



AGREEMENT BETWEEN

Raritan Township And

Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (Local 1040)

Non-Supervisory

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027

CWA Local 1040, AFL-CIO
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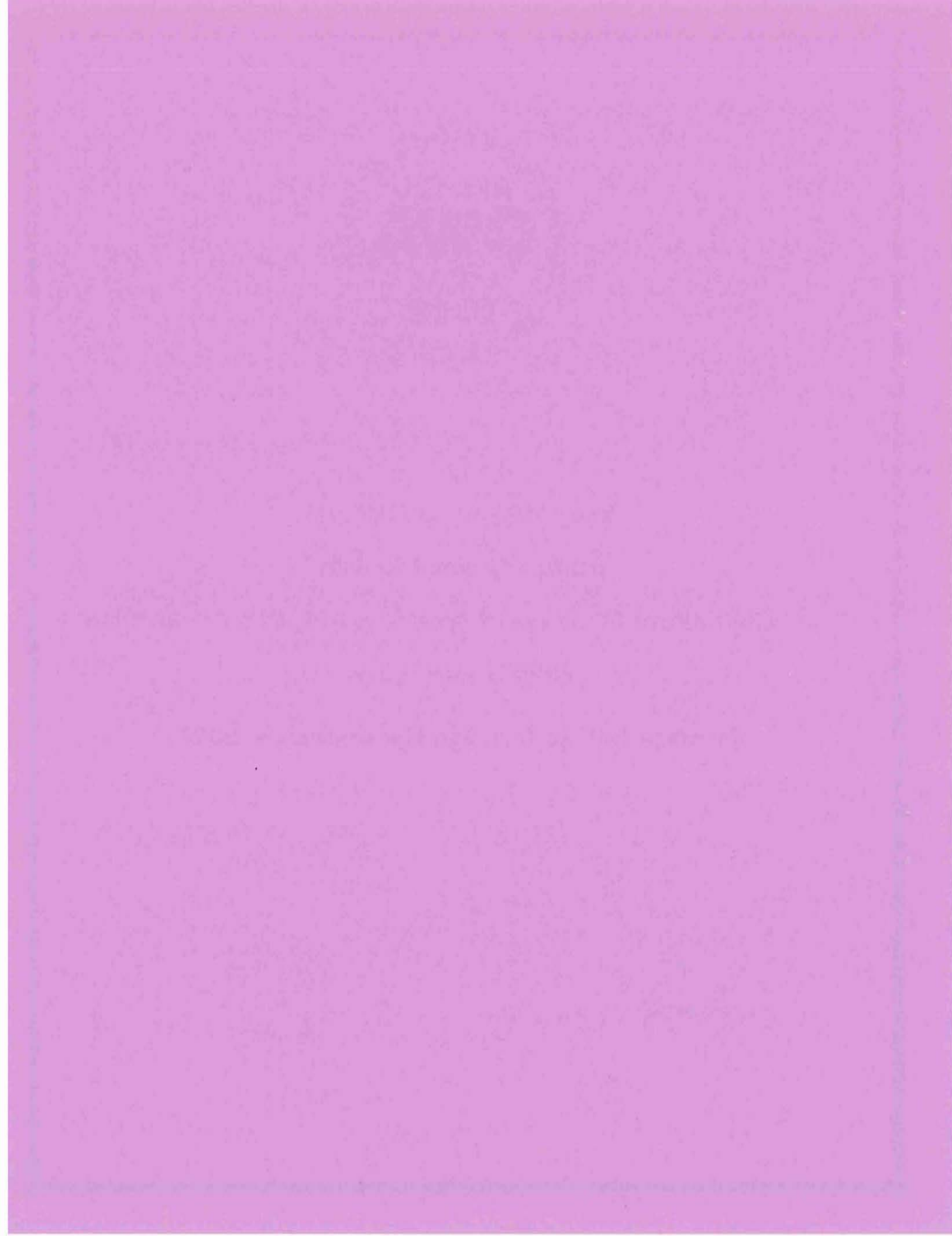


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PREAMBLE

This Agreement, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 for a period of three years is entered into by and between the Township of Raritan (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer") and the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, (hereinafter referred to as the "Union").

The purpose of this Agreement Is to promote harmonious relations between the Employer and the Union, the establishment of an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences, establishment of rates of pay, hours of work, and other conditions of employment.

The Township and the Union agree that verbal and/or physical harassment of an employee is inappropriate.

The Union agrees to distribute this Agreement to all members of the Bargaining Unit.

P.E.R.C. certified CWA Local 1040 as the exclusive bargaining agent for the members of this bargaining unit on July 18, 2007.

ARTICLE 1
RECOGNITION

A In accordance with the certification by the State of New Jersey, Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), Docket Number RO-2007-083, the Employer recognizes the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO as the exclusive collective negotiation agent for all full-time and regularly employed part-time non-supervisory employees serving in the following titles:

Administrative Secretary
Animal Control Officer
Assessing Clerk
Assistant Office Manager (Police Department)
Assistant Treasurer
Building Inspector
Civilian Police Desk Operator
Clerk Typist
Communications Coordinator
Construction Control Person
Construction Office Coordinator/Secretary
Court Clerk
Custodian
Deputy Court Administrator
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics
Electrical Inspector
Engineering Aide/Inspector
Executive Secretary
Fire Prevention Inspector
Office Manager (Police Department)
Planner's Assistant
Planning Board Secretary
Plumbing Inspector
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Senior Engineering Assistant Tax Clerk
Technical Assistant to Construction Official (TACO)
Violations Clerk
Zoning/Property Code inspector
Zoning/Planning Assistant

B. All Managerial Executives, Confidential Employees, and Supervisors within the Meaning of the Act: Casual Employees, Craft Employees, Police Professional Employees, Employees Represented in Other Negotiations Units, Deputy Clerk/Board of Health Secretary, Electrical, Building and Plumbing Sub-Code Officials, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, and All Other Employees of the Employer are Excluded from this bargaining Unit.

C. In the event that the Employer decides to create and/or use a new title, that title shall be added to this bargaining unit unless it is clearly that of a supervisory, managerial, or confidential nature. If the Employer creates a new position, prior to filling it, the Employer shall notify the Union of the Employers' views concerning inclusion or exclusion in the negotiation unit, and, if included in the unit, the salary range that the Employer intends to assign to the position. If the Union disagrees, within two (2) weeks after the Union's receipt of the Employer's notification, the Union may advise of its intent to negotiate. Any dispute as to inclusion or exclusion (i.e., unit composition), if not resolved through face-to-face negotiations, may be submitted to the Public Employment Relations Commission, (PERC) for disposition pursuant to clarification of unit proceedings. Any dispute as to the salary range to be assigned to the position, if not resolved through face-to-face negotiations, may be submitted to PERC for disposition pursuant to impasse procedures (i.e., mediation and fact-finding).

D. If the Union, at any time, wishes to advise the Employer of its views regarding the creation or abolition of positions or the criteria governing the filling of positions or any non-negotiable subjects pertaining to managerial prerogatives in the area of hiring, staffing, and the like, the Union may write to the Employer in care of the Township Administrator. The Employer shall review the Union's written input, and if the Employer deems it appropriate, shall invite the Union representatives to discuss the matter at an Employer meeting.

E. The Employer agrees to send written notification to the Union of all new bargaining unit employees. This information shall include but not be limited to the name, date of birth, last four (4) digits of the social security number, and the department, date of hire, work location, title, salary and home address. This information will be transmitted no later than three (3) weeks from the date of hire.

F. The Employer agrees to provide the designated person of the Union on a semi- annual basis a complete up to-date listing of all Employees covered by this Agreement together with their name, department, work location, job title, salary, and home address as they appear on the records of the Employer. Such list shall also include the dues deduction status for each employee.

