

BOROUGH OF KINNELON

WITH

AFSCME NEW JERSEY COUNCIL 63, LOCAL 2275A

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT

JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2029



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PREAMBLE

This Agreement entered into and effective as of this 1st day January, 2025 (except for the adjustment in wages as set forth in Article XVII, which shall be effective as of the dates set forth therein) by the Borough of Kinnelon, hereinafter referred to as “Employer” or “Borough”, and AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 and its affiliated Local 2275A, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as “Union”, has as its purpose the provision 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 or work and other conditions of employment.

ARTICLE I

RECOGNITION

The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive “Bargaining Unit” for the purpose of collective bargaining concerning wages, hours and working conditions for all.

Included: All regularly employed non-supervisory blue-collar workers employed by the Department of Public Works, Borough of Kinnelon.

Excluded: Managerial executives, confidential employees, supervisors within the meaning of the Act, craft employees, Police, one working supervisor, and all other employees of the Borough of Kinnelon.

ARTICLE II

UNION SECURITY

1. Check off of Union Dues

- A. All employees covered by this Agreement may tender their membership dues to the Union by voluntarily signing the Authorization for Payroll Deduction of Union Dues Form provided by the Union.
- B. The Employer agrees to deduct dues in the amount certified by the Union.
- C. Payroll deduction of Union dues shall become effective in the next full pay period following receipt of authorization by the Employer.
- D. The total of all such deductions, together with a list of employees from whom dues have been deducted, shall be remitted to the designated Financial Officer of AFSCME New Jersey Council 63, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Nottingham Village Square 2653A Whitehorse-Hamilton Sq. Rd., Hamilton, NJ 08690.
- E. Payroll deductions shall be made from each and every payroll (26 times per year) and shall be remitted to the Union on the last business day of each calendar month; provided, however, that the Employer may reasonably change the check off procedure upon reasonable advance written notice to the union but shall, in all events, check off dues every month.
- F. Any change in the amount of Union dues to be deducted must be certified by the Union in writing and be forwarded to the Employer in advance of the effective date of change and in sufficient time for the Employer to make changes to its payroll process. Each employee who, on the effective date of this Agreement is a member of the Union shall maintain his membership in the Union for the duration of this Agreement.
- G. Dues deductions for any employees in the bargaining unit shall be limited to the Union, the majority representative, and employees shall be eligible to withdraw such authorization only as of July 1, next succeeding the date on which notice of withdrawal is filed.

2. Notification of New Employees

The Employer agrees to submit to the Union Recording Secretary each month, a list of new employees hired by the Employer covered by the Agreement, their job classification, home address and whether their employment is on a permanent, provisional, seasonal or temporary basis.

3. Bulletin Boards

The Employer agrees to provide a 3' x 4' bulletin board for the exclusive use of the Union to post Union notices and other Union information at the garage.

4. Access to Premises

The Employer agrees to permit representatives of the Union Council to enter the premises of the Employer, at the garage site only, for individual discussion of working conditions with employees, provided such representatives do not interfere with the performance of employees' duties and provided that such visit is on the employees' non-working time.

5. Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act

The Employer will adhere to the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act, N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.11.

ARTICLE III

MANAGEMENT'S RIGHTS

Unless modified or relinquished in or by this Agreement, the Employer shall continue to have the sole right to manage and operate its business, property and facilities and to direct its working forces. The foregoing shall include, but not be limited to, any change in the nature or scope of the business or method or system of operation the same, the discontinuance consolidation or change in the organization of department, direction and scheduling of employees, the fixing of opening and closing hours, the employment, placement, transfer, promotion of employees, the need for the extent of any layoff and the sufficiency of all equipment, supplies, etc. of the Employer at any work site. The Employer shall be the sole judge as to the number of employees needed for the conduct of its business. The Employer may continue, and from time to time, make or change such rules or regulation as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business provided that the same are not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Agreement. All such rules and regulations shall be observed by the employees covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

PROBATION PERIOD

All new employees shall be subject to a one-year probation period commencing from date of hire during which they may be disciplined or discharged without resort to the grievance and arbitration provisions hereof. The Employer may not extend the probationary period for any particular employee without written notice to the Union.

