

AGREEMENT BETWEEN

TOWNSHIP OF LUMBERTON

AND

AFSCME, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL 63

JANUARY 1, 2024- DECEMBER 31, 2026

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ARTICLE 1- PREAMBLE

This agreement entered into by the Township of Lumberton, hereinafter referred to as the “Employer” and Local 3827C which is affiliated with AFSCME NJ Council 63 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the “Union”, has as its purpose to promotion of harmonious relations between the Employer and the Union; the establishment of an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences and the establishment of rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment. The effective date of this contract shall be January 1, 2024.

As the employer recognizes the Union; it is the responsibility of the Employer to forward all new hire, disciplines, promotions, etc. to AFSCME NJ Council 63 as the Majority Representative to 1373 Chews Landing-Clementon, Laurel Springs, New Jersey, 08021 or Fax (856) 512-2193, and the Local 3827C. This will occur simultaneously as the employee is served.

ARTICLE 2- RECOGNITION

The employer recognizes the Union as the bargaining agent for the purpose of establishing salaries, wages, hours and other conditions of employment for all employees in the classifications listed herein and for such additionally classifications as the parties may later agree to include. This recognition, however, shall not be interpreted as having the effect of, or in any way abrogating, the rights of employees as established by the Laws of 1974, Chapter 123. The following employees shall be included within the bargaining unit: all regularly employed blue- and white-collar employees. Specifically excluded from the Union are all other employees represented in other negotiating units, managerial executives, police, firefighters, craft employees, confidential employees, supervisors within the meaning of the act of the New Jersey Employer- Employee Relations Act, Township Clerk, Deputy Township Clerk, Chief Financial Officer/ Treasurer, Tax Collector, Fire Inspector, Zoning Officer, Technical Assistant, Electrical Inspector/Sub-code Official, Plumbing/ Inspector/ Sub-code Official, Fire Subcode, Financial Assistant, Court Administrator, "Clerk/Administrative Secretary," and Construction Official.

1. A Full-time employee is one who works 35 hours or more per week on a permanent basis.
2. A permanent employee is one who is hired for a position on a permanent basis without restriction as to duration.
3. A temporary employee is one who is hired for a position of limited duration.
4. A seasonal employee is one who is hired for a certain portion of a year, particularly during time of peak work load.
5. Only permanent full-time, shall be entitled to any benefits, unless otherwise directed by the Township Committee.

Certain employees, who will be designated at the beginning of each calendar year by a resolution passed by the governing body and who are covered by this Agreement shall be considered essential employees. As such, in the event of weather-related or other emergency circumstances such as a Declared State of Emergency, all such employees may be required to report for work and perform regular or emergency duties as assigned without entitlement for additional compensation if taking place during normal work hours. This is to include cases where other township employees may be excluded (non-essential workers) from working and suffer no loss of pay due to such emergency.

ARTICLE 3- CHECK-OFF AND FAIR SHARE FEE

- A. The Employer agrees to deduct monthly union membership dues from the pay of employees who individually request in writing that such deduction be made. The amount to be deducted shall be certified to the employer by the Treasurer of the Union and the aggregate deductions from all employees shall be remitted to the office of AFSCME NJ Council 63 together with a list of names of all employees for whom the deductions were made by the tenth (10th) day of the succeeding month after such deductions were made.
- B. Employees covered by the Agreement may only request deductions for the payment of dues to the duly certified majority representative named herein.
- C. The effective date of termination of dues deducted to the majority representative shall be as of July 1st next succeeding the date on which the notice of withdrawal is filed with the employer.
- D. Any change in the amount of monthly unit membership dues must be furnished to the Township Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date said of change.
- E. The Union shall indemnify and hold the Township of Lumberton, the Township Committee, and its agents, servants and employees, harmless from any and all claims arising from the due's deduction procedure, and any other aspect relating to internal Union matters.
- F. Dues deducted by the Township of Lumberton shall be transmitted to the designated Union official of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, New Jersey Council 63, AFL-CIO. The Township of Lumberton to provide to the Union, monthly, a complete up-to-date electronic listing of all employees covered by this Contract. Such listing shall be in the Excel format and include the employee's department, job classification, work location, home address, personal phone and/or cell phone number (if provided by the employee), personal email (if provided by the employee), employment status, membership status and the amount of the dues deducted as it appears on the records of the Township of Lumberton.
- G. For the purpose of the deduction of dues for titles covered by this agreement; Any member working 40 or fewer, but more than 20 hours per week shall be considered a full-time member, any member working 20 or fewer, but more than 12 hours per week shall be considered a part-time member, and any member working 12 or fewer hours per week shall be considered a lower part time member. This clause applies strictly to union dues and is not intended to apply to or modify any other provision, or any term or condition of employment.

ARTICLE 4- MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The AFSCME recognizes that there are certain functions, responsibilities, and management rights exclusively reserved to the Employer. All of the rights, powers, and authority possessed by the Employer prior to the signing of this Agreement are retained exclusively by the Employer subject only to such limitations as are specifically provide in this Agreement.

It is the right of the Township to determine the standards of service to be offered by its employees, determine the standards of selection for employment, direct its employees, take disciplinary action, maintain the efficiency of its operations, determine the methods, means and personnel by which its operations are to be conducted, determined the content of job classifications, schedule the hours, take all necessary actions to carry out its mission in emergencies, and exercise complete control and discretion over its organization and technology of performing its work. Except as expressly provided for within this Agreement, nothing shall alter or relieve the Township of any of its obligations undertaken by the Agreement.

