

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

**TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH,
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

-AND-

RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

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PREAMBLE

This AGREEMENT entered into January 1, 2024, by and between the TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, a Municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter called the “Township,” and the RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, hereinafter called the “Association”, represents the complete and final understanding on all the bargainable issues between the Township and the Association.

ARTICLE I
RECOGNITION

The Township recognizes the Association as the exclusive collective negotiations agent for the following job classifications within the Township of Randolph:

Engineering Assistant/Public Works Inspector

Senior Health Specialist

Administrative Assistant/Technical Assistant

Police Services Coordinator

Parks and Recreation Services Coordinator

Health Assistant/Registrar and Recycling Coordinator

Building Inspector

Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Registered Environmental Health Specialist Trainee

Animal Control Officer

Senior Department Secretary

Deputy Court Administrator

Deputy Township Clerk/Communications Advisor

Purchasing Coordinator

Technical Assistant

Rompers Teacher/Secretary

Playhouse Theater Manager

Deputy Animal Control Officer/Pound keeper

Secretary

Revenue Collections Clerk

Bookkeeper

Zoning Officer

Program & Events Coordinator

Assistant Treasurer

Police Records Secretary

Assistant to Township Clerk

Plumbing Inspector

Electrical Inspector

Part Time Titles

(Excluding seasonal and/or part time employees working less than 15 hours per week in the below listed titles)

P/T Public Health Nurse

P/T Fire Code Inspector

P/T REHS/PM Inspector

P/T Deputy Animal Control/Pound Keeper

P/T Assistant Rompers Teacher

P/T Senior Bus Driver

P/T Bus Driver

P/T Clerk/Typist

P/T Housing/Property Maintenance Inspector

P/T Revenue Collections Clerk

P/T Rompers Teacher

ARTICLE II
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- A. The Township hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the Laws and Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, including but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:**
- 1. To the executive management and administrative control of the Township government and its properties and facilities and the activities of its employees;**
 - 2. To hire all employees and subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualification and conditions for continued employment or assignment and to promote and transfer employees;**
 - 3. To suspend, demote, discharge or take other disciplinary action for good and just cause according to law.**
- B. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Township, the adoption of policies, rules and regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and then only to the extent such specific and express terms hereof are in conformance with the Constitution and Laws of New Jersey and of the United States.**

ARTICLE III

WORK WEEK AND OVERTIME

- A. The normal work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive days, Monday through Friday. The normal workday shall consist of seven (7) hours as scheduled by the work rules of the employer, with the exception of the day (Usually the 1st Thursday) which coincides with the regular meeting of the Township Council each month; the workday will be from 8:30 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. with one (1) hour for lunch and one-half (1/2) hour for dinner. Employees working the “late night” shall be compensated with one half day off from work to occur on a Friday afternoon during the month of the “late night”. Late nights, for the ensuing year, shall be scheduled at the beginning of January. Scheduling of the compensating half day off shall be approved by the Department Head.**
- B. The employer shall compensate each employee with one (1) hour of compensatory time off for each hour worked by the employee in any given week in excess of thirty-five (35) hours and up to forty (40) hours and one and one half (1.5) hour of compensatory time off for each hour worked by the employee in any given week in excess of forty (40) hours providing such overtime shall have been with the authority or approval or at the direction of the immediate supervisor of the employee or the Township Manager. A maximum of thirty five (35) hours may be accumulated at any given time and may be carried into the next calendar year.**
- C. The employer shall compensate each employee for overtime in excess of forty (40) hours at one and one-half (1½) times the hourly rate of compensation paid such employee providing such overtime shall have been with the authority or approval or at the direction of the immediate supervisor of the employee or the Township Manager.**

ARTICLE IV

SICK LEAVE

A. Service Credit for Sick Leave

1. All employees shall be entitled to sick leave with pay based on their aggregate years of service.
2. Sick leave may be utilized by employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, accident or exposure to contagious disease. The employer has a reasonable expectation that the employee is convalescing and/or seeking medical assistance as opposed to other unrestricted activities associated with time off for vacations, compensatory time or holidays. Both parties to this contract agree that abuse of the sick leave benefit is unacceptable and subject to managerial response. Sick leave may also be utilized for short periods because of death in the employee's immediate family as defined below.
3. Care of Immediate Family – See Employee Handbook

B. Amount of Sick Leave

1. Employees shall be provided with 10 days of sick leave per calendar year.
2. Any amount of sick leave allowance not used in any calendar year shall accumulate to the employee's credit from year to year to be used if and when needed for such purpose.
3. In the event an employee is injured while at work, full salary will be paid without a charge against sick leave, provided the employee is eligible for, and the Township receives, workers' compensation benefits.

C. Reporting of Absence on Sick Leave

1. If an employee is absent for reasons that entitle him/her to sick leave, his/her supervisor shall be notified prior to the employee's starting time, except in emergencies.
 - a. Failure to so notify the supervisor may be cause for denial of the use of sick leave for that absence and constitute cause for disciplinary action.

b. Absence without notice for five (5) consecutive days shall constitute a resignation.

D. Verification of Sick Leave

1. An employee who shall be absent on sick leave for four (4) or more consecutive working days shall be required to submit acceptable medical evidence substantiating the illness. The Township may require proof of illness of an employee on sick leave whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.
2. In case of leave of absence due to exposure to contagious disease, a certificate from the Department of Health shall be required prior to return to work.
3. The Township 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 Township by a physician of the Township's choice. Such examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing his normal duties and that his return will not jeopardize the health and safety of other employees.

