

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

TOWNSHIP OF WEST WINDSOR

MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AND

WEST WINDSOR PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION

LOCAL 3610 OF THE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS,
AFL-CIO, CLC

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026

Ruderman & Roth, LLC
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ARTICLE 1

PREAMBLE

This Agreement entered into this 20th day of October, by and between the Township of West Windsor, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "Township," and the West Windsor Professional Firefighters Association Local 3610 of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO-CLC, hereinafter referred to as the "Union." It is the purpose of this agreement to achieve and maintain harmonious relations between the Township and the Union; to provide for equitable and peaceful adjustment of differences which may arise, and to establish proper standards of wages, hours, and other conditions of employment. This agreement represents the final understanding on all bargained issues between the Township and the Union.

ARTICLE 2
RECOGNITION

A. The Township hereby recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all sworn and/or uniformed employees of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, as listed below, hereinafter referred to as the “employee(s):”

Firefighter

Fire Captain

Fire Lieutenant (upon signing of the agreement and adoption of an Ordinance)

Emergency Medical Technician (upon signing of the agreement and adoption of an Ordinance)

Fire Prevention Inspector (upon signing of the agreement and adoption of an Ordinance)

B. Excluded are:

Executive Management, confidential employees, craft employees, law enforcement, per diem employees, and volunteer fire and/or EMS providers.

ARTICLE 3

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

A. The Township hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the Laws and Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States of America, including, but not limited to, the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:

1. To execute management and administrative control of the Township Government, and its properties and facilities, and the activities of its employees.
2. To establish a schedule for regular hours of work for employees covered by this agreement. The schedule may be changed at the discretion of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services or the Business Administrator.
3. To hire all employees and, subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and conditions for continued employment or assignment and to promote, transfer, or reassign employees within the Fire and Emergency Services Division.
4. To suspend, demote, discharge or take other disciplinary action for good and just cause according to law.
5. To make rules of procedure and conduct, to use improved methods and equipment, to determine reasonable work schedules and shifts, to decide the number of employees needed for any particular time, and to be in charge of the quality and quantity of the work required.

6. To make such reasonable rules and regulations as it may, from time-to-time, deem best for the purposes of maintaining order, safety and or the effective operation of the Township.

B. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Township, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and only to the extent such provisions hereof are in conformance with the Constitution and Laws of New Jersey and the United States.

C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to restrict or deny the Township its powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities under national, state, county, or local laws or ordinances.

D. All of the terms and conditions of employment, not specifically set forth herein and not specifically covered by existing statutes, are hereby reserved by the Township as its management rights.

ARTICLE 4
UNION BUSINESS

A. Employees elected or appointed to represent the Union shall be granted time-off without loss of pay to perform their union functions including, but not limited to, attendance at regular and special State and International meetings, conventions, seminars, conferences, and activities related to grievance procedures, unfair practices, and discipline. All expenses for attendance at such conferences or seminars shall be borne by the union or the employee. No more than two (2) employees may take time-off from regular duty to attend to union business at any given time.

B. Employees of the Union negotiating committee shall be permitted time-off without loss of pay for all the meetings between the Union and the Township for the purpose of negotiating the terms of an agreement, when such meetings take place at a time during which said employees are scheduled to be on duty.

C. The Union will provide, to the Township, a list of the names of the local officers and members of the Union negotiating committee and will update the list within ten (10) days of any changes to said list.

D. The Township will permit the installation of bulletin boards, at the expense of the Union, in Township fire, emergency stations and facilities occupied by Union members.

1. Bulletin boards shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in size.
2. Bulletin boards shall be placed in a convenient area which is accessible to all employees.

E. The Township will permit the Union to display the IAFF Certificate of Affiliation (Charter) in a reasonably visible location which shall be mutually agreed upon between the Union

and the Township.

ARTICLE 5

UNION ACTIVITY

There shall be no discrimination, interference, restraint, or coercion by the Township against any employee for their activity on behalf of, or membership in, the Union.

ARTICLE 6
NON-DISCRIMINATION

A. The Township and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of protected categories are prohibited and will not be tolerated: race, creed, color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex/gender (including pregnancy), marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, familial status, religion, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, or disability, Union membership or non-membership, or legal Union activity permitted herein . The parties further agree not to interfere with the right of employees to become or not to become members of the Union.

B. The Township and the Union agree that no one shall be subjected to harassment nor to abusive language, and that everyone shall be treated within the accepted standards of common decency, courtesy, and respect. The Union recognizes its responsibility as exclusive negotiations agent and agrees to represent all employees in the Union without discrimination.

ARTICLE 7

GENDER

Whenever a male or female gender is used in this agreement it shall be construed to include all genders.

ARTICLE 8

DUES CHECK-OFF

A. The Township agrees to deduct, once each pay period, dues and assessments in an amount certified to be current by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union from the pay of those employees who authorize in writing that such deductions be made. The Township shall forward the sum total of all dues deductions to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union no more than five (5) business days after each pay day. If, during the life of this agreement, there will be any change in the rate of the Employee's dues, the Union will furnish to the Township written notice thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such change.

B. Notwithstanding any other language herein, the parties shall comply with the provisions set forth in Janus v. AFSCME, 138 S Ct 2448(2018) and the NJ Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act.

C. The Union will provide to the Township, a copy of its demand and return system and the Union shall indemnify, defend, and save the Township harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of action taken by the Township in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards or the bi-weekly service charge information as furnished by the Union to the Township, or in reliance upon the official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by the President of the Union, advising of such changed deductions.

D. Should Federal or State law hereinafter provide for a change in the permissible scope of representation/agency fee clauses, the Employer and the Union agree to implement a union representation/agency fee clause to the maximum extent allowed by Federal and State law.

ARTICLE 9

WORK WEEK

A. The Township retains the right under Article 3: Management Rights, Section A, 2: To establish a schedule for regular hours of work for employees covered by this agreement. The schedule may be changed at the discretion of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services or the Business Administrator.

B. All Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, and Fire Captains will be assigned to a schedule resulting in a 42-hour average work week and an 84-hour average pay period.

C. All EMT's will be assigned to a schedule resulting in a 40-hour work week.

D. Part Time Fire Prevention Inspectors will be assigned to a schedule resulting in a maximum of 24-hour in a work week.

E. Nothing contained within this article prohibits the Township from calling "off duty" personnel to respond to emergencies or from changing the employee's work week in accordance with the provisions of the management rights article of this agreement.

ARTICLE 10

SHIFT EXCHANGE

In accordance with current Division of Fire & Emergency Services policy, employees shall have the right to exchange shifts when the change does not interfere with the operations of the Division of Fire & Emergency Services and the exchange does not cost the Township overtime or premium rate salary. All shift exchanges must take place within the same pay period. The administration of this section is addressed in the Division of Fire & Emergency Services Standard Operating Procedures.

ARTICLE 11

NO-STRIKE PLEDGE

A. The Union covenants and agrees that neither the Union nor any person acting on its behalf will cause, authorize, or support, nor will any of its members take part in, any strike (i.e., the concerted failure to report for duty, or willful absence of any employee from his position, or stoppage of work or abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of the employee's duties of employment), slowdown, walkout or other job action against the Township. Job action will be defined as job action taken by on-duty personnel only. The Union agrees that such action would constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

B. In the event of a strike, slowdown, walkout or other job action, it is covenanted and agreed that participating in any such activity by any employee covered under the terms of this Agreement shall be deemed grounds for disciplinary action subject to the provisions of Article 38 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FILES

A. Upon written request and with reasonable notice, an employee shall be permitted to review and examine his personnel file in the presence of an appropriate representative of the Township. Requests from the employee for copies of documents in the file shall be honored.