ARTICLE 2
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 Constitutions of the State of New Jersey and of the Unites States, including but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:

1. The executive management and administrative control of the Township Government its properties and facilities and activities of its Employees, utilizing personnel methods and means of the most appropriate and efficient manner possible as may from time to time be determined by the Township.
2. To make rules of procedure and conduct, to use improved methods and equipment, to determine 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.
3. The right of management to make such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem best for the purposes of maintaining order, safety and/or effective operation of the Township after advance notice thereof to the employees.
4. To hire all Employees, to promote, transfer, assign, or retain Employees in positions within the Township.
5. To suspend, demote, discharge, or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against any Employee for good and just cause according to law.
6. To lay off Employees.
7. The Township reserves the right with regard to all other conditions of employment not reserved to make such changes as it deems desirable and necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Township.

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

C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Township of its right, responsibility and authority under N.J.S.A. 40A:1-1 et. seq. or any other national, state, county, or local law or regulations.

ARTICLE 3
DUES AND REPRESENTATION FEE CHECK OFF

A. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-15e, the Employer, upon receipt of a duly executed authorization-assignment form acceptable to the Employer, agrees to deduct from each pay period, the established Union dues. It is further agreed that the Employer, in accordance with NJSA 52:14-15e, shall remit such deduction to the Union prior to the tenth (10th) working day of the month following the month for which such deduction was made. The Employer shall remit dues to the Union, c/o Secretary-Treasurer, Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, 501 Third Street, NW, Washington DC 20001-2797 together with a report, in computer readable format containing the following data:

1. Employee Name: Last, First Middle Initial
2. Last four digits of the Social Security Number
3. Employee home address (including zip code)
4. CWA Local Number
5. Work Location
6. Dues deduction this reporting period
7. Gross weekly base wage
8. Full or Part time status
9. Gender

8. A copy of the report listing shall also be sent to the Local President. Dues shall be as established by the Union based on a thirty-five (35) or forty (40) hour work week, whichever is appropriate or such other amount as may be certified to the Employer by the Union at least thirty (30) days prior to the month in which the deduction of Union dues is to be made.

C. The Union shall indemnify, defend, and save the Employer harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of any of the above deductions.

D. The Employer further agrees to deduct, upon receipt of a duly executed authorization, Communications Workers of America Committee on Political Education (COPE) contributions and remit to the Union.

E. The Township shall have no other obligation or liability, financial or otherwise (other than set forth herein), because of the actions arising out of

the understanding expressed in the language of this Article. Once the funds deducted are remitted to the Union, the disposition of such funds thereafter shall be the sole and exclusive obligation and responsibility of the Union.

F. The Union shall indemnify and save the Township harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability including reasonable legal and/or representation fees resulting from any of the provisions of this Article or in reliance on any list, notice or assignment under this Article.

ARTICLE 4
UNION ACTIVITIES ON THE WORKSITE

A. The Union shall have the right to distribute information dealing with proper legitimate Union business to Employee's desks during non-working hours (i.e., lunch, break time, and before/after work). In addition, the Union shall provide a bulletin board, which the Township shall install; for the purpose of posting materials relating to Union matters, which materials shall be signed and dated by an appropriate Union representative. No posting shall be allowed in any other location, and improper postings, including those of defamatory or derogatory nature, may be removed by the Employer.

8. The Union shall be allocated a reasonable space for the accumulation and use of literature and resources (Management agrees to allow the Union to have a locked filing cabinet with the following stipulations: Management has the discretion to determine where the cabinet is placed, if the cabinet has to be moved the Union is responsible for moving it, Management shall not be held responsible for the cabinet and its security) pertaining to Union business provided that such space is available.

C. Monthly Union meetings may be held on the premises at lunch hour. Location of these meetings shall be a conference room in the Municipal Building, if available. Special Union meetings may be called and may be held during the lunch hours on the premises. All meetings, whether special or monthly, held during working hours shall not be held without prior consent being given by the Employer.

D. The Local Union shall have access to the worksite to investigate grievances, disciplinary appeals, and attend worksite Union meetings. The Local Union representative will give notice and obtain approval from the Employer prior to his/her arrival. All reasonable requests will be granted by the Employer.

ARTICLE 5
LEAVE FOR UNION ACTIVITIES

A. Union Delegates shall be afforded leave without loss of regular straight time pay to attend conferences, meetings, conventions, and training not to exceed an aggregate total of five (5) days in a calendar year as a total for all such delegates collectively.

B. Written notice from the Union of the authorization of delegates to utilize such leave time shall be provided to the Employer at least two (2) weeks in advance of the dates of such proposed absences and is subject to the approval of the Employer.

C. Leave shall not be granted to more than one (1) Employee at a time who is authorized by the President or the Executive Board of the Union and shall be limited to an aggregate total of five (5) days of paid leave in a calendar year as the total for all Union delegates collectively.

D. Absences due to Union leave approved under this Article shall not adversely affect employment, pay status, or evaluations.

E. There shall be no loss of pay for Employees for time spent as either a grievant, witness, or Union representative, or Union recorder in any of the following proceedings:

1. All disciplinary meetings or hearings
2. The grievance procedure which includes arbitration
3. Departmental Hearings
4. Unfair Labor Practice Matters
5. NJ Public Employee Relations Commission Proceedings
6. Agreement Negotiations (to include meetings with the Employer, mediation, and fact-finding)

ARTICLE 6
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose:

1. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment. The parties agree that this procedure shall be kept as informal as may be appropriate.

2. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any Employee to discuss a matter informally with an appropriate member of the Administration and have the grievance adjusted without the intervention of the Union.

3. This constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement.

B. Definitions: The term "grievance" shall mean an allegation that there has been:

1. A misinterpretation or misapplication of the terms of this Agreement which is subject to the Grievance Procedure outlined herein and shall be hereinafter referred to as a "contractual grievance"; or

2. The term "Employee" or "Grievant" as used in this article shall also mean a group of Employees with a grievance, or the Union.

3. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as permitting negotiation of the standards or criteria for Employees' performance.

C. Presentation of Grievance:

1. The Employer agrees that in the presentation of a grievance, there shall be no loss of pay for the time spent in presenting the

grievance by the Grievant, a Union representative, and a Union recorder, both of whom shall be an Employee of the Employer.

D. Grievance Procedure:

1. Step 1:

Any Grievant and his/her union Shop Steward shall present the Employee's written grievance within ten (10) working days of its occurrence, or within ten (10) working days after he/she would reasonably be expected to have known of its occurrence, to the appropriate Supervisor. Failure to act within said ten (10) working days shall constitute an abandonment of the grievance. The Supervisor may schedule a meeting in ten (10) working days from the date of presentation and answer in writing within ten (10) working days of the meeting or answer in writing within ten (10) working days of presentation, if no meeting is held.

Step 1 may be waived by mutual agreement between the parties.

2. Step 2:

If the grievance is not settled through Step 1, the same shall be presented in writing, (with a copy of the original grievance and all supportive documentation), by the Employee and the Employee's Union representative, who is a Shop Steward or a Local union Officer, to the Department Head within ten (10) working days of the written response from Step 1. The Department Head may schedule a meeting in ten (10) working days from the date of presentation and answer in writing within ten (10) working days of presentation, if no meeting is held.

3. Step 3:

- a) Should the Grievant disagree with the decision of the Department Head the Grievant may within ten (10) working days of receipt of the

written decision, submit to the Township Administrator, or its designee, with all supportive documentation. The Grievant may be represented by a Local Union Officer, the International Union Representative, or both. The Township Administrator may schedule a meeting in ten (10) working days from the date of presentation and answer in writing within ten (10) working days of the meeting or answer in writing within ten (10) working days of presentation, if no meeting is held. If the Township Administrator fails to answer or respond to the grievance, it shall be considered a denial of the grievance. The Union may appeal the grievance in accordance with the procedures outlined in Step 4 of this Article. If the Township Administrator's decision involves a non-contractual grievance, the decision shall be final.

