant Chief*

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 intent from Mr. Sean Warner to join the Hawthorne Fire Department Company 5. Approved by Assistant Chief Manzo.
- Received a letter from Mr. Robert Stonier from the Radio Room, requesting a medical leave. Retroactive from 1/1/26 - 4/1/26. Approved by Assistant Chief Manzo.
- Received a doctor's letter for 1st Lt. Craig Geier of Company 4, requesting a medical leave from 03/03/26 to 04/04/26. Which includes the return to active duties with no restrictions on 04/01/26. Approved by Assistant Chief Van Der Velde.
- Received a doctor's letter for FF. Tashon Hall of Company 4, requesting a medical leave. Retroactive from 01/13/26 to 02/27/26. Approved by Assistant Chief Van Der Velde.

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

- For the month of March, 2026, Engine 1 responded to;
 - 28 Box Alarms
 - 1 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

30 Total Alarms

- Engine 1 had their exhaust system repaired.
- Engine 1 had their tires replaced and completed
- Engine 1 booster reel broke at fire 127 Westervelt needs repairs will call fire safety
- Engine 1 handed in truck checks and SCBA checks for the month of March 2026.

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

Tower CO. #2: presented by Assistant Chief Travis Lodder:

- For the month of March, 2026, Truck 2 responded to;
 - 28 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 5 Mutual Aid (3 Paterson, 1 Glen Rock, 1 North Haledon)
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

36 Total Alarms

- Preventative Maintenance and a few outstanding repairs have been completed by Fire & Safety. Couple more repairs are still needed.
- The exhaust system in the firehouse was repaired.
- Truck 2 received a few charcoal filters for the Natural Gas meter from PSEG, also received some for Rescue 5's meter.
- Truck 2 is requesting a gemtor belt (size small left side opening) and replacement blade for the battery cut off saw that was used at the Westervelt Fire.
- Truck 2 is still awaiting 2 pairs of boots (size 10.5 and 11W) and the throw bags/mounting brackets from Thefirestore from last year's budget ordered in December.
- Truck 2 was asked to assist with the flag detail for the Guardian Mass in Paterson on May 2nd at The Cathedral of St John the Baptist on Grand St.

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 March, 2026, Engine 3 responded to;
 - 30 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 0 Stand By
 - 2 Training/Drills
 - 0 Additional Trainings

34 Total Alarms

- Squad Co#3 is requesting service maintenance of all of its saws - 2 chain saws, 2 demo saws.
- Two body work repair estimates will be presented to the Chief for review on items on the apparatus that need repairs and painted.
- Thank you to all firefighters, Lady's AUX and Emergency Services who helped with the 127 Westervelt Ave fire.

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 March, 2026, Engine 4 responded to;
 - 30 Box Alarms
 - 2 Still Alarms
 - 0 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 0 Stand By
 - 0 Training
 - 1 Drill

33 Total Alarms

- Engine 4 is requesting some new shields for helmets. We'll get a quantity and amount to the clerk this week.
- New gear was measured for two members and one more member to be measured this week.
- We would like to welcome Kayla Algarin on joining Co#4.
- Engine 4 is attending the Autism Movie night tomorrow April 8th at the movie theater.

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 March, 2026, Rescue 5 responded to;
 - 22 Box Alarms
 - 5 Still Alarms

- 0 Mutual Aid
- 0 Special Event/Stand By
- 2 Training/Drills

29 Total Alarms

- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Tires getting inspected by Barnwell
 - Bad door sensor on the officers side. It will be evaluated by Campbell.
 - Rescue & Squads Holmatro tools to be serviced in June.
 - Unit 58
 - Good working order
 - Unit 57/Communications
 - Good working order
 - Boat
 - Good working order
 - Personal
 - Leave of Absence for Radio Operator Bob Stonier (Retroactive from 1/1/26 - 4/1/26)
 - Taskforce
 - Taskforce drills will be posted 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

I would like to thank our members, AUX members, HAW EMS, HAW Police and our mutual aid partners for the job well done on Westervelt Ave yesterday and again today. With the heavy fire conditions on arrival our members provided a rapid knock down preventing further damage to exposures and the origin house. While it is disappointing to lose a resident's family pet, I was proud of the effort and compassion that several members provided in resuscitation efforts to save the pet. The family reached out today to offer their thanks and concerns on our injured firefighters.

I also would like to thank all of our members who supported and or helped at the auxiliary fish dinner last week.