ARTICLE V

RELATIONSHIP TO EMPLOYER'S POLICIES

All provisions of this Agreement are made expressly subject to the Employer's general or specific personnel or benefits policies, as they may, from time to time, be constituted; provided, however, that in the event of an inconsistency between this Agreement and such policies, this Agreement shall prevail. The Employer shall provide a copy of such policies to the Union upon request.

ARTICLE VI

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of this Agreement. And the parties agree that any discipline of covered employees shall be for “just cause” only.

B. Definitions

The term “grievance” as used herein means any controversy arising over the interpretation, application or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and may be raised by the Union on behalf of an individual or individuals, or the Employer.

C. Sole Remedy

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement, and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent. It is recognized that prior to initiating the formal grievance procedure an earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the aggrieved employee and the Department Head. When an employee believes he/she has been subject to harassment in violation of the Borough’s Personnel Policy Manual provision, the employee may process his/her harassment complaint through the contractual grievance procedure.

Step One

- a. An aggrieved employee or the Union on behalf of the aggrieved employee shall institute action under the provisions hereof within five (5) business days of the occurrence or the discovery of the occurrence of the grievance. The employee or the Union shall file his/her signed written grievance with the Department Head.
- b. The Department Head shall render a decision in writing within Five (5) days from the receipt of the grievance.
- c. If the grievance involves the Department Head, then the grievance shall be filed with the Borough Administrator.

Step Two

- a. In the event the grievance has not been resolved at Step One, then within twenty (20) business days following the determination, the matter may be referred to the Employer's Road Chairman who shall review the matter, hold a conference with all the parties necessary for a full exploration of the issues, and make a determination within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the grievance.

Step Three

- a. In the event the grievance has not been resolved at Step Two, the Union within thirty (30) business days shall request arbitration. The arbitrator shall be chosen in accordance with the rules of PERC.
- b. The Union agrees that this provision is exclusive and that no employee shall have access to any other remedy, including but not limited to, any committee or individual member or official of the Employer's government.
- c. The arbitrator shall be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and restricted to the application of the facts presented to him/her in the grievance. The arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, modify, detract from or alter in any way the provisions to this Agreement or any amendment or supplement thereto.
- d. The cost for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Employer and the Union. Any other expenses incurred, including but not limited to, the presentation of witnesses shall be paid by the party incurring same.
- e. The Arbitrator shall set forth his/her finding of facts and reasons for making the award within thirty (30) business days after conclusion of the arbitration hearing unless agreed to otherwise by the parties.

ARTICLE VII

HOURS AND OVERTIME

A. General Work Schedule

1. The general work week shall consist of five consecutive 8 hour days, Monday through Friday, inclusive. It being acknowledged that the Employer may alter this provision within its discretion which shall not be arbitrarily exercised on 45 days written notice to the Union, except in the event of emergencies, including staffing emergencies, when no such notice shall be required.
2. The regular starting time of a shift will not be changed without reasonable notice to the affected employees and without first having discussed such changes and the needs for the same with representatives of the Union. It is acknowledged, however, that the Employer may alter shift times within its discretion, upon 45 days written notice to the Union, except in the event of emergencies, including staffing emergencies, when no such notice shall be required.
3. **From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the work day shall begin one (1) hour earlier and end one (1) hour earlier.**

B. Road Department

1. The work day will consist of 8 hours.
2. All Employees shall receive two rest periods: a 15 minute period in the morning and a 15 minute period in the afternoon, to be scheduled at the discretion of the Employer, which shall not be arbitrarily exercised.

C. Overtime

1. Time and one half the employee's regular hourly rate of pay shall be paid for work under any of the following conditions:
 - a. All work performed in excess of 8 hours in any one day; provided, however, that such overtime shall be paid only if the employee had actively worked for not less that twenty-four (24) hours in the week in which the claimed overtime was worked. Such "actively worked" hours may include paid vacation or paid holiday time.
 - b. All work performed in excess of forty hours in any one (1) week, (or qualified work: re: sick day, personal day, vacation day) shall be considered at time and one half.