- b) Another organization shall not present or process a grievance.

4. Step 4:

- a) If no settlement of the grievance has been reached between the parties, Arbitration may be brought only by the Union or the Township. The Union or the Township must file the request for arbitration within thirty (30) calendar days after the receipt of the Step 3 decision.
- b) Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as compelling the Union to submit a grievance to arbitration or to represent an Employee before the Employer. The Union's decision to request a movement of a grievance to arbitration or to terminate the grievance prior to submission to arbitration shall be final to the interests of the Grievant and the Union.
- c) In the spirit of settlement, no arbitration proceeding shall be held for at least thirty (30) days after the Township Administrator's decision.

- d) Should the Union wish to move a grievance to arbitration, the parties may have the option of selecting an arbitrator as follows:
 - (1) By selection from the panel of arbitrators maintained by PERC, in accordance with the selection procedures of PERC.
- e) The arbitrator shall hear the matter on the evidence and within the meaning of this agreement and/or such rules and regulations as may be in effect by PERC.
- f) The arbitrator shall have full power to hear the grievance and make a decision, which decision, shall neither modify, add to, nor subtract from the terms of the Agreement and the referenced policies. He/she shall confine himself/herself to the precise issue submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted to him/her, nor shall he/she submit observations or declaration of opinions which are not essential in reaching the determination. The decision shall be rendered within thirty (30) working days of the hearing. Only one (1) issue may be submitted per arbitrator unless the parties agree otherwise.
- g) The cost of the arbitrator and his/her expenses shall be borne equally by both parties. Any other expenses incurred in connection with the arbitration shall be paid by the party incurring the same.
- h) The cost of the transcript, if any, shall be borne by the party requesting it. If both parties request a transcript the cost shall be shared equally.
- i) The arbitrator may prescribe an appropriate back pay remedy when he/she finds a violation of this Agreement, provided such a remedy is permitted by law and is consistent with the terms of this Agreement, except that he/she may not make an award that exceeds the Employer's authority. The arbitrator shall have no authority to prescribe a monetary award as a penalty for a violation of this

Agreement.

- j) The decision or award of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on the Employer, the Union, and the grievant or grievants to the extent permitted by and in accordance with applicable law and this agreement.
- k) There shall be no loss of pay for Employees for time spent either as a Grievant, Witness, or Union Steward in any step of the Grievance Procedure.
- l) Employee grievances shall be presented on prepared forms. The Grievance Procedure as defined herein, shall be strictly adhered to. Time limits may be waived only by mutual consent of the parties in writing. It is understood that Employees must sign their individual grievances.
- m) Grievance resolutions of decisions at Steps 1 through 3 shall not constitute a precedent in any arbitration or other proceeding unless a specific agreement to that effect is made by the authorized representatives of both parties. This is not to be construed as limiting the right of either party to introduce relevant evidence, including such grievance resolution, as to prior conduct of the other party.

ARTICLE 7
DISCIPLINE FOR CAUSE

A. The parties agree that nothing herein shall in any way prohibit the Township from discharging or otherwise disciplining any Employee covered by the Agreement, regardless of seniority, for just cause. Notice of discharge or suspension shall be served upon the Union at the same time it is served upon the Employee Involved. Discipline notices shall clearly state the nature of the discipline and will be sent to the Local Union when served to the employee.

B. In the event that an Employee feels that he/she has been discharged or disciplined unjustly, said Employee or the Union, shall have the right to file a grievance, which must be in writing with the Township within ten (10) working days from the time the discharge or discipline is served upon both the Employee and the Local Union. Discipline Grievances shall be initiated at Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure as herein provided with a hearing convened within ten (10) working days. Discharge Grievances shall be initiated at Step 3 of the Grievance Procedure as herein provided with a hearing convened within ten (10) working days. If no grievance is filed within the time period specified, then said discharge or discipline shall be deemed to be absolute unless such time period is extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

ARTICLE 8
PERSONNEL FILES

- A. All Employees shall have the right to see all documents in their personnel file.
- B. All Employees shall be permitted to have a copy of any documents in their personnel file.
- C. Employees shall be given copies of all formal disciplinary notices, and work performance documents placed in their file at the time the document is so placed. Prior to placement of any formal disciplinary notice, the Employee shall be first given the opportunity to initial same. Such initialing shall not indicate anything other than the Employee's receipt of the formal disciplinary notice. The Employee shall be given the opportunity to indicate that they have read the contents of the document. Upon written release from an Employee, a Union Representative may see and copy documents in the Employee's file.
- D. Employees shall have the right to respond in writing to anything placed in their file.

ARTICLE 9

SENIORITY

A. Seniority is defined to mean the accumulated length of continued service with the Township of Raritan. It shall be computed from the first date of hire. Seniority shall not be reduced by the time lost to authorized leave of absence or absence for a bona fide illness or injury certified by a treating physician not in excess of one (1) continuous year. Seniority shall be lost and employment terminated if any of the following occur:

1. Discharge;
2. Resignation;
3. Failure to return promptly upon expiration of authorized leave;
4. Absence of five (5) consecutive working days without leave or notice;
5. Engaging in any other employment during a period of leave;
Vacation and Compensatory time shall be excluded;
6. Absence for illness or injury for more than one (1) continuous year; and
7. Layoff for longer than two (2) continuous years

B. The seniority list shall be initialed by the Union and the Township prior to it being posted, annually.

C. If a question arises concerning two or more Employees subject to this Agreement that are hired on the same date, preference shall be given through a coin toss.

D. The Township shall maintain an accurate, up-to-date seniority roster showing each Employee's date of permanent classification and pay rate. Said list will be furnished to the Union upon request.

E. In all cases of non-disciplinary demotion, layoff, recall, or promotion the length of continuous service with the Employer will be a factor considered. In each instance, a determining factor shall be prior job performance, ability, and necessary qualifications to perform the particular job.

F. In determining promotions **all** cases of promotions seniority shall be one (1) factor considered by the Employer.

ARTICLE 10
LAYOFF AND RECALL

- A. The following procedure shall apply in the event that the Employer reduces its workforce due to layoff, elimination of position, consolidation of position, reorganization of a department or reduction in hours of a position:
1. Employees shall be laid off in inverse order of seniority, regardless of classification, provided that the remaining Employees are qualified or can qualify within the ninety (90) calendar days period to perform the work to be done.
 2. Ninety (90) calendar days' notice will be given to Employees with regard to an impending layoff, except in case of emergency.
 3. A laid off Employee shall have preference for re-employment for a period of two (2) years.
 4. The Township shall re-hire laid off Employees in the order of greatest employment seniority, provided Employees then qualified or can qualify to perform the work available within a ninety (90) calendar day period.
 5. All former Employees on the special re-employment list must be offered positions first, before the Employer will offer employment to individuals who have never been employed by the Township.
 6. Registered or certified and regular mail notification of re-employment will be sent to laid-off Employees, at their last known address. The Employee must respond to the Township within ten (10) days of signing for the registered or certified mail or no more than fifteen (15) days of mailing the notification, if no signature is returned.
 7. It shall be the Employee's obligation to notify the Employer of any changes in his/her mailing address during the two (2) year re-employment period.
- B. Pay off options for laid off Employees shall be as follows, subject to statutory limits:
1. A laid off Employee, shall be paid for their accumulated sick

leave at the rate of twenty-five (25%) percent maximum of two hundred (200) unused sick days in a monetary payment upon separation from the Employer.

2. Vacation and personal time shall be prorated for the calendar year in the event of a layoff.

C. Outsourcing of Bargaining Unit Work

During the term of this Agreement, if the Employer decides or determines the need to contract out or sub-contract work normally performed by Employees covered by this Agreement and such action may result in possible layoffs or demotions, the Employer at the request of the Union, in writing, will meet to provide the Union an opportunity to demonstrate if bargaining unit Employees can perform the work more efficiently or if alternative viable options exist to lessen the impact of potential layoffs or demotions. The Employer will provide reasonable advance notice of ninety days prior to the intended action of contracting out or sub-contracting out of bargaining unit work.