As noted herein, in the absence of a Township Administrator, any function, duty or responsibility assigned to the position of Township Administrator may be performed by the appointed Township Committee liaisons or their designee.

Application of any discretionary or permissive language contained within any Federal or State laws or regulations that apply in whole or in part to employee absences from work shall be determined by the Township. The Township reserves the right to require a medical exam at its own expense prior to return to work after a leave of absence including a leave covered by the Family Medical Leave Act.

ARTICLE 5- TIMEKEEPING

The following procedures will apply at all township employees:

- A. Every employee will report to their Department Head or immediate supervisor their daily time in and out which will be entered via a time-clock in the Public Work Department, and entered on computerized time-clocks elsewhere. These entries will include all earned time-off that has been taken (vacation, personal, sick, holiday). All employees will have the right to inspect that portion of their time entries relating to their specific hours upon scheduling an appointment with their respective Department Head to do so. Department Heads will be required to sign all time sheets prior to being submitted to the finance office for payment.
- B. Any employee leaving the building for personal business, other than lunch, must report same appropriately in the time entry. Approval for such leave must be granted by your Department Head. Your Department Head must also obtain approval from the Township Administrator prior to the leave being granted. You must notify the receptionist when leaving the building so that appropriate information can be given to the public. Approval must be obtained from the Administrator should you find it necessary to close your office during the scheduled workday.

ARTICLE 6- HOURS OF WORK

- A. The regular scheduled workweek shall consist of five (5) consecutive days, Monday through Friday. The hours of the work week are as indicated in Exhibit A. Employee(s) assigned to solid waste collection services may be given "flexible time"; such that his/her hours may be different from those of other employees in the department, said decision shall be at the discretion and direction of the Director of Public Works or in the absence of the Director, the foreman; however, the total number of hours will be the same per week as the other employees in the department. Said flex hours may include assignment of an employee(s) to four days per week, at ten (10) hours per day. Should this occur, all other calculations for vacation time, personal days, sick leave, etc, shall still be calculated using an eight (8) hour day. The Township has created a position of Recycling Coordinator, who will work such hours on Saturday as deemed necessary to promote a successful recycling program.

The specific scheduling of employees shall be as follows:

1. To be determined by the Department Head with approval of the Administrator or township liaisons and as outlined on the employee's specific job description. Such hours must be posted clearly in public view for the respective departments.
 2. All employees are expected to take their scheduled lunch period. Employees in the Public Works Department shall not be permitted to add travel time to their hour; instead, whatever time is taken by the employees to either travel to a place to eat, or to pick up their lunch, will be counted in the one-hour period. In addition, employees shall not use the Township vehicles to pick up or deliver back food to the site.
 3. Every employee is expected to work their assigned hours, 5 days per week. An employee may vary hours worked per day pursuant to their job descriptions. Hours worked over 40 in a week that are not due to an emergency or extraordinary situation, must have prior approval from the Department Head or Administrator.
 4. Lunch hours shall be arranged for employees so that the township offices are open for business between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., with the exception of emergency situations.
 5. The Administrator or township liaisons must be advised in writing of any changes to the above scheduling.
- B. Notwithstanding anything hereinabove contained to the contrary, the parties specifically recognized that N.J.S.A. 40A:9-141 vests in the Township Committee, at its discretion, the right to set appropriate hours of operation for the Tax Collector's office and the work hours of the Tax Collector's office and that same is not part of any collective bargaining negotiations, and shall not be governed by the terms of this contract.

C. All departments covered by this contract shall be entitled to a ten (10) minute break, to be taken at the employee's choice either in the morning or in the afternoon (but not both); and said break shall not exceed (10) MINUTES. The employee shall first secure permission from the Department Head for that break, shall sign out upon taking the break and sign in upon returning from the break; and no more than two people from the same department shall be permitted to take a break at the same time. At no time, however, shall any office be left unattended due to such break. As with the lunch hour provisions above for Public Works employees, employees shall not be permitted to utilize any additional time to "take this break". If the break is taken while the employee is at a work site, then the break should be taken at the work site; the employee shall not travel back to the Municipal Building, or elsewhere for purposes of taking the break.

D. In Cases of Snow Plowing Emergencies

1. All employees engaged in snow plowing emergencies shall not be permitted to work more than 16 hours in a single shift. If the employee works a 16 hour shift, he/she shall have a mandatory rest period of 6 hours minimum before returning back to work in a 24 hour period.
2. The Administrator or his designee will purchase food for employees, or the Township will have a tab at a local establishment(s) that employees can use for meals; however, if the Administrator or his designee does not purchase food, or the establishment(s) are closed, then the employees shall be paid up to \$15. Payment shall be made within 15 days after the employee submits a receipt for reimbursement.

E. Summer Schedule

1. The Township Administrator, in his/her sole discretion, may set a summer schedule consisting of the following ("Summer Schedule") for bargaining unit employees who work within the administration/municipal building excluding DPW employees:

Monday through Wednesday:	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Thursday:	7:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Friday	Off
2. The Township Administrator can implement the Summer Schedule commencing on or after May 15th and ending on or before September 15th.
3. The Summer Schedule shall not result in overtime, compensatory time or trigger premium pay as a result of implementing or applying it. Nor shall the Summer Schedule trigger the foregoing in connection with, nor change in, typical operations.
4. The Township reserves the right and sole discretion to discontinue the Summer Schedule without further negotiation and return to the negotiated schedules contained within the parties' agreement at any time subject only to the following

advance notice: a change noticed on Monday becomes effective the following Monday. The Township may also discontinue the Summer Schedule due to a State of Emergency caused by a natural or man-made event, or in the event of an unforeseen staffing shortage caused by or related to a high volume of unscheduled absences that impact staffing levels.