- c. All work performed on any Saturday, subject to all other applicable provisions set forth in this Article.
 - d. For snow removal overtime, see Article VIII.
 - e.
- 2. Premium pay will be paid for work performed on paid Holidays, as follows:
 - a. For all employees: twice the employee's regular pay plus one day's regular pay for the holiday worked.
- 3. Premium pay for Sundays Worked: Premium pay will be paid for work performed on a Sunday at the rate of twice the employee's regular pay for the Sunday worked, subject to all other applicable provisions set forth in this Article.

D. Distribution of Overtime

- 1. Ordinary Overtime: When a non-emergency (ordinary) overtime is required, the Employer shall request volunteers to work same. In the event that there are more employee volunteers than required, those with the greatest amount of seniority will be selected first on a rotating basis. If a sufficient number of employees do not volunteer, the Employer may assign overtime in the order of seniority on a rotating basis, with the least senior employees being assigned first. In all cases, this process shall be subject to the relative ability of the employee to do the work and the Employer may, within its sole discretion, which shall not be arbitrarily exercised, alter the method of selection or assignment so as to best accomplish the objectives of the overtime.
- 2. Emergency Overtime: When emergency overtime is required (as determined solely by the Employer), and when, within the sole judgment of the Employer, it is practicable to utilize the procedure set forth in (1) above, the Employer will do so.
 - a. In the event an emergency extends the regular 8-hour shift and employee works less than 1 hour, said employee shall receive 1 hour overtime pay. If employee works more than 1 hour, said employee shall automatically receive 3 hours overtime pay. The preferred list shall not be implemented in this situation unless one or more of the regular shift employees has an extreme conflict with the unforeseen overtime. Those individuals working their shift in the emergency shall remain working on the situation.
- 3. When it is not possible to do so, the Employer may dispense with a request for volunteers and assign employees (on a rotating basis) to work overtime by seniority, with the least senior employees being assigned first. In all cases, this process shall be subject to the relative ability of the employees to do the work and the Employer may, within its sole discretion, which shall not be arbitrarily exercised, alter the method of selection or assignment so as to best accomplish the objectives of the overtimes.

E. Call in Time

1. Any employee who is requested to do so, and who returns to work during periods other than his/her regularly scheduled shift, shall be paid time and one-half for such work and be guaranteed not less than three hours pay, regardless of the number of hours actually worked. If the employees' call in time, work assignment and his/her regular shift overlap, he/she shall be paid for three hours at time and one half in addition to his/her regular rate of pay for his/her regular work shift (8 hour-day).
2. In the event an employee is recalled to emergency duty for a complete shift, he/she shall be allowed a one-half hour paid meal period. Arrangements shall be made to provide the employee with food at the expense of the Employer.
3. The employer shall have the right to place an employee on emergency snow removal standby who will be required to remain available by telephone and employee must proceed to work within one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour of call out. The employer's notice of standby shall be given by the employer to the employee while on duty or by advance forty-eight (48) hour telephonic notice to a telephone number provided by the employee. The employer will make reasonable efforts to excuse or accommodate employees from standby who have conflicting personal commitments.

ARTICLE VIII

SNOW REMOVAL

- A. When employees are called in for snow removal purposes, no employee shall be compelled to work more than 16 consecutive hours without an (8) eight-hour rest period.
- B. When employees are called in for snow removal purposes, the Employer may, within its sole discretion, create shifts to work as many hours as may be necessary consistent with (A) above, and may, within its sole discretion, make assignments to the various shifts.
- C. The Employer may, within its sole discretion, schedule rest periods or permit early release for employees to accommodate adverse health or safety conditions, whether current or anticipated.
- D. All hours worked on snow removal duty, in excess of the first eight (8) of any one "shift", shall be paid on an overtime basis.

ARTICLE IX

HOLIDAYS

A. Each employee shall be compensated for the following Holidays:

- 1) New Year's Day
- 2) Martin Luther King Day
- 3) Presidents Day
- 4) Good Friday
- 5) Memorial Day
- 6) Juneteenth (3rd Friday in June)
- 7) Independence Day
- 8) Labor Day
- 9) Columbus Day
- 10) Veterans Day
- 11) Thanksgiving Day
- 12) Day Following Thanksgiving Day
- 13) Christmas Day
- 14) Birthday (Floating Holiday)

B. In the event the Holiday falls on a regularly scheduled work day the employee shall receive the day off with pay.

C. In the event any of the above Holidays fall on a Sunday, they shall be celebrated on the following Monday. Should any of the aforementioned Holidays fall on a Saturday, they shall be celebrated on the preceding Friday.