In the event the Township disagrees with the Bargaining Unit analysis related to performing the work more efficiently, the Township decision shall become final. The Bargaining Unit shall not be permitted to file a grievance or seek arbitration related to any decision associated with Section C of this Article.

ARTICLE 11
HOLIDAYS

A. The following paid holidays shall be observed:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Juneteenth (Floating Holiday)
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
General Election Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Floating Holiday

B. Whenever such holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be the holiday, and when any such holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be the holiday. A 'Floating Holiday' must be scheduled in advance and receive the approval of the department head.

C. Employees who do not work on an observed holiday shall receive their regular rate of daily pay.

D. Employees who are required to work on an observed holiday will be paid one and one half (1 ½) of the Employee's regular base rate in addition to the Employee's straight time holiday pay.

E. Employees shall have the option to swap for another day in connection with a listed holiday if everyone agrees to take that day, upon request and approval of the Township Committee.

ARTICLE 12
SICK LEAVE

A. Definition:

Sick leave is hereby defined to mean the absence of an Employee from post or duty for the following reasons:

- For physical/mental illness or wellness care
- To recover from an injury
- To cope with domestic/sexual violence
- To attend a child's school-related meeting, conference or event when requested by the school
- To care for children when school or childcare is closed due to an epidemic or public health emergency
- To care for any other immediate family member who is seriously ill.

B. Immediate family for the purposes of this article shall mean mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, child, stepchild, kinship/legal guardianship, stepparent, parent of spouse, and domestic partner.

C. All new employees, including probationary employees, shall be granted sick leave with pay of one (1) working day for every month of service during the remainder of the first calendar year of service and twelve (12) working days in every calendar year thereafter. Annual sick time allowances are posted on January 1 of each calendar year and reflect the number of days an employee would accrue in that calendar year.

D. All part-time employees will accrue one (1) hour of sick leave per thirty (30) hours worked, up to forty (40) hours per benefit year.

E. Any amount of sick leave not used in any calendar year shall accumulate to the Employee's credit from year to year to be used if and when needed.

F. If an Employee is absent for more than three (3) consecutive working days for any of the reasons set forth in Section A of the Article, the Employer shall require acceptable medical evidence in the form prescribed. The nature of the illness shall be stated on the treating physician's certificate unless it is

confidential between the treating physician and the Employee. In this event, the treating physician must give a certificate to return to work.

G. The Township may require for any Employee who has been absent because of personal illness, as a condition of his/her return to work, to be examined by a physician at the expense of the Township.

H. If an Employee's request for sick leave is not approved, the time involved during which the Employee was absent shall be charged to his/her vacation credit, if and otherwise, he/she will suffer loss of pay for such time.

I. The abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action and may constitute justifiable cause for dismissal.

J. In order to receive compensation while absent on sick leave, an Employee shall report his/her absence prior to the start of the working shift, except where emergent circumstances prevent the Employee from doing so. In those instances, the Employee shall report his/her absence to the immediate supervisor by telephone or personal message. Failure to notify the Employee's immediate supervisor may be cause of denial of the use of sick time for that absence and constitute cause for disciplinary action.

K. There will be a buy-back option at the end of each year of twenty (20) days at twenty-five percent (25%) of the applicable per diem rate of pay. Buy-back requests shall be submitted by December 1. Employees will submit the buy-back option request to the Township Administrator and the Administrator shall in turn notify the Employee when the buy-back payment will be paid to the Employee. Only those full-time employees hired before January 1, 2020 shall be eligible for sick time buyout set forth in this section.

L. Permanent Employees who become pregnant are entitled to continue their employment as long as they are able to perform their duties. Maternity leaves shall commence and end with written certification from the Employee's physician regarding the ability to work. The Township Committee has the authority to grant extensions of paid leave and shall be in accordance with past practice.

M. In the event that an Employee uses all sick leave currently accumulated,

the Employee may request an extension of paid sick leave, giving at least twenty-one (21) days' notice. In order to be eligible for extended paid sick leave, the Employee must have first exhausted their accumulated contractual leave balances of vacation and personal time. The Employee must submit the appropriate form to the Township Administrator containing information about the Employee's sick leave history. The Township Administrator may recommend, to the Township Committee, an extension of paid sick leave based upon all of the following factors:

1. Nature of incident or illness.
2. Overall sick leave record.
3. Employee's attendance record.
4. Employee's work performance.
5. Availability of unused sick days in prior years.

The Township Committee will grant extensions, on a case-by-case basis. The granting of extensions of paid sick time will set no precedent in other matters.

N. Subject to NJSA language limiting same, upon separation of employment with the Township, except in the case of firing which is upheld by this agreement, death or layoff, all Employees hired on or before January 1, 2012 are entitled to receive a twenty-five percent (25%) maximum of two hundred (200) unused sick days in a monetary payment upon separation and there shall be a thirty-five percent (35%) maximum of two hundred (200) unused sick days in a monetary payment upon retirement from the Township. See Article 10, Layoffs and Recall.

O. The Employer will comply with all aspects of the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA). Appeals concerning these Acts shall be made to the appropriate forum.

P. In certain hardship cases where an Employee has exhausted all accrued sick time, other Employees may donate their own accrued sick days for use by the affected Employee. No more than two (2) sick days may be donated in a six-month period by any one Employee.

1. Employees donating their sick days will do so in writing by affixing their signature to the proper form. Said form will be

submitted to the Township Administrator and a copy sent to the Department Head.

2. Each request to donate sick days will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Approval must be received from the Township Administrator which shall not be denied without proper cause.

ARTICLE 13
NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Employer and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any Employee because of age, sex, gender, marital status, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, political affiliation, political activity, armed forces obligation, sexual orientation, Union membership, or participation in Union activities.

An Employee may file a grievance if they believe an act of discrimination has occurred. The Union may represent the Employee during the grievance meeting or discussion.

The Employer and the Union agree if a resolution cannot be resolved via the grievance procedure, the Employee must address the violation with an appropriate agency, statutory process or procedure. A grievance involving a violation of this article will not be processed after Step 2 of the grievance procedure delineated in Article 6 of this Agreement and shall not be arbitrable.

ARTICLE 14
NO STRIKE NO LOCKOUT

A. It is recognized that there is a need for continued and uninterrupted operation of the Township's departments and agencies are of paramount importance to the citizens of the community and there should be no interference with such operation.

B. Adequate procedures having been provided for the equitable settlement of grievances arising out of this Agreement, the parties hereto agree for the term of this Agreement, that neither the Union nor any person acting on its behalf will engage in, or sanction strikes, slowdowns, job actions, mass resignations, mass absenteeism, sick outs, or other similar actions which would involve suspension of or interference with normal work performance.

C. The Employer shall have the right to discipline or discharge an Employee causing any of the job actions list in Section B of this Article.

D. The Employer agrees not to lock out or cause to be locked out any Employee covered under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 15
PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

- A. New Employees shall be regarded as probationary for the first six (6) months, during which time the Township can reprimand or discharge said employees. This time period may be extended by up to an additional thirty (30) working days upon mutual consent of the parties. There shall be no responsibility for re-employment of probationary employees if they are discharged during the probationary period.
- B. Probationary employees shall not have any rights pursuant to the contract and/or any rights to grieve or challenge disciplinary action up to and including termination during the probationary period.
- C. After successful completion of the probationary period, the new employee will be placed on the seniority list retroactive to the first day of work.

ARTICLE 16
UNION REPRESENTATION

A. Upon notification to and approval by the appropriate supervisor, the privilege of the steward to leave his/her work at a reasonable time during work hours without loss of pay is extended with the understanding that the time will be reasonable, will be devoted solely to the proper handling of legitimate Union business, and will not unduly interfere with the normal working operations of the Township.