ARTICLE 7- OVERTIME

All overtime must be approved in advance by the Administrator or his/her designee.

If an employee works approved overtime, that employee shall be paid at the regularly hourly rate of pay for all hours worked up to forty (40) hours in the work week; but for all hours above the forty (40) hours, the employee shall have the option of receiving pay or compensatory time at one and one-half (1 1/2) times their regular hourly rate of pay. For personnel in the Court Office, the same rule shall apply with the following exception: for the five (5) hours worked between 35 and 40 hours, Court personnel shall be entitled to compensatory time at the rate of one (1) hour for each hour worked beyond the thirty-five (35) hours and up to forty (40) hours. Department Head's must receive approval from the Township Administrator before authorizing any overtime work, except in cases of emergency. In order to be eligible for overtime work, employees must be able to perform all duties of the department for which they work, with no restrictions. Compensatory time provided for within this Agreement shall not accrue nor be used beyond 40 hours within a calendar year and, once the 40 hour annual cap of compensatory time has been reached, the employee shall be paid at the applicable rate.

The employee may utilize reserved compensatory time by indicating the same on time sheets (using the abbreviation CT).

An employee, who is required to return to work during periods that are not his/her regularly scheduled hours, shall be paid time and one-half for such work and shall be guaranteed not less than two (2) hours pay, regardless of the amount of time actually worked. On holidays, an employee called in during his/her regularly scheduled hours shall receive the above in addition to their regular day's pay if above 40 hours in that work week.

An overtime list shall be generated starting with the lowest man/woman to the highest man/woman with seniority and who is qualified to perform the overtime work per the administrator. The list shall be implemented on a rotation basis.

ARTICLE 8- SICK LEAVE

A. Sick leave for purposes herein shall mean paid leave that may be granted to any employee when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, accident, or attend to a member of the immediate family (dependent spouse, child and/or parent) who is seriously ill or requires their presence, or to keep doctor(s)' appointment(s) which cannot be scheduled after work hours. Sick leave shall not be used as paid vacation.

B. Sick leave with pay shall be allowed, provided that the employee provides satisfactory proof of his/her illness or disability through a licensed physician's certificate, and notifies his/her supervisor promptly of the illness. If an employee is absent for more than two (2) consecutive days at any time, for any reason, the Township shall have right to require acceptable medical evidence in the form prescribed by the Township Committee. The nature of the illness shall be stated on the doctor's certificate unless it is confidential between the doctor and the patient, in which event the doctor must give a certificate releasing the employee for return to work. The Township reserves the right to obtain a second opinion from a licensed physician to determine if the illness or disability continues and is the result of events or acts beyond the employee's control.

Employees shall be entitled to sick leave at the rate of ten (10) days per year. Unused sick days shall be accumulated from year to year with a maximum of ten (10) days per twelve (12) month period to be treated as cumulative. Employees must notify their department head and/or supervisor one-half hour before the start of his/her shift to utilize sick time. There shall be no reimbursement for accumulated sick days not utilized, except as follows:

The Township shall reimburse current employees upon retirement for one-half of their accumulated sick days in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Employees hired after January 1, 2016 shall be entitled to an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for any sick time pay out at retirement. For the purpose of this provision, the employee's average daily salary for the five years preceding his/her retirement shall be used to calculate the daily rate of pay to be reimbursed upon retirement. This provision shall not apply to those individuals discharged or leaving the service of the Township without being eligible for retirement.

C. Part time employees covered by this agreement shall accrue 1 hour of earned sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours each calendar year.

ARTICLE 9- BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

- A. An employee who has a member of his/her immediate family taken by death shall receive up to five (5) working days off with pay for immediate family as defined below and one (1) working day off with pay for the death of an aunt, uncle or cousin as bereavement leave to arrange and/or attend funeral activities.
- B. "Immediate family" shall be defined as spouse, domestic and civil union partners, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step-parent, children, step-child, sister, brother, step-sibling, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparents, step-grandparent and grandchildren, or any member of an employee's immediate household.
- C. If additional time is necessary, it shall be taken as personal, vacation or unpaid leave with advance authorization by the appropriate Department Head and/or the Township Administrator. Time for attendance at funerals of others may be granted without pay or by use of personal and/or vacation leave.
- D. Temporary employees are not eligible for bereavement leave benefits.

ARTICLE 10- PERSONAL LEAVE

- A. Employees shall be entitled to seven (7) days of leave time per calendar year to be utilized for personal business. Employees seeking leave must notify their Department Head or supervisor before being granted said leave. Personal days shall be pro-rated during the first (1st) year of employment based on the number of weeks worked. Personal leave can be used in half hour increments (30 minutes), for emergent or other unanticipated purposes, subjects to the prior approval of the Department Head.
- B. Temporary employees are not eligible for personal leave benefits.
- C. Personal leave days shall not be cumulative. If an employee does not use all of the allotted personal days in any given calendar year, those not used will be forfeited.