B. If any material, derogatory or adverse to the employee is placed in his personnel file, a copy of such material shall be sent to the employee. No document of anonymous origin against an employee shall be eligible for the personnel file. An employee may file a written response of reasonable length to any derogatory or adverse memoranda or documents intended for inclusion in the personnel file. Copies of any written documents, relating to discipline or the work performance of any employee, which are to be used by the Township in any disciplinary proceedings, grievance hearings, or evaluation report, shall be given to the employee upon request.

ARTICLE 13

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. The Union agrees that its members shall comply with all Division of Fire & Emergency Services rules, regulations, General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The Township agrees that all aforementioned rules, regulations, policies, and procedures which directly impact upon the terms and conditions of employment shall be subject to the grievance procedure.

B. Any additions, changes, updates or amendments to existing rules, regulations, General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) shall be supplied in written form to the Union as well as to each employee, and shall be subject, as well, to the grievance procedure.

C. All newly hired employees shall be supplied with a copy of all current rules, regulations, General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

ARTICLE 14

UNIFORMS

A. The Township shall provide each employee with appropriate uniforms and protective equipment as listed in the SOP of the Division of Fire & Emergency Services.

B. All personal protective clothing, including station uniforms and turnout gear, shall be supplied and maintained in accordance with NJ PEOSH.

C. When any item of the station uniform or structural firefighting turnout gear is damaged or destroyed while on duty during the performance of any work related activity, the Township will replace the item.

D. The Chief of Fire & Emergency Services will devise a system whereby an employee may have his station uniform or turnout gear inspected to determine whether the equipment needs to be replaced or is no longer serviceable. Any item which needs to be replaced shall be replaced by the Township.

E. The theft or loss of any item of the station uniform or structural firefighting turnout gear will be investigated by the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and if found not to be due to the fault of the employee, the equipment will be replaced by the Township.

F. The Township shall provide for laundry facilities which are available to the employees for the express purpose of washing and drying their uniforms while on or off duty, in accordance with NJ PEOSH.

G. The Chief of Fire & Emergency Services shall determine whether or not the uniform is in need of repair or replacement.

ARTICLE 15

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

A. The cost of all Fire & Emergency Services Division training courses, which are necessary for the employees to maintain the minimum qualifications, certifications and/or licenses necessary to perform their regular duties, shall be borne by the Township.

1. Courses such as, but not limited to, the following shall apply to the preceding paragraph of this article:

- (a) Emergency Medical Technician continuing education courses
- (b) CPR re-certification
- (c) Fire Inspector/Fire Official continuing education courses
- (d) Hazardous Materials Technician refresher courses
- (e) Uniform Construction Code continuing education courses
- (f) Confined Space Technician continuing education courses

2. Employees shall also be granted time off from regular duty to complete any required training courses.

B. The Chief of Fire & Emergency Services may also authorize time off from regular duty for any other training courses which he approves. The cost of other training courses may also be borne by the Township, at the discretion of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services.

C. Any mandatory drill or training course which an employee is required by the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services to attend on an employee's day off will constitute "call-back time," and employees will be compensated accordingly.

D. Any fees, charges, or other expenses necessary for an employee to acquire or maintain required certifications or licenses shall also be borne by the Township.

ARTICLE 16

SENIORITY

A. Seniority is defined as an employee's continuous length of service with the Township beginning with his date of hire as a full-time, regular employee.

B. An employee shall be considered without seniority until becoming a regular employee which shall occur upon the completion of the probationary period. The probationary period shall be a minimum of six (6) months. An employee is considered on probation until they obtain all required certifications for employment, and complete all probationary employee training defined in Fire and Emergency Services Standard Operating Procedure.

C. An employee shall lose his seniority only if:

1. They voluntarily leave the employ of the Township due to a resignation in good standing.

2. They are laid off and subsequently fails to report to the Township for work within fourteen (14) days after receiving written recall from the Township by certified mail. Upon receipt of such notice, the employee shall make known his intention within seven (7) days.

3. They are discharged for just and sufficient cause.

D. Employees who are laid off and are recalled at a later date subject to the provisions of Section "C," Paragraph "2" above, shall retain all seniority accumulated prior to the time that the layoff occurred.

ARTICLE 17

SALARIES

A. The annual salaries of the personnel covered by this agreement shall be as follows:

1. Firefighters, Fire Captains:

Employees Hired After April 1, 2019

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Firefighter	3.95%	3.50%	3.25%	3%
Entry	\$45,018	\$46,593	\$48,108	\$49,551
Second	\$50,876	\$52,657	\$54,368	\$55,999
Third	\$54,002	\$55,892	\$57,709	\$59,440
Fourth	\$57,127	\$59,126	\$61,048	\$62,879
Fifth	\$60,254	\$62,362	\$64,389	\$66,321
Sixth	\$63,379	\$65,598	\$67,730	\$69,761
Seventh	\$66,504	\$68,832	\$71,069	\$73,201
Eighth	\$69,630	\$72,067	\$74,409	\$76,641
Ninth	\$72,756	\$75,302	\$77,749	\$80,082
Tenth	\$75,881	\$78,537	\$81,090	\$83,522
Eleventh	\$79,007	\$81,772	\$84,430	\$86,963
Twelfth	\$83,737	\$86,668	\$89,484	\$92,169
Fire Captain	\$92,943	\$96,196	\$99,322	\$102,302

Employees Hired After January 1, 2017- through March 30, 2019

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Firefighter	3.95%	3.50%	3.25%	3%
Fourth	\$59,800	\$61,893	\$63,905	\$65,822
Fifth	\$63,522	\$65,745	\$67,882	\$69,918
Sixth	\$67,245	\$69,599	\$71,861	\$74,017
Seventh	\$70,968	\$73,452	\$75,839	\$78,114
Eighth	\$74,689	\$77,303	\$79,816	\$82,210
Ninth	\$78,413	\$81,157	\$83,795	\$86,308
Tenth	\$83,737	\$86,668	\$89,484	\$92,169
Fire Captain	\$92,943	\$96,196	\$99,322	\$102,302

Salary schedule is based on a 40/hour work week and 2080 hours annually

2. Fire Inspector Salary

2023 rate- \$28.00/per hour; annual increases at same percentages as above:

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Fire Inspector		3.50%	3.25%	3%
Hourly	\$28.00	\$28.98	\$29.92	\$30.82
Annual	\$34,944	\$ 36,167	\$ 37,342	\$ 38,463

3. Emergency Medical Technician

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Emergency Medical Technician		3.5%	3.25%	3%
Range	\$40,632-\$58,812	\$42,054-\$60,870	\$43,421-\$62,849	\$44,723-\$64,734

B. All employees will advance on the salary guide on the anniversary date of their hiring unless they have reached the maximum step where steps are applicable.

C. The above salaries are intended to cover base salaries only and are not to limit longevity stipends, overtime pay, educational incentive, etc. with respect to those employees who are entitled to same.

D. It is understood that the Township agrees to pay all employees in the Union on Thursdays unless there are unforeseen circumstances which delay the processing of checks, in which case payment will be made as soon as possible.