B. The Union agrees that it will notify the Employer, in writing, as to the names of the Employees that are designated as stewards. The Union further agrees that the privilege of attending legitimate Union business during working hours shall not be abused.

C. The Employer recognizes the right of the Union to designate job stewards and alternates. A duly authorized representative of the Union, designated in writing, after notice to the Township Administrator and Supervisor in charge, shall be admitted to the premises for the purpose of assisting in the adjustments of grievances and for the investigation of complaints arising under this Agreement. There shall be no interruption of the Township's working schedule while Union administration of this Agreement takes place.

D. The Employer will notify the Union, in writing, of all new hires, resignations, retirements, promotions, demotions, transfers, suspensions and discharges, within three (3) days.

ARTICLE 17

JURY DUTY

A. An Employee summoned for jury duty shall receive his/her regular pay from the Employer without interruption or deduction for such period. Such Employee shall report for his/her regular workday while excused from such attendance in court unless it is impossible, or if the Employee is excused after 2:00 p.m., except in the case of emergency.

B. Any payment received for jury duty shall be retained by the Employee.

C. On the first day of their return to work, Employees must present a jury attendance slip, provided by the court, to their immediate supervisor. It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor to forward said slip to the Township Administrator.

D. The Employee must have proof of summons for jury duty service to the Employer upon receipt of said summons.

ARTICLE 18
HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. Health and safety are a concern of the Employer and the Union. The Employer and the Union mutually recognize the need for a safe and healthy work environment for all Employees. The Employer agrees to abide by all applicable regulations under PEOSH.

B. The Employer and the Union agree that the Health and Safety Committee shall include two (2) Management Representatives and one (1) Union Representative and one (1) alternate, and shall meet as needed.

C. The purpose of the Health and Safety committee is to allow the Union to make recommendations to the Employer concerning improvement or modification of working conditions, which represent hazards to the Employees.

ARTICLE 19
PERSONAL DAYS

- A. 1. Each Employee covered by this Agreement will receive three (3) days leave with pay for personal business each calendar year of this Agreement. Personal days shall not accumulate from year to year.
- B. 2. Employees shall not accrue personal days during their probationary period. Thereafter for the remainder of the calendar year, personal days shall be prorated on a monthly basis, with Employees receiving a minimum of one-half (1/2) personal day. After completion of the remainder of the calendar year in which personal days are prorated, the Employee shall be entitled to three personal days in accordance with Section A 1. of this Article.
- C. Personal days for part-time Employees working twenty (20) or more hours per week shall be in accordance with the above schedule on a prorated basis.
- D. In the case of discharge, dismissal, or voluntarily leaving Township employment, the Employee's Personal days shall be prorated from the first of the calendar year. In the event of an Employee's death, unused Personal Days for the year shall be paid to his or her estate.
- E. Employees shall make every reasonable attempt to notify the Township prior to the start of the workday when taking personal days.

ARTICLE 20

PAYDAY

A. Employees will be paid by direct deposit on a bi-weekly basis.

B. When a pay day falls on a bank holiday, direct deposits will be made on the preceding day.

ARTICLE 21
SALARIES AND WAGES

- A Effective January 1, 2025, all employees covered by this collective bargaining agreement shall receive a three-thousand-dollar (\$3000.00) increase to their base pay.

- 8. Effective January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027, all employees covered by this collective bargaining agreement shall receive a three- and one-half percent (3.5%) increase to their base pay.

ARTICLE 22
SANITARY CONDITIONS

The Employer agrees to maintain clean, sanitary washrooms that are equipped with toilet facilities and hot and cold running water.

ARTICLE 23
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE AND VEHICLE USE

A. Full-time employees with the following titles shall be entitled to annual reimbursement for clothing associated with performing their job duties up to a maximum of five hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$575.00):

- Building Inspector
- Electrical Inspector
- Plumbing Inspector
- Senior Engineering Inspector
- Engineering Aide/Inspector

Part-time employees with these titles shall be entitled to annual reimbursement for clothing associated with performing their job duties up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Employees shall provide receipts on or before September 1st of each year to receive reimbursement in accordance with the policy. Payment will be made through the purchase order process.

For any newly hired employees, the clothing allowance shall be prorated for that first year based upon the month they were hired.

B. Civilian police personnel shall continue to have their uniforms and uniform cleaning costs supplied by the Employer.

C. Full-time Fire Prevention Inspectors shall receive an annual clothing allowance of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Part-time Fire Prevention Inspectors shall receive an annual clothing allowance of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

D. The Township shall provide vehicles to the following Departments for use by any employee, whether part-time or full-time, of that Department as needed to conduct Township business:

- Construction Office

- Engineering
- Fire Safety
- Planning and Zoning
- Tax Assessor

It shall be the responsibility of the Department Head to determine whether Township business requires any employee covered by this agreement to use a Township vehicle

- E. If circumstances require any full-time or part-time employee to use their personal vehicle to conduct Township business, the Township shall reimburse the employee in accordance with the current IRS rate.

ARTICLE 24
TRAINING AND TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

A. The Township has a policy of encouraging self-improvement and shall support a training assistance program for its Employees based on Job related requirements.

8. Employee requests for tuition reimbursement must be submitted for approval to the Department head to determine job relevancy and availability of funds. All requests for training and reimbursement must be approved by the Township Administrator prior to Employee enrollment in any course of program.

C. Employee requests for training courses or seminars, which are substantially pertinent to the job content and duties, must be approved by the Township Administrator prior to enrollment in the training course if the cost exceeds \$500.00. The Township shall pay only its portion of the fee for such courses directly to the institution. If the Employee holds a license/certification as a requirement of their position and is employed in other municipalities where such license is also utilized the Township shall not pay more than fifty percent (50%) of the cost of training courses and seminars that said Employee must attend in order to renew the license in question.

D. The Township shall pay the fee for the issuance or renewal of any special licenses/certifications, which the Employee is required by law or by the Town to have in the performance of the duties and responsibilities specified in the job classification. If the Employee holds a license as a requirement of their position and is employed in other municipalities where such license is also utilized the Township shall not pay more than fifty percent (50%) of the renewal cost of the license.

E. Employees shall be responsible for reimbursement to the Township of all costs associated with continuing education or training if the employee voluntarily leaves the employ of the Township within two (2) years of

attending the continuing education or training, whether or not the course(s) taken were required by law. Employees who are discharged by the Township are not responsible for any such reimbursement to the Township.

ARTICLE 25
VACATIONS

A. All permanent full-time Employees covered by this Agreement are authorized an annual vacation with pay which shall accrue to said Employees on the following:

After 6 months 5 days
After 1 year 10 days
After 5 years 15 days
After 10 years 20 days
After 15 years..... 20 days plus 1 day for each year
beyond 15 years, up to a maximum of
25 days.

All employees hired after 2019 shall be capped at 20 days of vacation after 15 years.

8. Annual vacation allowances shall be posted on January 1 of each calendar year and reflect the number of days an employee would accrue in that calendar year. In the event of termination or resignation vacation days will be prorated.

- C. The vacation schedule for part time Employees working twenty (20) or more hours per week shall be in accordance with the above schedule, but on a prorated basis.
- D. For the purpose of computing vacation entitlement, seven (7) hours at the Employee's regular straight time hourly rate of pay shall constitute a working day, except for Desk Operators and Office Manager (Police Dept), whose vacation entitlement shall be computed by using eight (8) hours.
- E. Employees shall be allowed to carry over half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of their vacation to the following year only. Authorization for carry-over must be granted from the Township Administrator with the understanding that Township business prevented the Employee from utilizing his or her vacation entitlement in the

preceding year. Authorizations for carry-over must be granted by the Department head and then submitted to the Township Administrator for approval.