ARTICLE 11- HOLIDAYS

A. The following days are recognized as paid holidays:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday following Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

B. If a holiday should occur when an employee is on paid vacation, the employee shall be entitled to the holiday in addition to the vacation day. Any township employee that is required to work on any of the above holidays shall be given proper credit for the holiday.

C. Temporary employees are not eligible for paid holidays.

D. Holidays which fall on Saturday shall be celebrated on the proceeding Friday.

E. Holidays which fall on Sunday, shall be celebrated on the following Monday.

F. To be eligible for pay for holidays, an employee must have worked the last scheduled work day before the holiday and the first scheduled work day after the holiday, unless under a doctor's care or prearranged as part of vacation time approved by the Department Head.

G. Bargaining unit employees receive one (1) day off as a "floating" holiday which will be used and administered in the same manner as a vacation day except that it is not subject to carry-over nor payout upon termination.

H. The Township Committee may by resolution designate certain other days as holidays for Township employees because of national or state events, or for other emergency or unusual reasons.

ARTICLE 12- JURY DUTY

- A. All employees covered by this Agreement who are required to serve on jury duty shall be paid by the employer based upon average hours worked, up to a maximum of eight (8) hours per day, as provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. §2B:20-16. Compensation received for such service through the court system shall be returned to the Township, by the employee.
- B. Temporary employees are not eligible for jury duty benefits.
- C. Employees, who are released from jury duty before the end of their scheduled shift, shall report to work.

ARTICLE 13- VACATIONS

A. Vacations shall be granted in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Years of Employment</u>	<u>Amount of Leave</u>
0 through completion of *1st year * 12 months from appointment date	9 working days
Start of the 2nd year – 14 days prorated by month. 14 working days for the remainder of the 2nd year.	
January 1st of the 3rd year through completion of 5th year	14 working days
January 1st of the 6th year through completion of 10th year	16 working days
January 1st of the 11th year through completion of 20th year	18 working days
January 1st of the 21st year and up	20 working days

- B. Annual leave may accumulate for one (1) years and such accumulation shall be used the following year. Employees may request to carry over vacation leave for one (1) year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-10.3, if the employee was precluded from taking vacation time due to job requirements. Approval must be obtained by Administrator and/or department liaison. Failure to use accumulated leave in accordance with these restrictions shall constitute an abandonment of this leave.
- C. Request for vacation leave must be submitted in writing on a form prescribed by the employer to the Department Head and/or immediate Supervisor at least two (2) weeks in advance for any leave time being requested of one week or more. Vacation leave under one week, shall be as follows, for one or two consecutive days an employee shall make the request at least 24 hours in advance and for three or four consecutive days an employee shall make the request at least 48 hours in advance. Your Department Head must obtain final approval from the Administrator before any leave is authorized and said leave time must be recorded on the official annual leave calendar.
- D. Only one employee per department will be allowed on vacation at any one time, a second employee may be authorized by the Township Administrator after consulting with the Department Head. At no time will more than two employees will be allowed on vacation at any one time. For purposes of vacation leave only, Mechanics shall be viewed as a separate department when requesting vacation leave. No more than one Mechanic shall be on vacation leave at any one time.
- E. Temporary or part-time employees are not eligible for vacation leave benefits.
- F. Upon termination of employment with the Township, the employee will be paid for eligible unused vacation leave on a prorated basis, except in situations where the employee is terminated for cause, in which case no benefits shall be permitted, and subject to the restrictions in paragraph B.

- G. Vacation leave may be taken in one (1) hour increments of the respective employee's work day subject to approval of the Department Head.

ARTICLE 14- GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. Definition: Grievance is a claim based upon a breach, misinterpretation or improper application of the terms of this Agreement or disciplinary actions.
- B. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to the problems, which may from time to time arise affecting employees. Both parties agree that these proceedings will be kept informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.
- C. An aggrieved employee shall institute action under the provisions hereof within thirty (30) days from the date of the occurrence complained of. Failure to act within said thirty (30) days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.
- D. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with an appropriate member of the department.
- E. The processing of grievances shall be in accordance with the following procedure:

Step One- The aggrieved employee or the Union shall take up the grievance in writing to the Department Head, who shall try to adjust the matter and respond to the employee and Union Representative within seven (7) working days after presentation of the grievance.

Step Two- If the aggrieved employee or the Union is not satisfied with the disposition of this grievance at level one, the employee, through the Union may present the grievance to the Township Administrator. Said complaint must be presented within seven (7) working days from the decision of the Department Head. The Administrator shall review the matter and try to resolve same within fourteen (14) working days of receipt of presentation of the grievance.

Step Three- If the aggrieved is still not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Step Two, the employee, through the Union, may present the grievance to the Township Committee. Unless the employee specifically requests otherwise, such meeting will be conducted with a closed session of the governing body. Said grievance must be filed within seven (7) working days of the date of the disposition, of the matter by the Township Administrator. The Township Committee shall then review and consider the submitted grievance and, in its discretion, may require the aggrieved employee and/or his Department Head and/or Union Representative to meet with the governing body to discuss the matter in an attempt to resolve same. If it cannot be resolved by consent, then the Township Committee shall have thirty-five (35) calendar days from the date of that meeting within which to issue a decision.

Step Four- The Union may, in its discretion, submit the grievance to arbitration. If the Union determines that the grievance is meritorious, it may submit same to arbitration within twenty-one (21) calendar days after receipt of a request by the employee.