D. All employees shall be granted four (4) hours early quitting time on New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve days. even if those days fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

ARTICLE X

VACATIONS

A. Amount of Vacation Leave

1. Vacations are to be in effect from January 1 to December 31 and are granted on a calendar year basis for employees who remain on the payroll continuously and without interruption for the requisite number of years. Annual vacation with regular pay shall be given to all employees covered herein, as follows:
 - (a) After six (6) complete months to twelve (12) complete months: five (5) days;
 - (b) From the first day of the thirteenth (13th) month to the sixtieth (60th) complete month: ten (10) days.
 - (c) From the first day of the sixty first (61st) month to the one hundred and thirty second (132nd) complete month: fifteen (15) days.
 - (d) From the first day of the one hundred thirty third month (133rd) to two hundred forty (240) complete months: twenty (20) days.
- (3) Upon the first day of the two hundred forty first (241st) month: twenty-five (25) days.
2. No more than one week of vacation time may be carried over in the following year. Any vacation time carried over into the following year must be used in that following year.
3. A permanent employee who returns from a regular tour of military duty is entitled to pro-rate vacation allowance for the calendar year of return provided the latter can be taken during the year of return.
4. Employees shall be granted permission to buy back one week's vacation. Borough must be notified by December 1st of that year and payment must be for an entire week. (No partial weeks accepted.)
5. Vacation time shall be restructured requiring the Borough to be notified 2 days in advance for the utilization of one (1) vacation day. All vacation selections must be submitted by the first week of March with all weeks scheduled. Seniority will prevail for vacation requests. Requests submitted late shall only be granted at the Borough's discretion and staffing. A one-week switch of vacation time developed after initial scheduling shall require a minimum of one-week notification and shall be granted at the Borough's discretion and staffing.
6. Up to 3 employees may take vacation simultaneously, determined by seniority.
7. Only one (1) week of vacation can be used in individual days. Additional individual vacation days may be used at the sole discretion of the Superintendent.

B. Vacation Leave Due Upon Separation

1. An employee who is retiring or who otherwise separated (including death) shall be entitled to the vacation for the current year prorated upon the number of months worked in the calendar year in which the separation or retirement becomes effective, except if an employee is terminated for cause.

ARTICLE XI

PERSONAL DAYS

1. Upon two (2) days written request to the Department Head, which may be waived in the event of an emergency, every employee shall be allowed non-cumulative personal leave days with pay per year as set forth in section 3 below. The scheduling of such day shall be subject to the Employer's scheduling needs as determined solely, but reasonably, by the Employer.
2. Unused personal days can be accumulated for retirement purposes as defined in Article XV, subsection G, of this agreement.
3. All employees shall receive three (3) personal days per calendar year, effective 1/1/2022.

ARTICLE XII

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

1. In the event of a death in the employee's immediate family, he/she shall be granted bereavement leave with pay for a period not to exceed five (5) consecutive working days, one of which shall include either the day of death or the day of the funeral. "Immediate Family" under this section is defined as parents, spouse, grandparents, natural brothers and sisters, children and parents-in-law or any person living in the employee's immediate household.

ARTICLE XIII

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. Every employee subject to this Agreement may be granted a leave of absence within the discretion of the Employer.
- B. Employees returning from authorized leaves of absence as set forth above will be restored to their original or equivalent job, as may be appropriate within the discretion of the Employer, at the then prevailing rate of pay, with no loss of seniority or other employee rights. Privileges and benefits shall be restored only upon return to work.

- C. All employees shall be entitled to leaves pursuant to any applicable state or federal family leave acts. Arbitration will not be available to employees under this Agreement concerning such leaves if an employee elects to pursue such grievances through statutory remedies.