E. All employees shall receive retroactive pay to January 1, 2023, as soon as possible after the salary ordinance is approved and the contract is signed by the appropriate parties.

F. Each employee in the bargaining unit who has completed four or more years of continuous service with the Township of West Windsor and continues to maintain up-to-date Firefighter I, EMT-B, Uniform Fire Code Inspector, Confined Space Technician and Hazmat Technician licenses and/or certifications will be eligible to receive differential pay in the amount

of two and one half percent (2.5%) of the employee's annual base salary to be paid in the employee's biweekly paycheck.

As permitted by Section 207(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act firefighters and fire captains assigned to the 42 hour work week/84 hour pay period FLSA allows a partial exemption for firefighters and law-enforcement for overtime, which is known as the 207k exemption.

H. Out of Class Assignment. Effective January 1, 2020 senior firefighters or designee shall receive \$0.75 per hour to perform the functions of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and/or Fire Captain in their absence. Hours shall be certified by the Manager and submitted the first business day in January to the Finance Office to be paid in the 2nd pay in January.

ARTICLE 18

OVERTIME

A. For the purpose of calculating overtime, refer to Article 9, "WORK WEEK," of this agreement.

B. 1. An employee who is authorized, directed, or required to work longer than his regular tour of duty and receives approval for such overtime, shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half his normal pay. In construing such overtime, payments shall be made on the following basis:

- (a) Up to the first 15 minutes - no pay
- (b) 16 through 30 minutes - 30 minutes pay
- (c) 31 through 60 minutes - one hour pay
- (d) Thereafter, overtime shall be paid in 30 minute segments for all or a portion of such time worked beyond the regular tour of duty.
- (e) All time worked over one full overtime shift will be paid at double time based on the employee's hourly rate.

2. At the request of the employee, and with the approval of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, employees may be granted compensatory time off, on a time-and-one-half basis, in lieu of paid compensation, for authorized overtime hours worked. Employees who have completed three or more continuous years of service with the Township of West Windsor may accumulate no more than one hundred eighty (180) hours of compensatory time. At no point shall an employee accumulate more than four hundred eighty (480) hours of compensatory time.

3. Any time that all or part of a shift which has been vacated due to sick

leave, personal leave, or other authorized leave will cause the Division of Fire and Emergency Services to have less than the minimum number of personnel on-duty; or any time that the Division of Fire & Emergency Services will be required to staff additional units for event standbys then those shifts will need to be covered. Off-duty full time employees shall be offered the "right of first refusal" with regard to any such situation. That is, off-duty full time employees must be offered overtime for open shifts prior to the calling of per diems to cover those shifts. No per diems may be called unless all off-duty employees refuse the overtime or off duty employees are not able to be contacted. Overtime shifts will be offered to qualified off-duty employees on a rotating basis.

4. Employees required to work overtime on a holiday will be compensated at a rate which is double his normal pay.

5. New employees will only become eligible for overtime to fill positions that they are qualified and approved to work pursuant to Fire and Emergency Services Division Policy.

ARTICLE 19

CALL-BACK TIME

A. Call-back time shall be defined as unscheduled time worked after being recalled to duty when the employee is not normally scheduled to be on duty. Any employee required to work after being called back will be assured a minimum of four (4) hours pay and will be compensated at the appropriate overtime rate.

When a Call-back occurs prior to a regular work shift but not more than four (4) hours prior to that regular work shift, the following shall apply:

- (a) Employees who are called in up to two hours prior to their normal work shift, shall be paid at the rate of double time for the actual time worked.
- (b) Employees who are called in to work in excess of two hours prior to the beginning of their regularly scheduled work day shall be granted a minimum of four (4) hours at the appropriate overtime rate.

Any employee who, on his day off, responds to an emergency call at the request of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, or his designee, shall be considered to be on "call-back time," and shall be compensated accordingly.

Any employee who, on his day off, attends any mandatory staff meeting or other session at the request of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, or his designee, shall be considered to be on "call-back time," and shall be compensated accordingly.

With respect to call-back for hazardous materials incidents, the following shall apply:

- (a) Employees who are called-back for a hazardous materials emergency shall be compensated as described above.

- (b) If, at any time during the first hour after employees are alerted to a callback for hazardous materials response, the assignment is canceled by a qualified West Windsor Township employee trained to the minimum level of Hazardous Materials Technician, then the employees will be compensated at their overtime rate only for the actual time from original call-back to cancellation time and any additional time needed for the employee to return to their residence or prior commitment.
- (c) If the hazardous materials response is canceled after the passage of one hour or greater, or if the Hazardous Materials Team begins an operation at any time after call-back, then employees will be guaranteed the four (4) hour minimum as described above.

B. All members of the bargaining unit who are eligible for call back time and who are not assigned a Township issued cell phone will be reimbursed \$30 per month for use of their own personal cell phone. To receive such reimbursement, the member must submit a purchase requisition signed by the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and provide to the Township Division of Finance, on a quarterly basis, copies of monthly billing statements and/or billing histories for verification of payment purposes.

ARTICLE 20

LONGEVITY

The Township agrees to provide each full-time regular employee with a longevity payment as set forth below:

Beginning the sixth (6th) year until the end of the tenth (10th) year	\$1,011.00
Beginning the eleventh (11th) year until the end of the fourteenth (14th) year	\$1,516.00
Beginning the fifteenth (15th) year until the end of the nineteenth (19th) year	\$2,021.00
Beginning the twentieth (20th) year until end of the twenty-fourth year	\$2,526.00
Beginning the twenty-fifth year and beyond	\$3,032.00

Longevity payments will be prorated over the calendar year and be paid biweekly for continuous and uninterrupted service after an employee reaches his anniversary date.

NEW EMPLOYEES

All new hires employed on or after January 1, 2012 shall not be eligible for longevity benefits.

ARTICLE 21

PENSIONS

The Township shall provide and maintain pension and retirement benefits in accordance with the provisions and statutes of the New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System to all qualified Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, and Fire Captains covered by this agreement.

All other employees will be enrolled in the appropriate retirement system as eligible and as defined by the State Division of Pension and Benefits.

ARTICLE 22

EDUCATION INCENTIVE

A. The Township shall, subject to the conditions set forth below, reimburse any full-time employee for 100% of the cost incurred for up to eighteen (18) semesters hours/credits per year for courses taken at the graduate or undergraduate level at accredited post graduate colleges, accredited four-year colleges, accredited two-year colleges, extension divisions of accredited colleges, county community colleges, technical or business schools, and/or through continuing education-programs.

1. Employee shall be entitled to tuition reimbursement up to a cap of \$4,000 per employee per year for courses directly related to fire science, public safety, emergency management, human resources, criminal investigation, fire investigation or public administration or emergency services degrees or a new program which is subject to the sole written approval of the Business Administrator.

B. Employees shall submit their anticipated educational costs for the following year to the Business Administrator by November 1. Requests received after that date may be accepted at the discretion of the Business Administrator. Approval for individual courses in approved degree programs must be received from the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and the Business Administrator prior to course registration.

C. Upon completion of said course(s) and submission of a passing grade, as specified by the school, the employee shall be reimbursed 100% of the tuition, prescribed fees, and books.

D. Any employee who leaves his employment with the Township prior to the completion of twelve (12) months of service to the Township after receipt of reimbursement as set forth above, shall reimburse the Township a pro-rata share of the tuition and fees paid based on

the number of months of service. An employee who is dismissed for cause within twelve (12) months, shall refund the Township one hundred percent (100%) of the reimbursement. Said reimbursement shall be deducted from his final pay. Should sufficient funds not be available, the employee shall pay the necessary difference.