A request for a list of Arbitrators shall be made to the State of New Jersey, Public Employment Relations Commission. The parties shall then be bound by the rules and procedures of PERC. The arbitrator's decision shall be in writing and shall be submitted to both parties in accordance with the rules and procedures of PERC.

The Arbitrator shall be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and restricted to the application of the facts, evidence and contract provisions presented at Step Two of the grievance. In the event the Township files a Scope of Negotiations Petition with the Public Employment Relations Commission, the arbitration will be stayed pending a decision of the petition by the Commission.

- F. Personal conflicts will not be considered the subject of a grievance procedure. Grievance procedures will be limited to work-related incidents only. Personal conflicts shall be resolved between the parties involved in a discreet manner. Should such conflicts result in disruption of the workplace, disciplinary action shall be taken. Such action shall be considered conduct unbecoming a Township employee as outlined in the Disciplinary Guideline Schedule.

ARTICLE 15- ABSENTEEISM/ TARDINESS POLICY

A. POLICY

Every employee is required to work as scheduled. Appropriate disciplinary action will be applied in instances where absenteeism/tardiness is considered to be excessive or patterned.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. Unscheduled absence:

Failure of an employee to report for work during the shift when the employee is scheduled to work, except when validly using an approved personal day pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or Township Policy.

2. Tardiness:

Arriving late to the assigned work area.

3. Occurrence:

An instance of an unscheduled absence. An occurrence means a single illness. For example, an employee gets the flu and is out for 4 consecutive days; the four (4) consecutive days is one occurrence. By way of another example, if employee that takes one (1) sick day and returns to work the next day, the one (1) sick day will count as one occurrence. By way of another example, if an employee reports to work after his/her scheduled start time (causing them to be tardy) in three (3) separate occasions, this shall be considered one occurrence.

4. Pattern of Absence:

Unscheduled absences which occur in a pattern such as the beginning or end of a work week, weekends, the day before or after a legal holiday or scheduled day off and/or any other observable pattern.

5. Unauthorized absence:

Failure of an employee to give notice to their Department Head and Administrator at least thirty (30) minutes before the start of their normal workday, except when validly using an approved personal day pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or Township Policy.

C. EMPLOYMENT ATTENDANCE PATTERN

1. Each payroll period, the Department Head shall record scheduled and unscheduled time used for that pay period on the time sheet provided by the Finance Office.

2. Failure of a Department Head to properly record and report absenteeism and other occurrences under this policy or any other similar policy or applicable rule or regulation or to otherwise enforce or administer this or any similar policy or rule or regulation shall subject the Department Head to discipline. This clause shall also apply to any person designated by the Department Head to fulfill these duties at any time.

D. PROCEDURE

1. Absences are to be reported directly to your Department Head and Administrator in accordance with specific department notification requirements at least thirty (30) minutes before the start of their normal workday. Employees have the responsibility of knowing where, when, and whom to call and must personally report their absence. Failure to properly report an absence may result in disciplinary action and/or ineligibility for paid leave payment, which is outlined below.
2. Absences are to be reported on a daily basis. The daily notification requirement may be waived in cases of hospitalization or extended illness beyond one week, if approved by the Department Head and Administrator. However, employees must notify their Department Head and Administrator a minimum of every two weeks to advise of status during extended absences.
3. The employee is required to submit a medical certification if absent for more than two (2) consecutive days which is caused by a medical illness or as may be called for in a collective bargaining agreement or any other policy or rules or regulations applicable to any department. However, nothing in this policy otherwise shall be seen to limit the Township's managerial prerogative to amend or modify its sick leave or other unscheduled absence verification procedure.

Stopping Work Before Scheduled Time

Employees are expected to continue working until the end of their scheduled work day. Stopping work early or leaving work early without authorization will be considered a violation of this policy.

E. Unauthorized absence disciplinary policy:

- a.) An employee who does not intend to report to work for any reason shall notify his Department Head and Administrator at least thirty (30) minutes before the start of their normal workday, except when validly using an approved personal day pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or Township Policy. Such absence shall otherwise be an unauthorized absence.
- b.) The unauthorized absence from work of any employee in any calendar year will result in the following penalties:
 - 1.) One day unauthorized absence – a written reprimand.

- 2.) Two days unauthorized absence – suspension without pay for one (1) to three (3) days.
- 3.) Three days or more unauthorized absence – may be dismissed from Township employ.

F. EXCESSIVE UNSCHEDULED ABSENCE/

1. If an employee is absent for more than ten (10) occurrences in a twelve-month calendar year, that employee shall be charged with excessive use of sick time and shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment. As required in Article 8 Section B, employees must provide a doctor's note for more than two (2) consecutive days absences, if a valid signed doctor's note is provided attesting to the validity of the illness, the doctor's note shall excuse that specific occurrence.
2. Generally, instances of patterned absenteeism shall be reviewed on case by case basis and shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action regardless of the material standards defined above.
3. The Supervisor shall attempt to determine the reason(s) for unscheduled absence. If mitigating circumstances (i.e., proven emergency, personal problem, death in family) exist, an exception to this policy may be considered after consultation with the Administrator.
4. Nothing in the foregoing shall subject an employee to discipline for the valid use of sick leave or personal leave, subject to such verification as may be required.
5. Disciplinary Procedure. Employees who exceed the standard for unscheduled absence and/ or lateness shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines Schedule or such specific disciplinary policies or department rules and regulations that may apply to an employee.