- F. In the event that a medical condition restricts the use of Vacation time and therefore would prohibit the Employee, based on department head approval, from using at least one half (1/2) of his/her annual allotment, the Employee upon request to and approval from the Township Administrator, may carry more than one half (1/2) of the annual allotment into the next year. The number of days carried over in excess of the one-half (1/2) maximum must be used by no later than June 30. Any days in excess of the one half (1/2) annual allotment not used by June 30 will be lost.
- G. Employees shall receive vacation pay in advance of their vacation provided they furnish the Township with a written request for same at least two (2) weeks in advance of their scheduled vacation.
- H. In the event a holiday falls during an Employee's vacation period, such Employee shall enjoy an additional vacation day with pay at a mutually agreed upon time. Vacations may be taken throughout the calendar year.
- I. In the case of discharge, dismissal, or voluntarily leaving Township employment, the Employee's vacation shall be prorated from the first of the calendar year. In the event of an Employee's death, unused vacation for the year shall be paid to his or her estate.
- J. Employees may request a change in their vacation schedule by submitting a request to the department head at least five (5) days in advance of their scheduled vacation.
- K. In the event of a death in the Employee's family, while an Employee is on vacation, the Employee may reschedule their vacation.
- L. Vacation may be taken in half day increments.

ARTICLE 26
PROMOTIONS

A. The Township agrees to give preference for promotion and advancement to the then current Employees.

B. If a newly created job or job opening within the unit covered by this Agreement exists which represents a promotion or advancement for Employees covered by this Agreement, such job will be posted on the bulletin board for fifteen (15) working days. Such notice shall contain a description of the job and the rate of pay (minimum and maximum where applicable). Employees wishing to bid for said posted jobs shall inform the Township Administrator or his/her designee.

C. Following the above prescribed period, the Township shall award the posted job to the most qualified Employee as determined solely by the Township, who has notified the Township Administrator or his designee, with the basic requirements needed to perform the work in the new classification. If, in the sole determination of the Township more than one (1) Employee is qualified, the most senior Employee shall be given the promotion.

D. If no Employee has made the Township aware of his or her desire to be considered for the new classification, or if the worker does not possess the minimum requirements for the job in the new classification the Township shall have the right to transfer temporarily (provided the Township demonstrates its good faith attempt to fill the vacancy) or to hire from the outside to fill such job. The final determination as to which Employee, if any, will be awarded the posted job shall be made by the Township, subject to the grievance and arbitration provisions of this Agreement.

E. A successful bidder shall receive a trial period of sixty (60) working days on his or her assignment. The trial period may be extended an additional thirty (30) working days upon mutual consent of the parties. During the trial period, the successful bidder shall be compensated by a rate Increase equal to one half (1/2) of the difference between his or her old rate and the rate of the next higher classification for which he or she has bid. After completion of the trial period, the Employee shall be paid at the rate of pay for the classification to

which they have been promoted from that day forward.

F. The union and the Employee will be kept advised of the progress made in learning the new assignment. The Employer will provide orientation and training for the Employee. If the Employee fails to successfully meet the requirements within the trial period, he or she shall be returned to his or her former classification and shall assume seniority and pay as though he or she had never left his or her old classification. If an Employee fails to satisfy the job requirements, he or she shall be precluded from bidding or promotion for the same title for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last trial period. This restriction may be relaxed by mutual consent of the parties.

ARTICLE 27
HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME

- A. The Union recognizes the right of the Township to schedule all bargaining unit personnel to work a thirty-five (35) hour per week shift, with one (1) hour for lunch each day. Normal working hours are an Employee's scheduled work period as designated by the Township. The Township has the right to change the present work schedule upon fourteen (14) days written notice to the Union.
- B. The Police Department Desk Operator, Assistant Office Manager and Office Manager, shall work an annual work year of 1947 hours. They will work a five/two (five (5) days on, two (2) days off) eight (8) hours per day work schedule which includes a one (1) hour paid lunch period. The Township has the right to change the present work schedule upon ten (10) days written notice to the Union, except for emergencies or an emergent situation.
- C. Employees must be present and ready for work at the designated starting time for their operation. Employees are permitted to leave the workplace at the end of their shift.
- D. If the needs of the Township require work done on an overtime basis, Employees may reasonably be required to work beyond the hour normally worked
- E. Overtime must be approved in advance by the Employee's department head. It will be assigned as necessary within budget constraints except in cases of emergency as verified by the Township Administrator.
- F. For emergency situations where short notice is given, Employees will be expected to work overtime. Refusal to work overtime without a valid reason may be cause for disciplinary action.
- G. Unauthorized working of overtime may be cause for disciplinary action.
- H. Employees regularly scheduled to work seven (7) hours per day, or a

thirty-five (35) hour work week will receive straight time up to the fortieth (40th) hour worked and shall receive one and one-half (1 ½) times their base hour rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40).

- I. Employees regularly scheduled to work eight (8) hours per day in a forty (40) hour work week will receive overtime at the rate of one and one half (1 ½) times their base hourly rate of pay for all such hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day.
- J. Compensatory time shall be managed as follows:
 1. Employees who perform overtime work will be eligible for compensatory time off at a rate of one and one-half (1 ½) hours for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) hours. Compensatory time shall be at the straight time rate up to the fortieth (40th) hour.
 2. Employees who are given compensatory time for overtime worked during any given year will not be allowed to accumulate and/or accrue more than forty (40) compensatory time hours, which can be carried over from year to year.
 3. The choice between compensatory time, or payment for overtime will be discussed (when possible) prior to the performance of the work by the Employee and his or her supervisor. The decision will be based on the best interest and needs of the Township. The supervisor's decision will be final.
 4. Compensatory time can only be taken upon prior approval of the Department Head. If the use of compensatory time is desired in conjunction with vacation time, the request must be made at the same time as the vacation request.
- K. Employees who are required to work on an observed Holiday will be paid one and one- half (1 ½) of the Employee's regular base rate in addition to the Employee's straight time holiday pay.

ARTICLE 28
OUT OF TITLE WORK

The Township agrees that Employees shall be assigned work appropriate to and within their job classification. Employees assigned to work of a higher title for more than forty (40) continuous working days and who fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of that position, may petition the Administrator for an out-of-title adjustment. The request may be approved at the discretion of the Administrator and if approved by the Employee shall be compensated after the fortieth (40th) continuous working day, either at the minimum of the higher title's salary range or receive a two percent (2%) increase over their current base salary, whichever is greater. The Township also agrees to have a status review after twenty-five (25) days to discuss the projected length of time that the out of title work will continue.

ARTICLE 29
JOB DESCRIPTIONS

A. The Township will prepare and make available to the Union current job Descriptions defining the principal functions of each job classification covered by this Agreement. Whenever a job description is modified a copy shall be forwarded to the affected Employee and the Union, immediately. The Employee shall have the right to discuss any concerns about the changes with their Supervisor and/or Administrator. If any new classifications are established during the span of this Agreement, the Township will provide a job description to the Union accordingly.

8. The Union recognizes the right of the Township to determine job description and responsibilities for existing and new titles.

C. With respect to any new classification which the parties mutually agree is covered by this Agreement, the Township shall furnish the Union with a statement of the job requirements on the work to be performed for solely the purposes of negotiating a rate of pay at least thirty (30) days before putting same into effect.

D. If at the end of thirty (30) days the parties have not reached agreement on the rate of pay, the Township may establish the new rate of pay which shall be reasonably related to the job requirements and/or the rate schedules established under this Agreement.

E. The Union may grieve the rate if pay established by the Township solely on the basis of whether or not the newly established rate of pay is reasonably related to the job requirements and/or rate schedules established under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 30
MILITARY LEAVE

The Township agrees to abide by all applicable provisions of USERRA.