ARTICLE 23

HOLIDAYS

A. The Township hereby agrees to grant thirteen (13) holidays per annum to each employee in the Division of Fire & Emergency Services.

B. The following days will be recognized as the paid holidays under the terms of this agreement:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
New Year's Day	January 2	TBA	TBA	TBA
Martin Luther King	January 16			
President's Day	February 20			
Good Friday	April 7			
Memorial Day	May 29			
Independence Day	July 4			
Labor Day	September 4			
Columbus Day	October 9			
Veteran's Day	November 10			
Thanksgiving Day	November 23			
Day after Thanksgiving	November 24			
Christmas Eve	December 25			
Christmas Day	December 26			
TOTAL	13	13	13	13

C. When a recognized Holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding Friday. When a recognized holiday falls on a Sunday, it shall be observed on the following Monday.

D. Whenever a holiday falls during the time an employee is on paid sick leave or family leave, that day shall not be considered as sick leave or family leave. If a holiday should fall within an employee's vacation period, that employee shall not be charged for a vacation day.

E. Employees who are on leave of absence without pay will not be eligible for holiday

pay.

F. All Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, and Fire Captains shall receive 156 hours of compensatory time per year in lieu of holidays. Unused holiday compensation days may not be carried over to the following year. Only employees who actually work on a snow day (full day municipal building closure) shall receive eight (8) hours of compensatory time.

H. Full time EMT's shall receive one hundred and four (104) hours of compensatory time per year in lieu of holidays. Unused holiday compensation days may not be carried over to the following year. Only employees who actually work on a snow day (full day municipal building closure) shall receive eight (8) hours of compensatory time.

I. The holiday year shall be the twelve (12) month period commencing January 1 and ending December 31, and all holiday days shall be scheduled within the calendar year in which they occur.

J. Holiday compensatory days shall be prorated based upon time worked in the calendar year.

K. Regular part-time employees must work at least twenty hours per week to be eligible for prorated holiday time and shall receive compensation for the above holidays in portion to the number of hours in their work week.

ARTICLE 24

PERSONAL-TIME

The Township shall provide each employee with thirty-six (36) hours (Firefighter, Fire Captain, Fire Lieutenant) and 24 hours (EMT; prorated for part time employees) per calendar year for his/her personal use. Only employees with one (1) or more years of service shall be eligible for personal days. Personal days may not be carried over to the following year.

Requests for personal time should be made at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance when possible. Personal time may be used at the last minute in the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance. Notification should be made to the appropriate supervisor as soon as possible if an employee will be using personal time. Requests for use of personal time will not be denied in order to avoid use of overtime.

Twelve (12) hours or Eight (8) hours, respectively, as provided by paragraph one (1) is earned during each four (4) month period of the calendar year. If termination of an employee's employment occurs prior to a four-month interval and they has already taken their annual personal hours, the pro-rata amount shall be paid back to the Township. If the employee has not taken any hours of their allotted time, then he will be entitled to be paid for their earned but unused time up to 12 hours. If termination occurs after the four-month interval, then the employee is entitled to be paid for the hours not used in paragraph one (1) of this article.

Regular part-time employees must work at least twenty hours per week to be eligible for prorated personal time.

ARTICLE 25

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A. In the event of the death of a parent, step-parent, grandparent, spouse, child, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of an employee, said employee will be granted bereavement leave from the day of death through the second day after burial, not to exceed a total of forty (40) work hours for all forty (40) hour per week employees forty-two (42) hours for 42 hour employees, or the equivalency of one calendar week of a pay period. Additionally, the employee shall be granted eight (8) hours bereavement leave which can be used in four (4) hour increments to be used within nine months of the death to attend to personal business.

B. Any employee whose spouse or child dies is to be given an additional eighty (80) work hours for all forty (40) hour per week employees and eight-four (84) work hours for all forty-two (42) hour per week employee off before he must report back to duty, which time shall not be deducted from any other days off that he is entitled to.

C. In the event of a death of an aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, spouse's niece or nephew, spouse's aunt, or uncle, the employee will be granted leave eight (8) work hours for all forty (40) hour per week employees and twenty-four (24) work hours for all forty-two (42) hour per week employees.

D. In the event of the death of a relative or in-law identified in paragraph "C" who resides outside of the State of New Jersey, and if an employee can show that additional time is needed, he shall be granted up to sixteen (16) work hours for all forty (40) hour per week employees and twenty-four (24) work hours for all forty-eight (48) hour per week employees. Leave is subject to the approval of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services.

E. Any employee who is off duty utilizing approved benefit time when bereavement leave is called for (this includes all types of approved benefit time off) shall have his full bereavement leave granted and any other time off affected shall be scheduled at a later date.

ARTICLE 26

MILITARY LEAVE

A. A full-time employee (either permanent or temporary) who is a member of the reserve component of any United States armed force or the National Guard of any state including the Naval Militia and Air National Guard is required to engage in field training or is called for active duty, the employee will be granted a military leave of absence for the duration of the service.

1. The first thirty (30) workdays of the leave shall be with full pay except that a member of the New Jersey National Guard shall receive full pay for the first ninety (90) workdays. Thereafter, the employee shall be paid the difference between military salary and the employee's regular salary.
2. A full-time employee who has served less than one-year shall be granted non-paid military leave without loss of time. The leave will not be counted against any available time off including but not limited to vacation, sick or personal time.
3. In all cases involving military leave, the employee must, as soon as possible, provide the Department Head with notice of the call to military duty prior to beginning the military leave, unless giving notice is impossible, unreasonable, or precluded by military necessity. The Township may, following discussion with the employee, adjust the employee's work schedule to enable that employee to attend drills and fulfill all employment responsibilities without the need for additional time off or incur overtime to another employee.
4. Employees on military service will continue to receive paid health insurance coverage during the period of the paid leave plus an additional thirty (30) calendar days after the paid leave is exhausted. After this period has expired, employees

may continue coverage for themselves or their dependents under the Township group plan by taking advantage of the COBRA provision.

5. Members of the New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) will continue accruing service and salary credit in the system during the period of paid leave.

B. Any employee released from active duty under honorable circumstances shall return to work without loss of privileges or seniority within the following time limits (USERRA):

1. For service less than thirty-one (31) calendar days, the employee must return to work on the beginning of the first regularly scheduled workday or eight (8) hours after the end of military duty, with reasonable allowances for commuting;
2. For service of thirty-one (31) to one hundred eighty (180) calendar days, the employee must submit an application for reinstatement within fourteen (14) calendar days after completing military duty;
3. For service greater than one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days, the employee must submit an application for reinstatement within ninety (90) calendar days after completing military duty.

C. In accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA 38 U.S.C. 4301-4335) Health and pension plan coverage for service members is provided for by USERRA. Individuals performing military service will continue employer sponsored health care for up to 24 months. Health care coverage is provided as if the service member had remained employed including being responsible for required contribution levels as per Chapter 78 (P.L. 2011c.78).

ARTICLE 27

MATERNITY LEAVE

A. Any employee who becomes pregnant shall, with written concurrence by the employee's physician, be granted a leave of absence without pay commencing at any time during their term of pregnancy and ending not later than three (3) months after the date of delivery. The employee shall continue to accumulate seniority and be entitled to medical benefits as prescribed by this agreement during their leave.