ARTICLE 16- DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Rules and regulations are designed to increase efficiency and no organization can function properly without them. It is the intention of the parties that each employee abides by the Township's policies in this regard. Disciplinary action may result from misconduct. Its purpose is not to interfere with the employee's rights, but to mutually protect the rights of each employee, the citizens, and the Township. Such action may be dismissal, fine, suspension without pay, or reprimand for any of the actions as outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines Schedule.

The Township acknowledges the principal of progressive discipline. Depending on the type or severity of the offence and the employee's disciplinary history, the discipline issued by the Township may be in any of the following forms:

- a.) Oral Warning;
- b.) Written Reprimand;
- c.) Minor Suspension;
- d.) Major Suspension consists of a suspension over five (5) days;
- e.) Demotion; and/or
- f.) Dismissal.

An employee who has been subject to suspension may appeal such discipline through the Grievance Procedure. Unless it is of a criminal nature, all disciplinary actions shall be rendered within a year after the employer has concluded said investigation.

ARTICLE 17- INSURANCE

A. Hospitalization and Medical Insurance.

During the term of this contract, the Township shall continue to provide health insurance benefits, and a prescription plan to covered employees and their legal dependents at the level of the current Health Insurance Fund (HIF) or its equivalent. The Township reserves the right to change the insurance carriers, including, but not limited, to a private plan, the creation of a self –insurance program or participation in a State Health Benefits, as long as the carrier provides benefits that are equivalent to the benefits provided. Employees shall continue to pay a premium contribution in the amounts contained at tier four of Chapter 78, even if Chapter 78 sunsets.

During the term of this contract, the Township shall continue to provide a dental insurance. The Township reserves the right to change the insurance carriers, including, but not limited, to a private plan, the creation of a self –insurance program or participation in a State Health Benefits, as long as the carrier provides benefits that are equivalent to the benefits provided. Employees shall continue to pay a premium contribution in the amounts contained at tier four of Chapter 78, even if Chapter 78 sunsets.

- B. Life Insurance. Contributory life insurance is available for full-time employees through the Public's Employees' Retirement System. Township shall not bear any cost for life insurance.
- C. Colonial Life Insurance and Accident Insurance. This policy is available through an employee payroll deduction at no cost to Township.
- D. Pension. Membership in the Public Employee's Retirement System is required as a condition of employment. Information pertaining to this plan is available in the Finance Office.
- E. Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan is available through an employee payroll deduction. Information pertaining to the plan is available in the Finance Office.
- F. Insurance Contribution. The members of the bargaining unit agree to contribute a percentage towards their health care plan coverage as required by New Jersey Law.

Payment will be divided each pay period equally.

- G. Management Right. Management reserves the right to identify and choose medical and prescription plans on an annual basis that provide the greatest value to the Township taxpayers.

ARTICLE 18- EMPLOYEE'S EXPENSES

1. All employees shall be compensated at the appropriate Internal Revenue Service (IRS) mileage reimbursement rate during any given year of this Agreement when required to use their vehicle on authorized Township business. They shall be compensated for all tolls and parking fees.
2. Reimbursement shall be made to any employee for expenses incurred for attendance at professional activities or for membership in such organizations which pertain only to Township business and only if approved in advance by the Township Committee. Reimbursement shall not be for any lodging expenses unless expressly authorized in advance by the Township Committee.
3. Attendance at professional conferences and seminars and conferences must be required in writing and approval by the Department Head, Township Administrator and the Township Committee.
4. Entertainment and food expenses will not be reimbursed.
5. Public Works Department employees will be furnished work uniforms and will be allowed a reimbursement, upon proof of receipt, of up to \$500.00 per year, for the purchase of work boots and for the purchase of work pants. All purchases to be eligible for reimbursement must meet the Township's standards, policies and meet the safety requirements- if not, the reimbursement may be rejected for that particular item. Employees shall be required to wear said uniforms and work boots during work hours. To receive reimbursement, receipts must be submitted to the Finance Department within thirty (30) days of purchase. There shall also be no reimbursement for receipts submitted after November 1 in a calendar year.

ARTICLE 19- WORKER'S COMPENSATION

- A. Employees disabled with job-related injuries and unable to work shall apply for worker's compensation benefits. Employees may offset reductions in pay through the use of sick time. If the employee does not have any sick time available, he or she may utilize vacation or personal time accrued as of the date of the injury. Management reserves the right at such times and under such circumstances as are reasonable to require a person covered under the provisions set forth herein to undergo a medical examination by a physician of the Township's choosing. When said physician determines that an employee may return to work, the employee shall return to work.
- B. Employees injured on the job, shall report it immediately to their Department Head and/ or Supervisor and complete an accident report form provided by the Finance Office. The Department Head and/or Supervisor shall immediately report same to the Township's Safety Coordinator. All injuries, including minor injuries not requiring medical attention, shall be reported by the employee to their Department Head or immediate Supervisor.
- C. The hospital and/ or physician providing treatment attending the injury shall be advised that it is a job-related injury covered by worker's compensation.
- D. Transitional Duty. Employees are subject to the Transitional Duty Policy adopted by the Township by resolution 2015-5-108 and as may be amended.

ARTICLE 20- SALARIES

- A. The schedule attached as Exhibit “A” shall reflect the salaries of employees covered by this Agreement for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026.
- B. The Township will provide a \$1,000 stipend to the employee who is designated by the Township Administrator and/or his/her designee to perform township recreational duties each year.