ARTICLE XIV

EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT

1. The Employer shall provide full education reimbursement of work-related courses to qualified employees. In order to qualify, the employee must:
 - A. Have been employed with the Borough for one (1) year.
 - B. Attend an accredited institution approved by the Employer.
 - C. Enroll in work/job related courses only.
 - D. Complete each course, which is defined as receiving at least a grade of "C" or "70".
2. Employees cannot attend classes during work hours unless the employee has obtained the Employer's prior written approval. Course must be approved by the Employer.
3. For whatever reasons an employee is separated from employment with the Borough within three (3) years of completing the approved courses, all courses paid for by the Borough shall be fully reimbursed by the employee to the Borough.

ARTICLE XV

SICK LEAVE

- A. Every regular employee subject to this Agreement shall be entitled to paid annual sick leave benefits. Part-time employees shall receive such benefits on a pro-rated basis.
- B. Unused sick leave may be accrued as hereinafter set forth.
- C. Service Credits for Sick Leave: Sick leave may be utilized for reasons set forth in P.L. 2018E-10.
- D. The Employer will adhere to The Paid Sick Leave Law (N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2).
- E. Amount of Sick Leave:
 1. All full-time employees shall earn one (1) day of sick leave per month, up to 12 sick days of sick leave per year with full pay.
 2. All provisional employees (as defined in Article IV Probation Period) shall earn one (1) hour of sick leave per every 30 hours worked, not to exceed 40 hours.
 3. If an employee uses three (3) consecutive sick days, a doctor's note shall be required and if all sick days are used during a current year of employment, a doctor's note shall be required before using more sick time for the current year. If an extreme or unusual circumstance exists where an employee is out sick for an extended period of time, then this period shall be counted as one sick occurrence (day), with notation as one occurrence (day). The object of this revision is to curb sick time abuse.

F. Reporting of Absence on Sick Leave.

1. If any employee is absent for any reason that may entitle him/her to sick leave, the supervisor shall be notified not less than one half (1/2) hour before the employee's usual reporting time, except in the case of a verifiable reason for not doing so.
2. Absence without notice for five (5) consecutive days shall constitute a resignation. This shall not be construed to limit the Employer's right to discipline an employee for failing to provide timely advance notice of absence.

G. Verification of Sick Leave

1. An employee who shall be absent on sick leave may be required to submit medical evidence reasonably acceptable to the Employer substantiating the illness, should the Employer reasonably deem it warranted. Failure to make such request shall not foreclose the Employer from questioning the validity of any sick leave.
2. The Employer may require an employee who has been absent because of personal illness, as a condition of his return to duty, to be examined at the expense of the Employer, by a physician designated by the Employer. Such examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing his/her normal duties and that his/her return will not jeopardize the health or safety of other employees.

H. Sick Leave Due Upon Separation

I. Accumulated Sick Leave/Personal Days and Compensatory Pay

1. Compensatory pay or leave for accumulated – unused sick days or unused personal days, for a maximum total of one hundred and twenty (120) days for each full-time or permanent part-time employee shall be, as follows:
 - a. At retirement only, any full-time or permanent part-time employee may choose to be paid at the rate of fifty dollars (\$50) per day for each unused accumulated sick day/personal day to the maximum one hundred and twenty (120) days, subject to the employee's accrued credit for said compensation.

- b. There shall be no accumulation of personal days or compensatory days. Sick days may be accumulated. For employees hired on or after May 21, 2010, upon the filing of a bona-fide retirement application with the New Jersey Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), any regular full-time or part-time employee shall be paid at the rate of fifty dollars (\$50) per day for each unused accumulated sick day up to the maximum of 120 days subject to the employee's accrued credit for said compensation; in no case shall this amount exceed \$15,000.
- c. The foregoing policy shall not alter or change the established policy of using unused sick days/personal days for disability. There is no limit to the number of sick days and personal days that can be accumulated and used towards a future illness.

J. Confidentiality:

- 1. The Employer will use its best efforts to hold employee health information confidential. Use of same in grievances and arbitrations shall constitute an exception.