B. Through the entire maternity leave period (both paid and approved unpaid), the Township shall pay the employee's benefits. Should the employee decide to leave the Township's employ prior to three (3) months after returning to work following the maternity leave period, or should the employee not return following maternity leave, the employee shall then reimburse the Township for the cost incurred by the Township for the benefits during the time the employee was on unpaid leave.

C. Paternity and adoption leave shall be provided for in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Family Leave Act, Family Medical Leave Act and New Jersey FLI.

D. Employee is responsible for Chapter 78 contributions. Failure to pay contributions shall result in termination of coverage.

ARTICLE 28

JURY DUTY AND WITNESS LEAVE

A. Jury Duty. A regular employee shall be granted necessary time off with pay when summoned to perform jury duty as prescribed by applicable law. In no event shall an employee be excused from work for more days than those required for such duty. The employee shall notify the Township immediately of the requirement for this leave and subsequently furnish evidence that he performed the duty for which the leave was required. The employee shall be permitted to keep all remuneration received when said employee performs jury duty. Any employee called for jury duty shall be required to return to work when not actively serving on a jury or when released at such a time that the employee can reasonably be expected to return to duty in time to complete at least half of his normal work shift.

B. Witness Duty. When a regular employee is party to litigation in matters related or unrelated to his capacity as an employee of the Township, he shall be granted time off with pay if the appearance is during a scheduled work shift. The employee shall notify the Township immediately of the requirement for this leave, and subsequently furnish evidence that he performed the duty for which the leave was required.

ARTICLE 29

SICK LEAVE

A. Sick leave shall be granted to employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, accident, or exposure to a contagious disease. Of the sick leave days granted by the Township, up to three (3) days thirty-six (36) hours may be used for family illness (that is illness in the immediate family when the employee's assistance is directly required), and up to twenty-four (24) hours may be used for medical appointments. The Township will provide allotted sick leave for the reasons set forth in the New Jersey's Earned Sick Leave Law. Sick leave may be utilized by employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, accident, exposure to contagious disease or other covered reasons defined in the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law (NJESLL).

B. Employees shall be granted:

1. Firefighters, Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants (42-hour work week)

Full time employees shall receive one hundred twenty (120) hours of sick leave per year.

2. Emergency Medical Technicians (40 hours);

Full time employees shall receive ninety-six (96) hours of sick leave per year

3. Regular part time employees will receive a prorated amount based on hours of work in proportion to a 40-hour work week. Part time employees must work a minimum of 20 hours per week to be eligible for benefit time

4. In the first calendar year of employment, sick leave must be earned before it may be taken.

1. Firefighters, Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants (42-hour work week):

Ten hours of sick leave shall be granted for each month worked of full-time employment.

2. Emergency Medical Technicians (40 hours);

Eight hours of sick leave shall be granted for each month worked of full-time employment.

Beginning on January 1 of the employee's second calendar year of employment, said employee shall be credited with one hundred twenty (120) hours plus any unused hours carried over from prior years.

Unused sick hours may be accumulated in accordance with paragraph "G" of this article.

If an employee should terminate employment during the year, a calculation shall be made of sick hours taken versus sick hours granted. If the hours taken are in excess of hours earned, he shall have this proper amount of compensation deducted from his final pay. Should insufficient funds be available, the employee shall reimburse the Township for the difference to make up for the absence on the unearned hours.

D. If an employee is absent for reasons that entitle him to use sick leave, the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services or his designee shall be notified prior to the employee's starting time.

1. Failure to notify may be cause of denial of the use of sick leave for that absence and constitute cause for disciplinary action.

2. Absence without notice for the equivalency of one work week (5 consecutive days) shall constitute a resignation. The Township may consider extenuating circumstances, and when appropriate, waive this section (Paragraph 'C,' section '2').

E. An employee who shall be absent for the equivalency of one work week (5 consecutive days) may be required by the Township to submit acceptable medical evidence

substantiating the illness. Such medical certification shall be at the cost of the Township or, at the Township's option, by its Township Physician.

1. An employee, who has been absent on sick leave for periods totaling more than the allotted sick time above in one calendar year consisting of periods of fewer than five one calendar week, may be required to submit acceptable medical evidence for any additional sick leave in that year. In the case of a chronic or recurring illness requiring recurring absences of one (1) day or less, only one (1) certificate shall be necessary for a period of six (6) months.

2. The Township may require proof of illness of an employee on sick leave, whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.

F. In case of leave of absence due to exposure to a contagious disease, a certificate from the State Department of Health shall be required.

G. The Township may require an employee who has been absent due to personal illness, as a condition of his return to duty, to be examined, at the expense of the Township, by a physician designated by the Township. Such examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing his normal duties and whether his return will jeopardize the health of other employees.

H. Incentive Sick Leave Compensation Policy:

1. All members of the Union shall be allowed to accumulate unused sick time.

(a) Upon retirement as defined by the Pension Act, employees may take a lump-sum payment for 50% of his accumulated sick time, said amount to be payable at his daily rate of pay on the date of his retirement or at the highest rate of pay during the employee's

employment with the Township. In either case, such lump sum shall not exceed \$15,000.

- (b) An employee opting for a lump sum payment may receive said payment in four (4) equal installments beginning on the day of the employee's retirement and the following three years on January 1 at the employee's option. Should the employee die prior to the receiving of the full amount, the Township will immediately pay the balance due to his beneficiary.

2. In the event that the employee dies, his beneficiary will be paid a lump-sum payment based upon 50% of the employee's accumulated sick time at the date of his death. This lump-sum payment will be calculated based upon the rate of pay that the employee was receiving on the date of his death. Said payment shall not exceed \$15,000.

3. Each member of the Union shall receive an annual statement in January that indicates the member's total accumulated sick time as of December 31st of the previous year.

I. Major Illness or Major Injury Leave:

Note: Employees must accumulate three (3) years of seniority to be eligible for Major Illness or Major Injury Leave.

1. Each employee shall be entitled to up to one (1) year of sick leave with full pay for a non-work related major illness or injury. The illness or injury shall be certified, by an authorized physician designated by the Township, as one which would prevent the employee from performing his full regular duties, and because of which the employee must be absent beyond forty (40) consecutive work days (480 hours and 320 hours equivalent of 2). (Said forty [40] days shall be applied against the earned accumulated sick leave in Section B.)

a. The first forty (40) days counts towards the one (1) year leave.

2. Each employee assigned to any variation of a forty (40) hour work week shall be responsible for the first forty (40) days of any major illness or injury prior to requesting major illness or injury leave. Any employee who hasn't accumulated sufficient sick time will be required to cover the balance of the first forty (40) days using vacation time, holiday time, comp time, personal days, or other days off as might be earned. For employees assigned to the 42 Hour Platoons, the first forty (40) days shall be the first forty (40) twelve hour periods, as defined under Article 29, Paragraph C.

3. All medical benefits provided by the Township would continue to be in effect throughout the major illness/major injury leave. Employee is responsible for Chapter 78 contributions. Failure to pay contributions shall result in termination of coverage.

4. Employees returning from authorized major injury/major illness leave, as set forth above, will be restored to their original job classification and shift at the appropriate rate of pay with no loss of seniority or other employee rights, privileges or benefits. If an employee fails to return to work with the Township after major illness/major injury leave, for any reason other than the specified illness/injury, he shall reimburse the Township for the cost of benefits and any other associated costs such as Township physician costs, etc.