ARTICLE 21- PAY PERIOD

- A. All employees covered under this Agreement shall be paid on a Thursday every two weeks.
- B. Regular Pay shall be on a Thursday every two weeks. When the regular pay day occurs on a holiday, the Township shall pay employees on the regular work day immediately preceding the holiday.
- C. Employees are required to utilize direct deposit per Ordinance 2015-02-02

ARTICLE 22- PERSONAL RECORDS, CREDIT REFERENCES AND DRUG TESTING

- A. Official personnel history files are confidential records. No unauthorized employee shall have access to any other employee's personnel records or be informed of any information contained therein.
- B. An employee is expected to notify the Chief Financial Officer of any revisions of any personal information, including change of name, address, telephone number, marital status, insurance beneficiary or number of dependents.
- C. The Township will furnish credit information on employees to authorized persons only upon a written request, signed by the employee, setting forth what information should be released and upon receipt of a written request from the party desiring such information.
- D. All employees that operate Township equipment or vehicles which are involved in an accident shall submit to drug and alcohol screening within three (3) hours of the accident. All potential employees shall submit to drug and alcohol screening and successful passage of the same as a condition of employment. In addition to the above requirements, any employee with a Commercial Driver's License shall be required to submit to drug and alcohol screening as required by State and/or Federal law to maintain such a license.

ARTICLE 23- COMPENSATION AND APPOINTMENTS

On file in the Clerk's Office is the current salary ordinance and resolution. Persons are hired, appointed or promoted in positions as follows:

- A. All employees of the Township, except police officers or otherwise provided by law, shall be appointed and promoted by the Township Committee after receiving a **recommendation** for same from the respective Department Head and/or Supervisor and the Township Administrator.
- B. Original appointments to fill vacancies or for new/positions shall be limited to qualified persons, who have been interviewed and/or tested concerning education, experience, aptitude, knowledge, character, physical and mental fitness, and any other relevant factors.
- C. Provided they are highly qualified for the position for which they have applied, preference shall be given in appointments to vacancies to seniority and residents of the township at the time of the appointment.
- D. Except when provided by law, every person appointed to a new position shall be deemed to be on probation in the position to which he/she have been appointed for a period of one year, but this time period may be shorted on the recommendation of the Department Head with the consent of the governing body but to not less than six months. Such probation shall not affect permanent status of any other Township employment that such persons may have achieved. Prior to his/her completion of the probationary period, the employee shall be evaluated by the Department Head to determine whether he/she shall be granted permanent status or dismissed. The Township Committee may require reports and recommendations from the immediate supervisors and Department Heads for this purpose.

ARTICLE 24- SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

- A. An employee may resign in good standing by submitting a written notice to the Township Administrator at least two weeks in advance before the effective date of his/her resignation. Department Heads and/or individuals in supervisory positions shall give at least one (1) month notice, if possible, before the effective date of his/her resignation.
- B. An oral resignation will be considered binding but will not constitute a resignation in good standing.
- C. All employees who are eligible for retirement under the Public Employees Retirement System and who considering such retirement from the township must notify their respective Department Head in writing, who in turn must notify the Department Head no later than November 15th of the year prior to the retirement becoming effective in order to receive severance benefits in the following calendar year. If notification occurs after November 15th, benefits due will not be paid during the following calendar year for budgetary reasons.
- D. In the event of layoffs, an employee's hiring date will be used to determine the order in which employees will be separated from employment from the municipality.

ARTICLE 25- GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. MERITORIOUS ACTIONS- The Township agrees to recognize and encourage meritorious actions on the part of its employees. To this end, letters of commendation concerning Township employees from their Supervisors and from members of the public with whom they deal, shall be directed to the attention of the Department Head, and then recorded in the employee's personnel file. In addition, the Department Head, Administrator or Township Committee may on their own, commend the work of particular employee and cause such commendation to be inserted into the employee's personnel file.
- B. LABOR AGREEMENT DISTRIBUTION- Management shall distribute Labor Agreements to all new employees during the life of the Agreement.
- C. UNION ACTIVITIES ON EMPLOYER'S TIME – The Township agrees to grant to the chairperson/steward designated by the Union, up to the equivalent of one (1) day paid each year for the purpose of the Union business, and/or for the attendance at the convention. Such time must be requested at least two (2) weeks in advance and be granted by the Township Administrator after consultation with the Department Head to ensure no breakdown of the Township's operations.

ARTICLE 26- SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

In the event that any Federal or State Legislation, Governmental Regulation or Court Decision causes invalidation of any Article or Section of this Agreement, all other Articles and Sections not so invalidated shall remain in full force and effect, and the parties shall renegotiate concerning such invalidated provision.

ARTICLE 27- DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This agreement shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. This Agreement shall be subject to renegotiations by both parties under the terms and conditions as specified by the State of New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect during the period of negotiations for a successor Agreement.