FYI - We currently are awaiting the date for Paul's Motors being cleared for Wawa so as the department could use the building for training.

We are working a restructure of the radios we utilize and asap we will be converting frequencies and programming on our radios.

In Progress we are scheduling dates for the natural gas hazard class.

Dates are set for FD drill ground instructors on May 20th and 21st to be held at the fire academy.

Still hung on the swift water training process and class scheduling as government shutdowns have delayed us.
I will update each of you as I gain dates.

Be safe,
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.

Auxiliary:

- *President Joni Huston*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Fish & Chip Dinner
 - 350 Dinners
 - Selling flags again for Memorial Day (3 for \$5, 5 for \$10) - Refer to flyer

Citizen Fire:

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

Task Force:

- *Assistant Chief Manzo*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Taskforce drills will be posted on IamResponding.

Training Center:

- *Assistant Chief Longo*
 - No written report submitted.
 - The Confidence Course plans submitted back to the Boys Scouts to review
 - Planning on a department clean up (4/19) @ 9am - 12pm
 - Buildings maintenance will be reviewed by AC Carlo
 - Glen Rock FD confirmed that their annual fees was submitted to the Borough

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - No written report submitted.
 - Thursday, April 7th - Meeting at Company 1
 - Memory for Mr. Dick DeGroot will be held at St Anthony's - April 18th

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.

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:
 - Status of Radio Frequency
 - *Chief: Mentioned the radios in my report.*
 - Status of Fit Tests
 - *Chief: Call Ridgewood FD to schedule a pickup, Jason is our contact.*
 - What is the status of the standby reimbursements?
 - *Assistant Chief Lodder: Our company just received our refund. You should be getting yours shortly.*
 - *Chief: Connect with Laurie Foley, she might have your refund checks.*
- Company 2:
 - None
- Company 3:
 - None
- Company 4:
 - None
- Company 5:
 - None
- Chief:
 - None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Company 1:
 - None
- Company 2:
 - Will provide a charcoal calibration quote for our gas meters.
- Company 3:
 - None
- Company 4:
 - None
- Company 5:
 - None
- Chief Speranza:
 - Attended the County meeting, major topics of discussions;
 - Increasing FF1 course hours
 - Drill Ground certs
 - Required Incident Command certs
 - Officers course Cert
 - FF turnout PFAS (forever chemicals) removing gear that are in service
 - FD foam use removed by the state
 - Reminder of the Awards Dinner 4/22 @ 6:30pm
 - OSHA upcoming requirements will require a 9min response time with 4 members per apparatus.
 - Road closures
 - Goffle Rd
 - Grandview Ave
 - Chief Speranza swore in a new member;
 - FF. Kayla Algarin, he will be stationed at Company 4.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Company 1:
 - None
- Company 2:
 - None
- 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

- **Victor Tamburro** (*Ex-Borough Chief - Company 2*) Is there a protocol for the new FD vehicles. The truck was getting out late due to 502 responding separately. Also, 503 should be using a different call number when calling into service instead of 51.
 - *Chief: It's a working process. We're looking at what those benefits are. It's proving to be a positive with reduced calls. There is a meeting on the schedule to discuss with the assistant chiefs.*

- **John Carlo** (*Assistant Chief - Company 1*) - Questions about the recent awards submission from Truck 2.
 - *Chief: I've reached out to Paterson's Chief and discussed the incident. The awards committee will review again and discuss the submission at the next meeting.*

- **Victor Tamburro** (*Ex-Borough Chief - Company 2*) We again have dispatching issues.
 - *Chief: Yes, when you get a dispatch with an 18 minute delay for a CO call. It's an issue. I'm planning on meeting with the incoming PD Chief, Chief Carr.*
 - *Assistant Chief Lodder: PD is planning a civilian supervisor for daytime dispatchers.*

- **Joseph Speranza** (*Department Chief*) - In regards to the topic of future Fire Board meetings being canceled.
 - *Chief: That is not the case, nothing has been finalized. The Borough attorney did provide his feedback. I do enjoy our current structure, which provides an open platform for our members and the public.*

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Second: John Carlo, CO. 1 Assistant Chief

Approved:

John Carlo, CO. 1 Assistant Chief

Travis Lodder, CO. 2 Assistant Chief

Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant Chief

Peter Van Der Velde, CO. 4 Assistant Chief

Anthony Manzo, CO. 5 Assistant Chief

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm by Chief Joseph Speranza