ARTICLE 31
COMPENSATION CLAIMS

A. In the event that an Employee becomes disabled by reason of service-related injury or illness and is unable to perform their duties, then, in addition to any sick leave benefits otherwise provided for herein, the Employee may be entitled to full pay for a period not to exceed one (1) year. In the event the Employee is granted said leave, the Township's sole obligation shall be to pay the Employee the difference between their regular pay and any compensation, disability, or other payments received from other sources provided by the Township. At the Township's option, the Employee shall either surrender or deliver their salary payments, or the Township shall pay the difference.

B. If an Employee returns to work from injury leave in less than one (1) year, he or she may return to injury leave for the same injury for a period of time which, when added to the initial period of injury leave, totals no more than one (1) year.

C. When an Employee returns from injury leave, he or she may be entitled to a new period of injury leave for a period of up to one (1) year if the Employee submits a new injury claim. The new injury claim must be submitted due to an independent event causing re-injury or a new injury.

D. When an Employee requests injury leave, he or she may be placed on "conditional injury leave" until a determination of whether the illness is work related and the Employee is entitled to injury leave is initially made by the Township's Worker's Compensation carrier, at the option of the Township. The final determination, if necessary, is to be made by the Worker's Compensation Bureau or Court. When and if it is finally determined that the injury or illness is not work related, and that the Employee is not entitled to job injury compensation, the Employee shall be denied Injury leave and shall have all time off charged to his or her accumulated sick time and, if necessary, against any other accumulated leave time. If the Employee does not have enough accumulated time off, he or she may be advanced sick time to cover the absence, at the option of the Township. If the Employee leaves the employ of the Township prior to reimbursing the Township for such advanced time, the Employee shall be required to reimburse the Township for said time.

E. In certain hardship cases where an Employee has exhausted all accrued sick time, other Employees may donate their own accrued sick days for use by the *affected* Employee. No more than two (2) sick days may be donated in a six (6) month period by any one Employee. See also, Article 12 Sick Leave.

F. Any Employee who is injured, whether slight or severe, while working must make an immediate report within twenty-four (24) hours of the injury. The report must be made to his or her immediate supervisor and the Township Administrator.

G. It is understood that the Employee must file an injury report with his or her immediate supervisor and the Township Administrator so that the Township may file the appropriate Worker's Compensation claim. Failure to report said Injury may result in the failure of the Employee to receive compensation under this Article.

H. The Employee shall be required to present evidence, by certificate of a physician designated by the insurance carrier that he or she is unable to work. The Township may reasonably require the Employee to present said certificate from time to time.

I. If the Township does not accept the Certificate of the physician designated by the insurance carrier, the Township shall have the right, at its own cost, to require the Employee to obtain a physical examination and certification of fitness by a physician appointed by the Township.

J. In the event that the Township appointed Physician certifies the Employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated, unless the Employee disputes the determination of the Township's appointed physician. The Township and the Employee shall mutually agree upon a third physician who shall examine the Employee. The cost of the third physician shall be borne equally by the Township and the Employee. The determination of the third physician, as to the Employee's fitness to return to duty, shall be final and binding upon the parties. In the event that the third physician also certifies that the Employee is fit to return to duty, the injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated.

K. If the Township can prove that an Employee has abused his or her

privileges under this Article, the Employee will be subject to disciplinary action by the Township.

ARTICLE 32
UNPAID LEAVE

A Employees covered by this Agreement may be granted a leave of absence without pay with the approval of the Township. Said leave may be granted for up to a three (3) month period, which may be extended up to a maximum of one (1) year. Each case is considered on its merit and shall not set precedent. Leaves may be requested for:

1. Temporary incapacity
2. Because the Employee is entering upon a course of training for the purpose of improving the quality of his or her service to the Township or of fitting him or herself for promotion.
3. Because of extraordinary reason, sufficient in the opinion of the Township Committee and the Township Administrator, to warrant a leave of absence.

B. Failure on the part of an Employee to report within five (5) days following the expiration date of a leave of absence, except for valid reasons submitted in advance of the leave expiration, will be cause for dismissal. If an extension of a leave is necessitated, the Employee must give notice no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the end of the approved Leave of Absence.

C. Informal leaves of absence without pay, not exceeding five (5) days in a thirty (30) day period, may be granted at the discretion of the Department Head.

D. The Employee shall retain membership In the Township Health Plan through the months in which an Employee's unpaid leave of absence is authorized. The Employee is responsible for paying for the full cost of those benefits including the portion normally paid for by the Township.

E. It is the Employee's responsibility to arrange with the township to pay for the benefits, such as health insurance, pension contributions, etc., which the Employee wishes to continue while on a leave of absence.

F. Other benefits, e.g. vacation, holidays, sick leave, etc., will cease to accrue upon the beginning of the leave of absence. No Employee may accrue

any of the aforementioned types of benefits while on an unpaid leave of absence. After the expiration of the leave of absence, said benefits **will** accrue again.

ARTICLE 33
HEALTH INSURANCE

- A. The Township agrees to continue all insurances (medical, dental and prescription) currently in effect for full-time employees, their spouses or partners and dependents. The Township may only change insurance plans if the coverage is equal to or better than the current plan. The Township shall notify the CWA Local 1040 of any potential change in insurance plans and the parties will jointly determine whether the prospective plan is equal to or better than the current plan prior to the implementation of any change.
- 8. Employees shall contribute towards the cost of health benefits pursuant to Tier 4 of P.L. 2011 c. 78, unless the contributions are reduced or eliminated by law.
- C. All employees have the option of choosing from one of the five plans offered through the Southern Skyland Health Insurance Fund for Medical and Prescription coverage. Dental insurance is provided through Delta Dental. See Appendix A and 8 hereto.
- D. Any employee hired before January 1, 2020, who retires pursuant to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) after twenty-five (25) years of service credited in the pension fund, with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service with the Township (in any full-time employment capacity whether or not continual service), or who retires at any point on a disability pension, shall continue to receive all health and medical benefits (including spouse, partner and dependent coverage) provided by the Township for the remainder of his or her life with the premiums fully paid by the Township, as long as the retiree lives anywhere in the United States, without any contribution by the retiree. **Retirees in this category will enroll in Medicare at age 65. Retirees will pay for the Medicare expense up front and Raritan Township will then reimburse the retiree quarterly for the costs associated with Medicare Part B and Prescription Part D. This**

includes any reimbursement that may be above their retirement salary with Raritan Township, without any contribution by the retiree. Upon the death of the employee, the employee's spouse (and eligible dependents) shall continue to receive all health and medical benefits provided by the Township for the remainder of the spouse's life with the premiums to be paid by the surviving spouse at the group rate established for other retired employees.

- E. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2020 shall receive Township-paid health benefits (including spouse, partner and dependent coverage) in retirement as set forth above but will be required to contribute towards the cost of those health benefits at the Tier 4 contribution level set forth in the former P.L. 2011, c. 78. In addition, employees (including spouse, partner and dependents) hired on or after January 1, 2020 shall only receive Township-paid health benefits until they and/or their spouse, partner and dependents become eligible for Medicare. At the time of the employee and spouse, partner or dependents Medicare or comparable program eligibility the employee and spouse, partner and dependents shall no longer receive Township paid Health Care Benefits provided that Medicare or a comparable program are available to retirees. If no such program exists, employees shall continue to receive Township-paid health benefits, or a comparable program adopted by the Township. Dependents shall continue to receive Township-paid health benefits until their age precludes them from receiving such benefits.
- F. Effective upon the signing of this Agreement, all Employees, in order to be eligible for retiree health insurance coverage benefits, must live in the Continental United States.
- G. Each full-time employee shall receive reimbursement for vision care in the amount of \$150.00 annually with submission of receipts.

ARTICLE 34
FULLY BARGAINED AGREEMENT

A. This Agreement incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all bargainable issues which were or could have been subject to negotiations.

B. The parties acknowledge that during negotiations that resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any matter or subject not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.