5. An employee on a leave of absence (i.e. major illness or injury leave) shall have his or her sick leave prorated for the duration of the leave.

J. Donated Leave Program:

1. An employee in the bargaining unit who suffers from a catastrophic health condition or injury (as defined in N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.22) or who has an immediate family member who suffers from a catastrophic health condition or injury may be eligible to receive donated sick

or vacation leave from other members of the bargaining unit.

2. In order to be eligible to receive donated leave, an employee must have successfully completed his or her probationary period and exhausted all accrued sick leave, vacation leave and compensatory time off. Any employee in the bargaining unit who has been disciplined for chronic or excessive absenteeism or lateness or abuse of leave in the two year period immediately preceding the employee's request for donated leave shall not be considered eligible for the program.

3. An employee must submit a written request to the Township Business Administrator for donated sick or vacation leave and provide medical documentation of the catastrophic health condition or injury from a licensed physician. The documentation must describe the nature and anticipated duration of the health condition or injury.

4. Upon approval of the request, the Township Business Administrator or his/her designee shall, with the employee's consent, post or circulate the employee's name along with those of other eligible employees in a conspicuous manner to encourage the donation of sick or vacation leave time and shall provide notice to the appropriate representatives in the bargaining unit. If an employee is unable to consent to this posting or circulation, a member of the employee's family may consent on his or her behalf.

5. A leave recipient must receive at least ~~five days~~ sixty (60) hours of sick or vacation leave from one or more leave donors to participate in the Donated Sick Leave Program.

6. A leave recipient shall receive no more than ~~180 days~~ one thousand forty (1040) hours of sick or vacation leave and shall not receive any such ~~days~~ hours on a retroactive basis.

7. A leave donor ~~will only be allowed to donate whole sick days or whole~~

~~vacation days and~~ may not donate more than ~~ten days~~ one hundred twenty hours of sick leave or vacation leave or combination thereof to any one leave recipient.

8. A leave donor must have completed three or more years of continuous service to the Township and have accrued forty or more days of sick or vacation leave or combination thereof to be eligible to participate in the Donated Sick Leave Program.

9. A leave donor shall not revoke the leave donation. Any unused donated leave may be returned to the leave donors on a prorated basis upon the leave recipient's return to work.

ARTICLE 30

INJURY LEAVE

A. If an employee is incapacitated in the line of duty, i.e. during the performance of any work related activity, firefighting or EMS duties, because of an injury, or sustains a work related illness, he shall be entitled to injury leave with full pay during the period in which he is unable to perform his duties, as certified by an authorized physician. Such payments shall be for up to one (1) year or until the employee is placed on pension disability or full pension, whichever comes first, and reduced by any payment received from Worker's Compensation.

B. For the purposes of this Article, injury or illness incurred while the employee is attending in-service training (as defined by Article 15), shall be considered to be line of duty.

C. If an employee is absent for reasons that entitle him to injury leave, his or her supervisor shall be notified within one (1) hour of the employee's starting time. Failure to notify the supervisor on duty may result in denial of the use of injury leave for that absence.

D. An employee must report his injury, when possible, within forty eight (48) hours of the occurrence of such injury, in order to be eligible for benefits under this article.

E. The Township may require an employee who has been absent because of injury, as a condition of his return to duty, to be examined by a physician designated by the Business Administrator at the expense of the Township.

F. An injury on duty requiring time off for treatment, recuperation or rehabilitation shall not be construed as chargeable under sick time regulations.

G. Employees returning from authorized leave of absence, as set forth above, will be restored to their original job classification and shift at the appropriate rate of pay with no loss of seniority or other employee rights, privileges or benefits.

ARTICLE 31

VACATIONS

A. Each regular employee shall be entitled to vacation leave based on his years of continuous service. Approved leaves of absence without pay in excess of thirty (30) days, except Military Leave, Maternity Leave and Major Illness Leave, shall be deducted from the employee's total continuous service for purposes of determining the earned service credit for vacation leave. Vacations with pay shall be granted to employees as follows:

1. Firefighters, Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants (42 hours)

During first twelve months	72 hours
Beginning one year through five years	144 hours
Beginning six through eight years	180 hours
Beginning nine through fourteen years	204 hours
Beginning fifteen years or more	240 hours

2. Emergency Medical Technicians (40 hours)

During first twelve months	48 hours
Beginning one year through five years	96 hours
Beginning six through eight years	120 hours
Beginning nine through fourteen years	136 hours
Beginning fifteen years or more	160 hours

- Part time employees will be prorated based on the number of hours they work based on Table 2
- Employees are not permitted to take vacation during the first six (6) months of employment.

B. The rate of vacation pay shall be the employee's regular straight time rate of pay in effect on the payday immediately preceding the employee's vacation period.

C. If an employee's vacation entitlement period changes during a calendar year, they may be permitted to take their vacation based on the new entitlement at any time during the calendar year regardless of anniversary date.

D. If an employee should terminate employment prior to their anniversary date and after taking their full entitlement, they shall reimburse the Township for vacation taken and not earned. Said payment shall be deducted from the employee's final pay. Should sufficient funds not be available, the employee shall reimburse the Township for the difference to make up for the use of unearned days. If an employee terminates their employment prior to using their vacation entitlement, they shall be paid for vacation earned but not used.

E. All vacation time except one hundred twenty (120) hours, must be used within the calendar year in which it is earned. An amount up to and including one hundred twenty (120) hours may be carried over to the following year. Under special circumstances additional time may be granted, if requested and approved by the Business Administrator. Said request shall be made in writing and be subject to the approval of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and the Business Administrator. No request shall be granted by the Business Administrator unless said request is received by the Business Administrator's office on or before December 1 of the year during which vacation time was accumulated. Decisions on requested carry over of vacation days in excess of one hundred twenty (120) hours shall be made by the Business Administrator within three (3) working days.

F. If an official holiday, recognized by this Agreement, occurs during an employee's vacation, they shall be entitled to an additional day off in lieu of the holiday.

G. Scheduling of vacation must be approved by the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services.

H. Although vacation leave is allocated and available on a calendar year basis, all calculations of vacation at time of employee resignation, termination, or retirement shall be based on the employee's anniversary date.

I. If, at any time, vacation leave is denied, a written explanation shall be given to the affected employee within five (5) days of such denial. The granting of vacation leave will not be unreasonably withheld.

J. Any employee on unpaid leave of absence shall have his vacation leave prorated for the duration of the leave.

K. An employee on a leave of absence (i.e. major illness or injury leave) shall have his or her vacation leave prorated for the duration of the leave.

L. Vacation leave is prorated during last year of service.

ARTICLE 32

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

All employees covered by this agreement may be granted a leave of absence without pay for a maximum period of one (1) year by the Township upon written application setting forth the reason. Further leave, in exceptional situations, may be granted by the Township where it is in the public interest.

An employee on a leave of absence may pay for the benefits allowed by the carriers. Said payment shall be made thirty (30) days in advance so as to coincide with the billing period as established by the carriers. In accordance with COBRA regulations, the Township assesses a two percent (2%) administrative fee.

EXAMPLE: If carriers are paid monthly, then the payment from the employee shall be made thirty (30) days in advance. If carriers are paid quarterly, then the equivalent quarterly payment must be received thirty (30) days in advance. This practice would hold true for all billing and payment schedules.