ARTICLE XVI

HEALTH BENEFITS

- A. All full time actively employed employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to receive all nondental health benefits provided to a majority of other employees of Employer at the same level and on the same basis.
- B. All full time actively employed employees covered by this agreement shall be entitled to receive five hundred dollars (\$500) every two years reimbursement towards eye care expense subject to the following:
 - 1. The employee must present to the Employer, an invoice from a licensed practitioner indicating the amount paid.
- C. All employees shall henceforth receive the same dental health benefits as are presently provided to police employees.
- D. The Employer will adhere to the following:
 - a) New Jersey Family Leave Act is set forth at N.J.S.A. 34:11B-1, et seq. and at N.J.A.C. 13:14-1, et seq.
 - b) The Federal Family Medical Leave Act is set forth at 29 U.S.C.A. § 2612.
 - c) The New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program.
- E. Health Benefits Upon Retirement:
 - a) The intent and purpose of this section is to reimburse retired employees with their medical expenses before they become eligible for Medicare benefits.
 - b) For employees who, on the date of the retirement from the Employer, has
 - i. been employed by the Employer for at least 25 years; and
 - ii. attained the age of 55.
 - c) The Employer will contribute up to \$12,000.00 per year, broken out into two payments (January and July) for each year up to and including the year where that employee becomes eligible for Medicare benefits (on a pro-rated basis), to reimburse that retired employee's health care expenses, with pre-tax funds when possible, and upon proof of that retired employee's payment for health care costs to the satisfaction of the Employer's Personnel Committee, as delegated by the Borough Administrator. The retired employee seeking reimbursement must submit all proofs of payment to the Administrator no later than the end of January and July to receive reimbursement.
 - d) Upon any retired employee obtaining employment after retirement which provides health insurance, such retired employee shall be ineligible for such medical

expense reimbursement, as being contrary to the intent and purpose of this section. Any retired employee covered by a spousal policy of health insurance shall also be ineligible for such medical expense reimbursement, as being contrary to the intent and purpose of this section.

- e) Employees shall be allowed to access FMLA leave benefits while retaining 5 days of sick leave.

ARTICLE XVII

WAGES: MINIMUM RATES, MILEAGE, AND STIPENDS

A. All employees shall have their annual salary adjusted yearly for calendar years in accordance with Schedule "A", attached to this agreement, subject to the following:

1. Any employee hired after June 30th in any year shall not receive an annual increase until after he or she has completed six (6) months of service.
2. Any employee, who has more years of service than is provided for in Schedule "A" attached to this agreement shall receive annual salary increases as set forth below:
 - a. Effective January 1, 2025 – four percent (4%)
 - b. Effective January 1, 2026 – four percent (4%)
 - c. Effective January 1, 2027 – four percent (4%)
 - d. Effective January 1, 2028 - three percent (3%)
 - e. Effective January 1, 2029 - three percent (3%)

B. Mileage Reimbursement

The Employer's borough-wide policy regarding payment for automobile mileage, as it may be formulated from time to time, is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

C. Certification Stipends

Employees holding the following certification(s) will receive annual stipends in the amounts listed below:

- a) Welding certification: One thousand dollars (\$1,000)
- b) ASE medium-heavy truck certification: One thousand dollars (\$1,000)
- c) CDL license renewal plus endorsements for renewal: Forty-two dollars (\$42.00) and Two dollars (\$2.00) for each endorsement (endorsements must be work related)

ARTICLE XVIII

UNIFORMS

Clothing Allowance will be six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per year, with the employee providing proof of purchase.

ARTICLE XIX

SENIORITY

- A. Seniority is defined as an employee's total length of permanent service with the Employer, beginning with his/her original date of permanent hire.
- B. The Employer shall maintain an accurate, up-to-date seniority roster showing each employee's date of hire, classification and pay rate and shall furnish copies of same to the Union upon reasonable request but not more often than one time per month.

ARTICLE XX

NO STRIKE PLEDGE

- A. During the term of the Agreement, the Union agrees on behalf of itself and its members that there will be NO Strike of any kind, including slow-downs and partial strikes, and the Employer agrees that it will not cause any lockout.
 - (i) Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the Employer in its right to discipline employees (including discharge) in the event of a breach hereof this provision: Should the Union grieve and arbitrate any disciplinary action taken by the Employer under this article, the arbitrator shall apply a rebuttable presumption of propriety to the disciplinary remedy selected by the Employer.
 - (ii) Employer may seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have in law or in equity for injunction or damages or both, in the event of breach hereof by the Local Union or its members.