TOWNSHIP OF LUMBERTON

By: 
Terrance Benson, Mayor
Township of Lumberton

Adopted: 
Bobbie Quinn, RMC
Township Clerk

AFSCME NJ COUNCIL 63

Attest: 



Attest: _____

EXHIBIT "A"

AFSCME Union

Last Name	First Name	Position	Hire Date	Years on Job	Years in position	Age	Salary/Hourly Rate	2024 Increase	2024 Rate/Salary	2025 Increase	2025 Rate/Salary	2026 Increase	2026 Rate/Salary	Comments
Avery	Reinhold	Crossing Guard	3/24/2021	2	0	65	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Don	Donnell	Crossing Guard	2/13/2018	5	0	71	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Gibbs	James	Crossing Guard	6/19/2022	0	0	64	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Johnson	James	Crossing Guard	7/1/2013	10	0	64	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Nelson	Phyllis	Crossing Guard	7/1/2013	12	0	87	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Pedroza	Frederick	Crossing Guard	7/1/2013	12	0	68	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Powell	Paula	Crossing Guard	10/13/2015	7	0	62	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Zwerdt	Marion	Crossing Guard	10/24/2011	13	0	63	\$ 16.54	\$ 0.33	\$ 16.87	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.21	\$ 0.34	\$ 17.55	2% Increase
Williams-Schaller	Clairie	Vital Records Clerk	10/26/2016	6	0	60	\$ 14.93	\$ 0.37	\$ 15.30	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.80	\$ 0.50	\$ 16.30	2% Increase
Rizzo-Freeman	Vicky	AFSCME Representation Specialist	9/10/2007	15	23	64	\$ 1,000.00	remains same						\$1,000 + 2% added to base in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Rizzo-Freeman	Vicky	Escrow Clerk	9/10/2007	15	23	64	\$ 1,000.00	remains same						2% each year: \$1,500 added to base salary after completion of each Court Class; \$1,500 added to base salary after exam is passed and certified.
Wiley	Keith	Welding Stipend	1/13/2017	6	6	53	\$ 5,520.00	\$ 1,130.40	\$ 6,650.40	\$ 133.01	\$ 6,783.41	\$ 135.67	\$ 6,919.08	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Brizak	Ginelle	Deputy Court Administrator	4/1/2013	0	0	47	\$ 741.48	\$ 741.48	\$ 756.31	\$ 756.31	\$ 771.44	\$ 771.44	\$ 786.57	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
McPeak	Cody	Driver/Laborer	3/22/1978	45	44	68	\$ 70,690.00	\$ 1,529.80	\$ 72,219.80	\$ 1,560.40	\$ 73,780.20	\$ 1,591.60	\$ 75,371.80	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Marion	Garrett	Driver/Laborer	6/25/1996	26	25	44	\$ 60,812.00	\$ 7,345.34	\$ 68,157.34	\$ 1,363.07	\$ 69,520.41	\$ 1,390.33	\$ 70,910.73	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Allen	William	Driver/Laborer	11/6/2002	20	20	51	\$ 56,630.00	\$ 7,221.80	\$ 63,851.80	\$ 1,277.45	\$ 65,129.25	\$ 1,303.21	\$ 66,432.46	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Brain	Steven	Driver/Laborer	9/21/2004	18	18	41	\$ 53,132.00	\$ 7,192.64	\$ 60,324.64	\$ 1,206.29	\$ 61,530.93	\$ 1,230.42	\$ 62,751.35	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Bute	Daniel	Driver/Laborer	9/22/2014	8	16	53	\$ 44,381.00	\$ 7,000.94	\$ 51,381.94	\$ 1,200.96	\$ 52,582.90	\$ 1,241.38	\$ 53,824.28	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Criston	Kyle	Driver/Laborer	10/11/2016	6	9	30	\$ 43,234.00	\$ 6,964.68	\$ 50,198.68	\$ 1,004.37	\$ 51,203.05	\$ 1,024.46	\$ 52,227.51	\$6,000 added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Vanden	Hunter	Laborer	12/2/2021	1	1	22	\$ 43,234.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 49,234.00	\$ 984.68	\$ 50,218.68	\$ 1,004.37	\$ 51,223.05	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Grimes	Robert	Lead Mechanic	12/23/2003	19	19	47	\$ 80,111.00	\$ 7,723.48	\$ 87,834.48	\$ 1,757.95	\$ 89,592.43	\$ 1,793.11	\$ 91,385.54	\$6,000 + 2% added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Wiley	Keith	Mechanic	1/3/2017	6	6	53	\$ 58,909.00	\$ 7,298.18	\$ 66,207.18	\$ 1,324.14	\$ 67,531.32	\$ 1,350.63	\$ 68,881.95	2% Increase Yearly
Gerber	Suzan	Police Administrative Assistant	5/26/2010	7	8	36	\$ 40,400.00	\$ 802.80	\$ 41,202.80	\$ 818.86	\$ 42,021.66	\$ 835.23	\$ 42,856.89	2% Increase Yearly
Perkins	John	Police Administrative Assistant	11/10/2019	3	5	41	\$ 40,400.00	\$ 802.80	\$ 41,202.80	\$ 818.86	\$ 42,021.66	\$ 835.23	\$ 42,856.89	2% Increase Yearly
Rizzo-Freeman	Vicky	Pay Clerk	5/10/2007	15	23	64	\$ 20,111.00	\$ 6,594.00	\$ 26,705.00	\$ 948.40	\$ 27,653.40	\$ 957.17	\$ 28,610.57	\$6,000 added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Brown	Eurt	Laborer	5/18/2023	0	0	28	\$ 17,811.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 23,811.00	\$ 279.04	\$ 24,090.04	\$ 896.62	\$ 24,986.66	\$6,000 added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026
Venue	Aaron	Laborer	5/18/2023	0	0	38	\$ 43,234.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 49,234.00	\$ 984.68	\$ 50,218.68	\$ 1,004.37	\$ 51,223.05	\$6,000 added to base salary in 2024; 2% for 2025 & 2026

Scaling Salary for public works in 2024, 2025, and 2026