



Borough of Hawthorne Board of Fire Commissioners

445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

www.hawthornefire.org

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order on March 3, 2026 at 7:30 pm by Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant 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:

Joseph Speranza, *Borough Fire Chief*

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

Led by Assistant Chief Longo

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

IIA Fire Department Testing (Annual Fire Hose Testing - Per NFPA 1962)	\$ 4,197.15
Trademark Office Products, Inc. (Office Supplies-Paper, Certificate Holders)	\$ 190.90
Witmer Public Safety Group (Various Size Structure Fire Boots - 11, 10.5, 10, 8)	\$ 2,400.00
Fremgen's Power Equipment (Truck 2 - Chains (14", 20", 20"))	\$ 474.00
Witmer Public Safety Group (Sensit HXG-2d Combustible Gas Detectors)	\$ 1,420.00
American Trade Mark Co. (Squad3 + Rescue 5 - Accountability Tags)	\$ 120.04
Firefighters Equipment of NY (PPE Gear Repair)	\$ 160.99
ESI Equipment, Inc. (Rescue 5 + Squad 3 - Rescue Tool Service Tool Program)	\$ 1,331.00
Clean Air Company (Engine 1 + Company 2 - Repair Exhaust System)	\$ 2,040.00
Barnwell House of Tires (Engine 1 - New Tires + Mount/Dismount + Labor)	\$ 5,250.82
Company 1 (Reimbursement (FERN) - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 265.68
Company 3 (Reimbursement (FERN) - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 213.22
Company 2 (Reimbursement (FERN) - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 266.07
Company 2 (Reimbursement 2/22 STORM) - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 354.75
Company 5 (Reimbursement (FERN) - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 75.74
Engraving Awards Gifts (HFD - Annual Service Awards)	\$ 3,852.60
Bill Fox LLC. (HFD - Annual Service Awards)	\$ 232.00
Total:	\$ 22,844.96

Motion to pay the bills: Joseph Longo, *CO. 3 Assistant Chief*

Second: Anthony Manzo, *CO. 5 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 from Lt. Andrew Skae of Company 2, requesting a six (6) week medical leave. Approved by Assistant Chief Lodder.
- Received a letter from FF. Joseph Wojtecki of Company 3, requesting a family leave. Approved by Assistant Chief Longo.
- Received a return to active duty letter for Ex Assistant Chief Tripicchio of Company 1. Approved by Assistant Chief Carlo.

- Hawthorne Fire Dept. Co #2 “In memory of George Lodder” Blood Drive. Wednesday, March 11, 12:30pm - 6:30pm @ 10 Llewellyn, Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ
- Fish & Chip Dinner Fundraiser by Tastefully British for Hawthorne Fire Department Auxiliary. April 3rd, Boys & Girls Club, 1 Downes Way @ 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Tickets are only \$20 (Fish or Chicken). Drive thru Pick Up. Call for tickets: Sharon 973-427-1646

FIRE COMPANY REPORTS FOR THE MONTH:

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

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

59 Total Alarms

- Engine 1 handed in doctor release for FF. J. Trip
- Engine 1 handed in receipts for 2/22 / 2/23 Standby
- Engine 1 handed in tire estimate. Order under emergency or wait for PO?
- Engine 1 has a prospect member, Edward Alvarez
- Engine 1 handed in truck checks and SCBA checks for the month of Jan. 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 February, 2026, Truck 2 responded to;
 - 49 Box Alarms
 - 6 Still Alarms
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 3 Mutual Aid (2 Paterson, 1 Passaic)
 - 0 Radio Alarm
 - 5 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills

64 Total Alarms

- Medical leave for Lt. Skae turned in.
- SCBA Check, Truck Check, Gear Inspection, and sign in for yearly classes turned in.
- Receipts for the last 2 snow storms turned into Clerk.
- Truck 2 received 1 pair of boots and a new water can after our previous one failed inspection.
- Truck 2 is still waiting for another 2 pairs of boots (sizes 10.5 and 11 wide) and the rest of the order placed with Thefirestore.

CORE STATEMENT

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to the citizens of Hawthorne.

- Truck 2 is requesting a new battery for our FLIR K55 TIC and a battery for the officers APX radio.
- We have still not received a response for addressing our issues or PM from Fire & Safety after multiple attempts. There is still work that was started and not finished from them and they've been made of a coolant leak that occasionally triggers a check engine light. This is unacceptable and at this point we are calling Campbell to come in and address these issues.

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 February, 2026, Engine 3 responded to;
 - 56 Box Alarms
 - 3 Still Alarms
 - 3 Mutual Aid
 - 0 Chief Calls
 - 0 Stand By
 - 1 Training/Drills
 - 0 Additional Trainings

65 Total Alarms

- FF. Kevin Park Jr. did not respond to a letter sent for a meeting with Chief Sparanza and Clerk Mogen. I am requesting he be terminated from the rolls of our company and department.
- Jordi Coralas has re-submitted his HFD Application to become a member of Squad Co.#3.
- Our apparatus is scheduled to be looked at for body work repair on March 12th in Paterson at Voltek.
- Our tablet for the engine is not working and will not hold a charge. Lt. Sparanza is having it looked at with a vendor in town on Central Ave to see what is needed for repair.
- FF. Joe Wojtecki has submitted a letter for Family Leave to care for his mother. Please keep her in your prayers.