ARTICLE XXI

WORK FORCE CHANGES

- A. Whenever an opportunity for promotion occurs or a job opening occurs in other than a temporary situation in any existing job classification, or as the result of the development or establishment of a new job classification, a notice of such openings shall be posted on bulletin boards, stating the job classification, rate of pay, and the nature of the job requirements in order to qualify. Such posting shall be for a period of not less than five (5) work days. The Employer shall not be obliged to hire any employee responding under this provision. However, the Employer may not arbitrarily refuse to hire such respondent.
- B. Employees desiring to transfer to other jobs shall submit an application in writing to their immediate supervisor. The application shall state the reason for the requested transfer.
- C. Where an employee is subject to an involuntary transfer or relocation, the Employer shall give written notice of such transfer or relocation to the employee within ten (10) work days prior to such proposed effective date with a copy to the Shop Steward and to the Union, except in an emergency (including staffing).
- D. In the event of a work force reduction, the Employer agrees that any layoffs will be done by reverse seniority. If any layoffs should occur, the personnel affected shall have the first right of refusal to be rehired by seniority for a period of one year from the date of the initial layoff.

ARTICLE XXII

UNION MEETINGS

- A. Employees shall be entitled to hold a membership meeting on Employers' or Employer – related premises, as designated by Employer, upon one week's notice to the Department Head; provided, however, that such meeting shall be held on non-work time.
- B. The Employer shall give time off with no loss of pay for members of the Local Union Contract Negotiating Team (but not more than three individuals) to participate in contract negotiations if such meetings are held during their regular work hours.
- C. Two union representatives shall be granted two days of paid leave in order to attend the yearly convention at their own expense. The employee shall provide the employer with documentation that proves that the convention was attended.

ARTICLE XXIII

NON-DISCRIMINATION

- A. There shall be no discrimination by the Employer or by the Union against an employee on account of race, color, creed, sex or national origin or union membership.
- B. There shall be no discrimination, interference, restraint, or coercion by the Employer or any of its representatives against any of the employees covered by this Agreement because of the membership or non-membership in the Union or because of any lawful activities by such employees on behalf of the Union. The Union, its members and agents shall not discriminate against, interfere with, restrain or coerce any employees covered under this Agreement who are or are not members of the Union.
- C. The Employer shall not be liable to the Union for actions of its representatives acting outside the scope of their official authority, and employees shall not be disciplined for off job conduct unless same may affect the performance of their responsibilities or the job function.
- D. To the extent permitted by law, any and all issues arising under this provision shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration provisions hereof and same shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for the resolution of such issues.

ARTICLE XXIV

UNION ACTIVITIES

- A. The Employer agrees that during working hours, on the Employer's premises and without loss of pay, the Shop Steward shall be allowed to:
 - 1. Post Union notices; provided, however, that such activity shall be performed within the first fifteen (15) minutes of any particular work day or during any permitted wash up time;
 - 2. Transmit communications authorized by the Local Union or its officers to the Employer or its designated representative; and
 - 3. Consult with representatives of the Employer designated for collective bargaining purposes concerning the enforcement of any provisions of this Agreement, at a mutually agreeable time and place.

ARTICLE XXV

WORK RULES

- A. Whenever practicable, the Employer shall provide three (3) days advance notice to the Shop Steward of any new or amended work rule.
- B. An unresolved complaint as to the reasonableness of any new or existing rule, or any complaint involving discrimination in the application of new existing rules shall be resolved through the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE XXVI

PROTECTION AND SECURITY FOR EMPLOYEES

- A. The Employer shall provide reasonably adequate security and protection at all work installations for all employees during their respective work shift, within the sole discretion of the Employer.

ARTICLE XXVII

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

- A. The Employer agrees that absences due to any injury sustained in the line of duty will not be counted against sick time. In such circumstances, the Borough shall maintain the employee at full pay until such time as the employee returns to work or becomes eligible for and receives a disability pension. Any insurance payments received by the employee during this period shall be remitted to the Employer or retained by the employee in which case the Employer shall make up the difference between such payment and full pay at the Employer's sole discretion.