ARTICLE 33

INSURANCE

A. Employees covered under this agreement will be required to make contributions towards health benefit costs in accordance with P.L. 2011c.78, Pensions and Health Benefit Reform.

1. All eligible, newly hired and retired employees, shall be enrolled in either Horizon Direct Access or Bronze Plan at employee's option. Any employee who opts out will be able to re-enroll in one of the options offered by the current insurance carriers. Employees may opt out of health insurance coverage if the employee or employee's spouse has other health insurance coverage. Any employee who is eligible for single or parent/child coverage who opts out of Township health insurance coverage shall receive \$2,000 prorated for the number of months that the employee is not covered under the Township health plan. Any employee who is eligible for family or husband/wife coverage who opts out of Township health insurance coverage shall receive \$4,000 prorated for the number of months that the employee is not covered under the Township health plan. All health insurance opt out reimbursements shall be paid in December.

2. Dental Plan: as provided by Direct Dental Network, a subsidiary of Horizon Blue Cross Value Shield of New Jersey and includes the following:
Maximum Allowable Charge (MAC), \$0 deductible, \$1,000 annual maximum per person and children to age 23, 100% dependent participation:

Preventive/Diagnostic Services:	100% of MAC
Therapy/Treatment Services:	70% of MAC
Periodontic Benefits:	70% of MAC
Prosthodontic Benefits:	50% of MAC

Onlays and Crown Benefits:	70% of MAC
Oral Surgery Benefits:	70% of MAC
Orthodontic Benefits:	50% of MAC

Orthodontic services will be subject to a separate maximum payment of \$1,500 for covered services during the lifetime of each eligible person.

3. Prescription Drug Plan: The Township shall provide a prescription drug co-pay plan. This plan shall provide coverage for the cost of drugs and contraceptives which according to federal law, may be dispensed only upon prescription written by a physician, dentist or other professional who is licensed to write prescriptions.

Upon signing of this agreement or as soon as practicable, prescription co-pays shall be:

	<u>Retail Pharmacy</u>	<u>Mail Order (90 day supply)</u>
Generic	\$15.00	0
Brand Name	\$30.00	\$30.00 (90 day supply)
Non-Preferred	\$40.00	\$40.00 (90 day supply)

B. Eye Care: The Township will reimburse each employee for eye examinations, prescription corrective lenses with a greater than a plus/minus .50 diopter power and/or corrective eye procedures (i.e. laser surgery) purchased for himself and his immediate family. Such reimbursements shall be made up to a maximum of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per year. Bills or notice must be submitted to the Township for reimbursement within thirty (30) days of the end of the calendar year in which they were incurred.

C. In addition to existing life insurance available through the State of New Jersey and all other existing plans, the Township shall continue to provide life insurance as currently provided by its carrier.

D. The Township shall timely notify the President of The Union if a current insurance carrier is to be replaced by a new carrier. A new carrier must provide coverage that is equal to or better than coverage that was provided by the replaced carrier. The Township shall be liable for lost benefits to any employee if a change or cancellation of health insurance coverage results in reduction of benefits.

E. The Township will continue coverage of medical insurance as currently provided in paragraph A. 1 of this Article, dental as described in paragraph A.2. of this Article, prescription coverage as currently provided in paragraph A.3. and eye care as described in paragraph B of this Article for the employee and his spouse and children as currently defined commencing upon the date of full retirement of the employee. In the event of the death of the employee, the aforementioned benefits shall remain in full force and effect for the employee's spouse and children.

Retirement is defined as any retirement as defined in the most current "State of New Jersey Police and Fireman's Retirement Handbook" to include:

- 1) Service Retirement
- 2) Special Retirement
- 3) Ordinary Disability
- 4) Special Disability
- 5) Accidental Disability

It is also understood that retirement includes any Early Retirement Incentive Program as offered by the State of New Jersey.

F. In the event that an employee is killed in the line of duty or dies from injuries sustained while in the performance of duties, The Township shall pay, without delay, the sum of

ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) toward funeral expenses to the employee's surviving family regardless of the amounts paid for such expenses from other sources.

G. Employees who are terminated for cause shall not be eligible for retiree health benefits.

H. Retiree benefits will follow the active collective bargaining agreement plan designs.

I. Retirees after the signing of this agreement shall be entitled to no greater coverage level than that which they were entitled to at the time of retirement. (i.e. an employee who retires on a single coverage plan cannot upgrade coverage to a family plan.)

J. Language Omitted as Agreed upon.

K. Regular part time employees shall not be covered in the Townships health benefit plan or health coverage opt-out payment.

ARTICLE 34

OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In the event that a firefighter is required to work an out of class assignment, i.e. assume the responsibilities and/or perform the duties of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant due to resignation, termination, or extended leave of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant, for a period of seven (7) consecutive calendar days, then said firefighter shall be compensated at the Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant's rate of pay on an hour for hour basis beginning on the eighth (8th) calendar day of the assumption of said duties.

The person receiving out-of-class compensation is the senior person on the platoon, unless otherwise designated by the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services or his designee. The senior person is that firefighter who has the most seniority with the department and is currently holding the slot as the senior person with the platoon in question.

This provision shall not apply to out-of-class assignments due to a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant's vacation, holiday time, or school assignment.

ARTICLE 35

SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT

A. An employee may accept and be employed in any occupation during his off-duty hours, provided that such occupation is not in violation of any Federal, State or local laws and provided that such occupation is not in conflict with his employment with the Township. The Chief of Fire & Emergency Services shall determine if such a conflict exists. Employees must notify the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services of any secondary employment.

B. Employees shall be obligated to comply with Township Ethics guidelines.

ARTICLE 36

PROMOTIONS

A. If, during the term of this Agreement, there are to be any promotions within the Division of Fire & Emergency Services, a procedure will be developed which shall govern such promotions, including which employees are eligible for same. This procedure will be developed through discussion between the Union, the Township, and Chief of Fire & Emergency Services. This procedure may take into account seniority, experience, level of education, physical condition, a written and/or oral examination or whatever relevant factors are necessary to fairly and impartially choose the candidate who will be most able to discharge the duties of the position to be filled.

B. The Township shall not hire new employees specifically to fill any position above the rank of Firefighter after developing and following the procedure as stated in Paragraph "A" of this article, that no employee covered by this agreement is eligible for, or capable of discharging the duties of said position.

ARTICLE 37

LAYOFF AND RECALL

A. Layoff means the non-disciplinary separation of a full-time employee from their position. In the case of personnel reduction, the employee with the least seniority shall be laid off first.

1. The Township shall provide ninety (90) calendar days written notice to employees who are to be laid off.

2. The Township will notify and meet with the Union at the earliest possible time regarding potential lay-offs.

B. Employees shall be recalled to work in the reverse order in which they were laid off by the Township. Notice of recall shall be made in writing to the employee's home address of record. The employee must provide the Township with any address change while waiting for recall.

C. The Township shall not hire new employees while there are employees on the recall list able to perform the duties of the vacant position, unless such employees on recall refuse to accept such employment. The recalled employee must report for reinstatement within fourteen (14) days after notice. If the employee does not so report, he shall have forfeited his recall right.

ARTICLE 38

DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

A. No Employee shall be disciplined or discharged without just cause.

B. Disciplinary action may be taken against any employee when it is believed that the employee is not conforming to the letter or spirit of Township policies and rules and/or Fire and Emergency Services Division policies and rules; or to specific instructions given to him; or has acted improperly, dishonestly, immorally, illegally; or has violated any of the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. All discipline will be corrective in intent and progressive in nature.