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

58 Total Alarms

- Ex. Assistant Chief Hank Tognetti passed away Monday. Our thoughts and prayers to his family.
- 1st Lt. Geier is hospitalized and taking a month on Medical LEave of Absence, effective 3/1/26 to 4/1/26.
- Two members were measured for new gear. One more is still needed for measuring this week.

- Completed application was turned in tonight for next week swearing in for Kayla Algann
- One receipt was turned in last week for the snow standby for \$54.72.
- Company 4 is requesting one pair of boots, size 10W.

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 February, 2026, Rescue 5 responded to;
 - 46 Box Alarms
 - 10 Still Alarms
 - 1 Mutual Aid (Glen Rock)
 - 5 Special Event/Stand By
 - 2 Training/Drills

64 Total Alarms
- Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Rescue
 - Remaining 2025 budget items were delivered
 - Capt. Frei, FF Quispe & Manke fitted for new gear
 - Meal Receipt submitted for snow standby
 - Rescue and Squad attended PAPD ARFF class at Teterboro.
 - Rescue will be hosting picture with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 28, 9am-12pm
 - Unit 58
 - Good working order
 - Unit 57/Communications
 - Good working order
 - Boat
 - Good working order
 - Personal
 - Our prayers are with the Warner family with the passing of Ex. Assistant Chief Warner father.
 - Condolences to Engine 4 with the passing of Ex. Assistant Chief Hank Tognetti
 - 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

My deepest condolences to Engine Fours members, Hank was a good friend to me as we played quite a bit of hockey together, my condolences to his family as well.

I would like to thank each of you who definitely provided the residents of Hawthorne with the utmost in safety and fire protection spending numerous hours of dedication through this strange cold and snowy season. The Department had already more standbys than our previous year and we hope this won't be the norm for 2026.

I also would like to express my pride in the professionalism provided by Truck Two the other evening on a very unusual Fire call in Paterson, well done. As we always state you never know and you never know where the craziness of our world will expose itself.

Be especially cautious over the next few weeks as world issues may at any time test us.

Updates - we currently are awaiting word on the start for the WAWA project and use of the building for training.

We are scheduling dates for swift water awareness and following operations as soon as possible.

FYI - When on fire ground do your best to utilize at least one safety officer as the Division of Fire is pushing this hard, indicate the officer on the Neers report as well. It is critical the person utilized is NFPA certified. We will be seeking the class for those who do not have the certification. The Division will be attending the next County meeting on its requirements. They will be auditing this as well, we have a solid number of officers and members certified but would like to add additional.

Apparatus has been brutalized this past few months. If a vendor is non responsive you need to move past them to another vendor, the safety of your crew is more important than previous relations with vendors.

Our annual budget is being challenged and due to state cuts it will be a tough year financially. Please do your diligence to the best of your ability.

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 Fundraiser by Tastefully British for Hawthorne Fire Department Auxiliary. April 3rd, Boys & Girls Club, 1 Downes Way @ 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Tickets are only \$20 (Fish or Chicken). Drive thru Pick Up. Call for tickets: Sharon 973-427-1646
 - Members of the Aux will visit each company in the near future
 - Help is needed on the day of the event - starting at 4pm
 - Thank you to Company 4 who provided the uniform for Ex. Assistant Chief Hank Tognetti.

- The Aux has established the “Ken Uniform Exchange” where you can donate Class A Uniforms.

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.
 - Reviewing the confidence course plans that were provided by the Boys Scout.
 - Spoke with AC Carlo about future maintenance for the Training Center.
 - Chiminea was donated to the Training Center.
 - Was contacted by the mayor + council about charging the outside Fire Departments for the Training Center usage.
 - Once the weather gets warmer, we can start using the center again.

Exempt/Relief:

- *Ex-Borough Chief Victor Tamburro*
 - No written report submitted.
 - County Meeting Thursday, March 5th at 7:30pm

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:
 - What is the status of the SCBA regulator that was sent out for repair?
- 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/Clerk Mogen:
 - Removal of the following members from the Active Rolls;
 - FF. Kevin Park, Company 3
 - **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*
 - FF. Elena Da Costa, Company 5
 - **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*

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Company 1:
 - None
- Company 2:
 - Condolences for the passing of Dick DeGroot.
- Company 3:
 - Please keep FF. Joe Wojtecki's mother in your prayers.
- Company 4:
 - None
- Company 5:
 - Our prayers are with the Warner family with the passing of Ex. Assistant Chief Warner's father.
 - Condolences to Engine 4 with the passing of Ex. Assistant Chief Hank Tognetti.
- Chief Speranza:
 - None

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD AND OPENED TO THE FLOOR;

by Chief Joseph Speranza

- **Brandan Frei** (*Captain - Company 5*) - Which gas meters did the department purchase? Will there be additional calibration equipment provided?
 - *Fire Board: 3 Sensit Gas Meters (Black + Yellow) were ordered to provide additional coverage for those companies that didn't have one. We'll double check about the calibration equipment.*
- **John Carlo** (*Assistant Chief - Company 1*) - What is the department doing for Ex. Assistant Chief Hank Tognetti funeral detail?
 - *Fire Board: All details were provided in the department iAmReponding + eDispatch notifications that were sent out. 10am-11am Thursday, March 5th at Browning Forshay.*
 - *Assistant Chief Peter Van Der Velde: Hank didn't want anything fancy, nor did the family.*

MEETING CLOSED TO THE FLOOR AND OPENED TO THE BOARD;

by Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant Chief

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Second: Travis Lodder, *CO. 2 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 8:01 pm by Joseph Longo, CO. 3 Assistant Chief