C. The Township and the Union, for the life of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waive all bargaining rights. Each party agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain or negotiate with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this Agreement, or with respect to any matter or subject nor specifically referred or covered in this Agreement, even though each subject or matter may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either both parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

D. This Agreement may be modified in whole or in part by the parties by an instrument, in writing only, executed by both parties.

E. It is the intent of the parties that the provisions of this Agreement will supersede all prior agreements and understandings, oral or written, expressed or implied, between the parties and shall govern their entire relationship and shall be the sole source of any and all rights or claims which may be asserted in arbitration. The Union and the Township, for the life of this Agreement, hereby waive any right to request or negotiate or bargain with respect to any matters contained in this Agreement. It is mutually understood that this clause is a clear waiver as to any right or claim not expressed in this agreement.

F. It is the intent of the parties that the provisions of this Agreement will supersede all prior agreements and understandings, oral or written, expressed or implied, between the parties and shall govern their entire relationship and shall be the sole source of any and all rights or claims which may be asserted in arbitration. The Union and the Township, for the life of this Agreement, hereby waive any right to request or negotiate or bargain with respect to any matters contained in this Agreement. It is mutually understood that this clause is a clear waiver as to any right or claim not expressed in this agreement.

G. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Agreement, or any application thereof to any Employee or group of Employees, is held to be invalid by operation of law or by a Court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, including PERC; such provision shall be inoperative but all other provision shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 35
DEATH IN THE FAMILY

A Wages up to five (5) days will be paid during the absence from work of permanent full time Employees when such absence is caused by the death and the attendance at the funeral of mother, father, spouse, domestic partner, sister, brother, children, stepchildren, or a child for which legal kinship/guardianship has been established.

B. Wages up to three (3) days will be paid during the absence from work of permanent full-time Employees when such absence is caused by the death and the attendance at the funeral of grandparents, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, stepmother or stepfather of the employee.

C. Bereavement time shall be used in consecutive working days and shall begin between the date of death and the date of the funeral.

D. Funeral leave for part-time Employees working twenty (20) or more hours a week shall be in accordance with the schedule represented in sections A and B of this Article, but on a prorated basis.

ARTICLE 36
LABOR-MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

The Employer and the Union agree to meet to discuss workplace issues, problems, or concerns if either party desires a meeting. The Employer or Union will submit an agenda at least one week prior to the meeting date. It is understood that any discussion is non-binding on any party or individual and is solely advisory.

ARTICLE 37
DURATION OF AGREEMENT

A The provisions of this Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2025 and shall continue in full force and effect until December 31, 2027. The provisions of this Agreement shall be applicable only to those Employees in the employ of the Township on the date of this Agreement and all future Employees employed by the Township in the job classifications covered by this Agreement.

Unless one party hereto gives notice to the other party in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to December 31, 2027 this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect for an additional year, and henceforth from year to year until either party gives the other party written notice of its intent to terminate, modify or amend said Agreement at least sixty (60) days prior to any anniversary of the original expiration date.

APPENDIX A

SOUTHERN SKYLAND REGIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN 2025 RATES

	Plan B Formerly RTP02	Plan E Formerly RTP03	Plan F Formerly RTP04	Plan G Formerly RTP09	Plan H Formerly RTP10
BENEFITS					
In Network					
Office Copay (PCP/SPC)	\$20/\$20 OV/Spec. Copay	\$35 Copay	\$35 Copay	\$50 Copay	\$2500(S)/\$5000(F) Medical Deductible
ER Copay	ER \$25	ER \$50/\$125	ER \$50/\$125	ER \$50/\$125	\$0 After Deductible
Hospital Copay	No Copay (Base)	No Copay (Base)	No Copay (Base)	No Copay (Base)	No Copay (Base)
Max Out of Pocket (INN)	\$3500	\$5000	\$5000	\$5000	\$5000
Pharmacy	P \$0/\$25/\$25	P \$0/\$25/\$50	P \$0/\$35/\$75	P \$0/\$35/\$75	P \$0/\$35/\$75 After Deductible
Pharmacy Deductible	\$0 Deductible	\$0 Deductible	\$0 Deductible	\$0 Deductible	\$0 After Deductible
DME	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Out of Network					
Deductible	\$500 Deductible	\$1000 Deductible	\$1000 Deductible	\$1000 Deductible	\$2500(S)/\$5000(F) Medical Deductible
Coinsurance	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Max Out of Pocket (OON)	\$3500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
UCR	STANDARD	STANDARD	STANDARD	STANDARD	STANDARD
Family Multiple	2x Family Multiple	2x Family Multiple	2x Family Multiple	2x Family Multiple	2x Family Multiple
DME	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
RATES					
Single	\$1,614.00	\$1,495.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,384.00	\$922.00
Parent/Child(ren)	\$2,581.00	\$2,392.00	\$2,316.00	\$2,291.00	\$1,477.00
Husband/Wife	\$2,905.00	\$2,691.00	\$2,605.00	\$2,575.00	\$1,659.00
Family	\$4,034.00	\$3,738.00	\$3,619.00	\$3,578.00	\$2,306.00

APPENDIX B

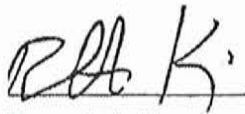
DELTA DENTAL

TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN 2025 RATES

	BASIC	UPGRADE
SINGLE	\$39.61	\$42.62
COUPLE	\$67.41	\$73.66
FAMILY	\$108.29	\$120.91

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereto has caused this agreement to be duly executed
by its authorized representative this 1st day of July, 2025.

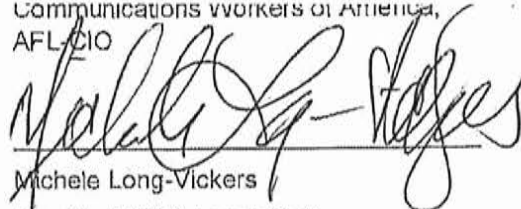
Township of Raritan



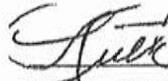
Mayor Bob King

Official Administrator

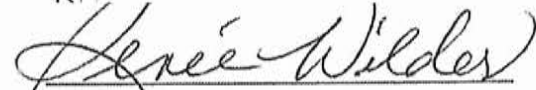
Communications Workers of America,
AFL-CIO



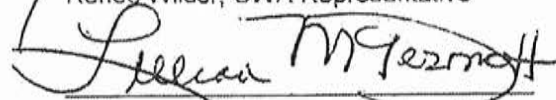
Michele Long-Vickers
President CWA Local 1040



R



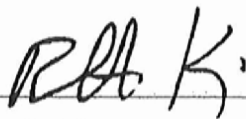
Renee Wilder, CWA Representative



Lillian McDermott, Chief Steward

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereto has caused this agreement to be duly executed by its authorized representative this 18th day of March 2025.

Township of Raritan

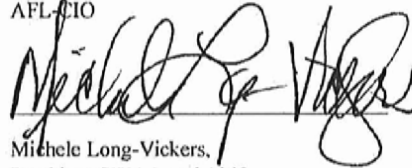


Mayor Bob King

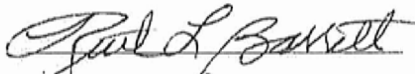


Karen Gilbert, Administrator

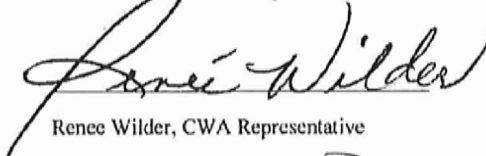
Communications Workers of America,
AFL-CIO



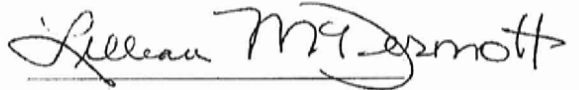
Michele Long-Vickers,
President CWA Local 1040



Ruth L. Barrett, CWA Representative



Renee Wilder, CWA Representative



Lillian McDermott, Chief Steward