C. Depending on the seriousness of the matter, disciplinary action against employees shall be in following forms:

1. Informal verbal reprimand by Fire Captain, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, or Business Administrator
2. Written reprimand from Fire Captain, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, or Business Administrator
3. Suspension from duty with pay by the Business Administrator
4. Suspension from duty without pay by the Business Administrator
5. Demotion of employee by Business Administrator
6. Discharge from duty by the Business Administrator

D. Where the Township or designee may impose discipline, written notice of such discipline shall be given to the employee prior to imposition of said penalty. Such notice shall contain a reasonable specification of the nature of the charge, a general description of the alleged acts and/or conduct upon which the charge is based and the nature of the discipline. The name of the employee, who is notified of disciplinary action, shall be transmitted to the Union within

seventy-two (72) hours after such notice. It will not be necessary to provide written notice if immediate disciplinary action is warranted, such as a gross violation of law.

E. With the exception of Section "C," Paragraph "1" above, and Section "C," Paragraph "2" above, a hearing may be held to investigate the charges prior to imposition of discipline or discharge.

1. At least seven (7) days before the hearing, the employee and Union shall be notified in writing of the charges, and the time and place of the hearing.

- (a) No tape recording of such procedure shall be made without notification to the employee.
- (b) There shall be no presumption of guilt.
- (c) The employee shall have the right to be accompanied and represented by the union and/or legal counsel.
- (d) The employee shall also have the right to be accompanied and represented by the Union and/or legal counsel during any questioning concerning the charges, which takes place prior to a hearing.

2. The employee and the Union shall be entitled to a copy of the transcript and/or the tape from the hearing at no cost.

3. With the exception of an employee who commits a serious criminal offense, substantial failure to conform with the requirements of this article shall render the discipline or discharge null and void.

ARTICLE 39

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment and to resolve grievances as soon as possible so as to assure efficiency and promote employee morale. The parties agree that this procedure will be kept as informal as may be appropriate.

B. Definition

The term “grievance” as used herein means any controversy arising over the interpretation, application, or violation of policies, agreements, and administrative decisions affecting the terms and conditions of employment and may be raised by an employee(s), the Union or the Township.

C. Steps of the Grievance Procedure

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this agreement, except for other procedures established by statute or regulation, and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent.

The Union shall have the right to process a grievance at any step with or without the consent of the aggrieved employee. Such intervention shall be according to the provisions of this Article. Every employee must immediately notify the President of the Union or a Union representative appointed by the President if a controversy appears to be a grievance before any action is taken by the employee. A representative of the Union shall be present at any meeting held with regard to a grievance unless an employee has written authorization from the Union to meet without a Union representative present.

A grievance initiated by the Township shall be filed directly with the Union within ten (10)

calendar days after the event giving rise to the grievance has occurred, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays. A meeting shall be held within ten (10) calendar days after the filing of the grievance, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays, between the representatives of the Township and the Union, in an earnest effort to adjust the differences between the parties. If the Township fails to act within ten (10) calendar days, this shall be deemed an abandonment of the grievance. If the parties did not resolve the grievance, then either party can submit the grievance to arbitration under Step Three of this Article within ten (10) calendar days after the last meeting was held to resolve the grievance, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays.

Step One: An aggrieved party shall institute action by notifying the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services in writing within ten (10) working days of the occurrence of the grievance or within ten (10) working days of the actual or implied knowledge of the grievance, and an earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the aggrieved party and the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services or his designee, for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure of the aggrieved party to act within said ten (10) working days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

The Chief of Fire & Emergency Services, or his designee, shall respond to the grievance, in writing, within ten (10) calendar days after the receipt of such grievance.

In the event of the failure of the Chief of Fire & Emergency Services to act in accordance with the provisions of "Step One," paragraph "2" above, or in the event an answer by him in accordance with provisions thereof is deemed unsatisfactory by the aggrieved party, then within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of notification of an answer or when a notification should have been received, said aggrieved party may appeal to the Township Business Administrator (or their representative) (Step 2). Failure of the aggrieved party to act within ten (10) calendar days shall

be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

Step Two: - In the event the grievance is not settled at Step One, the same shall be reduced to writing by the aggrieved party and filed with the Township Business Administrator (or his representative).

Within ten (10) calendar days from the receipt of the grievance (unless a different period is mutually agreed upon) the Business Administrator shall advise, in writing, the aggrieved party and his representative of his answer.

In the event of the failure of the Business Administrator to act in accordance within the provisions of "Step Two," paragraph "2" above, or in the event an answer by him in accordance with provisions thereof is deemed unsatisfactory, the aggrieved party within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the answer or from when such answer should have been received, may appeal to an arbitrator for a determination of the grievance. (Step 3). Failure of the aggrieved party to act within ten (10) calendar days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

Step Three: Arbitration: - If such grievance is not settled at Step Two (2), any party may request the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission to have an arbitrator appointed in accordance with their rules.

1. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties
2. The costs for services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally between the Township and the Union. Any other expenses, including but not limited to the presentation of witnesses, shall be paid by the party incurring same.
3. The parties will direct the arbitrator to decide, as a preliminary question, whether he/she has jurisdiction to hear and decide the matter in dispute.
4. Only one (1) issue at a time may be submitted to a single arbitrator.

ARTICLE 40

LEGAL DEFENSE

See Section 4-83 of the West Windsor Township Code.

ARTICLE 41

TERM AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT

The terms and effects of this Agreement shall be effective as of the first (1st) day of January, 2023, and shall remain in full force and effect until the thirty first (31st) day of December, 2026. The terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the specified duration of the agreement and/or until such time as a successor to same is executed by the respective parties.

Any provision of this Agreement may be changed, supplemented or altered in writing at any time, provided both parties mutually agree. All appendices and amendments of this Agreement shall be numbered (or lettered), dated, and signed by the responsible parties and shall be subject to all the provisions of this agreement.

If any provision of this Agreement, or the application of such provision, should be rendered or declared invalid by any court action or by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation, the remaining parts or portions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 42

PREVAILING RIGHTS

The Township agrees it will not change any terms and conditions of employment directly affecting the working conditions of employees whether expressed in this agreement or otherwise, without negotiating the same with the Union.

ARTICLE 43

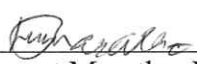
SUCCESSORS

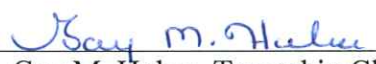
This agreement will be binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, and no provision, term, or obligation herein contained will be affected, modified, altered or changed in any respect whatsoever by the consolidation, merger, transfer or assignment of either party hereto, or affected, modified, altered or changed in any respect whatsoever by any kind of change in management or governing entity of either party hereto, or by any change, geographical or otherwise in the location or place of business of either party.

SIGNATURE PAGE

TOWNSHIP OF WEST WINDSOR

MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

BY:  11/6/23
Hemant Marathe, Mayor Date

Attest:  11/6/23
Gay M. Huber, Township Clerk Date

WEST WINDSOR PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL 3610 OF THE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS,
AFL-CIO, CLC

BY:  10/20/23
Steven J. Mitchell Date
President, IAFF Local 3610

BY:  10/20/2023
Douglas A. Frueh Date
Secretary, IAFF Local 3610