ARTICLE XXVIII

PERSONNEL RECORDS

- A. The Employer agrees to make an employee's personnel records available to the employee subject to the following conditions:
1. The employee will have access to the records upon 24 hours advance written request to the Department Head.
 2. The inspection of an employee's personnel records will be conducted under the supervision of the department head or his designee.
 3. The employee may have access to his or her personnel records once between January 1st and June 30th and once between July 1st and December 31st of any calendar year, except in the case of a grievance or arbitration directly involving the employee as a grievant.

ARTICLE XXIX

SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

- A. If any provision of this Agreement or any application of this Agreement to any employee or group of employees is held invalid by operation of law or by a Court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be inoperative but all other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XXX

FULLY BARGAINED PROVISIONS

- A. This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with the respect to any such matter whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both the parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.
- B. This Agreement shall not be modified in whole or in part by the parties except by an instrument in writing only executed by both parties.

ARTICLE XXXI

ALCOHOL & DRUG TESTING

Alcohol & Drug Testing will be in accordance with Chapter 9 of the Personnel Policy of the Borough of Kinnelon. First routine drug test and, if failure, subsequent second drug test shall be paid for by the Borough. All additional tests shall be paid by employee or the union if so desired.

ARTICLE XXXII

PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Employer shall allow the Chief Shop Steward to attend all monthly public works meetings. The Employer shall notify the Union of the date, time and location of each meeting and provide the Chief Shop Steward with all materials required to participate. The Shop Steward shall attend such meeting without loss of pay.

ARTICLE XXXIII

TERM AND RENEWAL

- A. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect as of the date of its execution set forth in the Preamble and as set forth below January 1, 2025, except for the adjustment in wages as set forth in Article XVII which shall be effective as of the dates set forth therein and shall be in effect to and including December 31, 2029. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, unless one party or the other gives notice, in writing, no sooner than one hundred fifty (150) days nor later than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, of a desire to change, modify or terminate the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals in

The Borough of Kinnelon, Morris County, New Jersey on this 19th Day of December 2024

AFSCME New Jersey Council 63, LOCAL 2275,

BOROUGH OF KINNELON
MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.

AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
AFL-CIO

BY: Todd R. Vigneri
Union President

BY: [Signature]
James Freda, Mayor

BY: M/A
Union Secretary

ATTEST:

BY: [Signature]
Staff Representative

BY: [Signature]
BOROUGH CLERK

SCHEDULE A

SALARY GUIDE

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Step 0	\$ 21.65	\$ 22.25	\$ 22.86	\$ 23.31	\$ 23.78
Step 1	\$ 22.25	\$ 22.86	\$ 23.49	\$ 23.96	\$ 24.43
Step 2	\$ 23.99	\$ 24.65	\$ 25.33	\$ 25.84	\$ 26.35
Step 3	\$ 25.69	\$ 26.39	\$ 27.12	\$ 27.66	\$ 28.22
Step 4	\$ 27.38	\$ 28.14	\$ 28.91	\$ 29.49	\$ 30.08
Step 5	\$ 29.13	\$ 29.93	\$ 30.75	\$ 31.37	\$ 32.00
Step 6	\$ 30.83	\$ 31.67	\$ 32.54	\$ 33.19	\$ 33.86

An employee who has reached the top step or higher shall receive a percentage increase as follows:

2025 – 4%

2026 – 4%

2027 – 4%

2028 – 3%

2029 – 3%

Step 1 shall be on 1st anniversary date.

Step 2 shall be January 1 after anniversary date.

All other steps shall be on January 1.

CDL – Any employee holding a Commercial Drivers License shall receive an additional \$.50 per hour on their base pay.

- D.** The Employer may hire new employees at an in-step scale higher than the starting step (Step 0 – See Attachment A Salary Guide) based on their relevant prior experience, specific skills and/or certifications already attained. The hourly rate offered can be between Step 1 and Step 6.

- a) The Employer will notify the union that it intends to offer the applicant such a salary up to Step 6 of the range and provide the union with the reasons for such an action.
- b) The Union reserves the right to negotiate the rate of pay for an existing employee that has the same specific skills and/or certifications attained.