E. Payment for Accumulated Sick Leave at Retirement

Employees HIRED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015 must retire in good standing to qualify for payment of unused sick time. EMPLOYEES HIRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015, SHALL NOT BE AFFORDED PAYMENT FOR ACCUMULATED SICK TIME AT RETIREMENT.

Employees shall be entitled to sick pay retirement benefits of 50 percent of accumulated sick time based on the following schedule:

	<u>Maximum Benefit</u>
When the employee's age and years of Service to the Township added together total 70 years	70 days not to exceed \$10,000
When the employee's age and years of service to the Township added together total 75 years	75 days not to exceed \$12,500

**When the employee's age and years of service
to the township added together total 80 years**

80 days not to exceed \$15,000

F. Bereavement Leave

- 1. In case of death in the immediate family, an employee shall be granted up to three (3) days of leave. IN THE EVENT THAT A SITUATION WARRANTS ADDITIONAL TIME, AN EXTENSION MAY BE GRANTED UP TO FIVE (5) DAYS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.**
- 2. Immediate family shall be defined as the employee's husband, wife, child, stepchild, mother, father, brother or sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandparents, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchild.**
- 3. Reasonable verification of the event may be required by the Township.**

G. Personal Leave

- 1. Employees shall be provided with 2 days of personal leave per calendar year.**
- 2. Employees must take personal days in the calendar year in which it is earned, or those personal days shall be forfeited.**
- 3. Any employee who exhausts all of his or her personal days in any one (1) year shall not be credited with additional paid personal days until the beginning of the next calendar year. An employee who has resigned, was dismissed or has otherwise been separated from employment will not be paid for any unused personal days.**

ARTICLE V

HOLIDAYS

A. The following eleven (11) days shall be holidays upon which the public offices of the Township shall be closed and on which the employees shall not be required to work:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Veterans' Day
President's Day	Thanksgiving Day
Good Friday	Day After Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	

B. Any employee required to work on a holiday shall be compensated at an hourly rate of two times (2x) said employee's regular rate of pay.

C. Floating Holidays

- 1. Lincoln's Birthday and Election Day are designated as "floating holidays" for all employees.**
- 2. Employees will have the option of taking Lincoln's Birthday during the first half of the calendar year and Election Day in the second half of the calendar year, subject to the following:**
 - a. Sufficient personnel will be available in all departments on Lincoln's Birthday and Election Day to adequately maintain operations on these days.**
 - b. The day taken in lieu of Lincoln's Birthday or Election Day as a "floating holiday" shall be subject to approval of the department head or supervisor according to normal procedures for vacation or time off from work.**
 - c. If the floating holiday is taken prior to the actual holiday and the employee's employment ends prior to the actual holiday, an adjustment to the Township's favor shall be made to the employee's separation pay.**

ARTICLE VI

VACATIONS

A. Vacations for full-time employees shall be made based upon the following schedule:

After 1 st calendar year	2 weeks
January 1 st following the 3 rd year	2 weeks plus one day
January 1 st following 6 th year of service	3 weeks
January 1 st following 9 th year of service	3 weeks plus one day
January 1 st following 13 th year of service	4 weeks
January 1 st following 18 th year of service	4 weeks plus 1 additional day for each year over 18

B. Employees may carry forward accumulated vacation time not to exceed the total number of days received in the following year, i.e., if an employee has a 2024 vacation allowance of 15 days, an additional 15 days can be carried forward from 2023 for use in 2024. Any unused vacation in excess of the one-year carry-over amount shall be forfeited.

C. During the first calendar year of employment, employees shall begin accruing vacation time in their third month of employment at a rate of one day of vacation per month of service up to a maximum of 10 working days.

D. Employees shall be compensated for accrued vacation time upon separation or retirement as long as they are leaving in good standing.

ARTICE VII

INSURANCE

A. Medical Coverage/Prescription Plan

1. As of July 1, 2011, employees shall contribute health contributions in accordance with Chapter 78 P.L.2011

2. The Township of Randolph offers several medical insurance plans to full-time employees. These plans include Aetna Preferred, Aetna QPOS, Aetna POSII (Open Access), Aetna HMO, and Aetna \$3,500 and \$500 High Deductible Plans. The employee shall contribute to their chosen health insurance plan based on the Chapter 78 Contribution Tables established by the State of New Jersey. Copies of the Tables can be obtained from the Finance Department.

3. Permanent part-time employees, part-time hourly employees, temporary and seasonal employees are not entitled to medical benefits.

B. Medical Benefit Waiver

1. Employees HIRED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015 who receive hospital and medical coverage through their spouse's or civil union partner's employer may surrender their benefits for cash. The Township will distribute a questionnaire in September and the coverage period will begin the following January 1. Employees must be able to document their alternate coverage and will not be able to re-enter the Health Insurance Program until the next open enrollment period or if the spouse or civil union partner no longer has coverage through their employer. Payments will be made in two installments, May 1st and November 1st (Note that the cash payment is taxable).

2. For Employees who have requested waivers prior to May 22, 2010, the Township will provide 50% of the amount saved by the Township because of the employee's choosing not to receive health benefits.

3. In accordance with Chapter 2, P.L. 2010, employees who request waivers after May 21, 2010, the Township will provide 25% or \$5,000, whichever is less of the amount saved by the employer.
4. EMPLOYEES HIRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015 SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR A CASH PAYMENT IN LIEU OF WAIVING OUT OF THE TOWNSHIP HEALTH BENEFITS.

C. Retirement Benefits

The Township will comply with State Law (Chapter 78 P.L. 2011) governing premium sharing for retirees.

1. Medical insurance coverage is extended to retired employees with twenty-five (25) or more years of service in the State administered retirement system and their surviving eligible dependents (based on cost sharing at time of retirement).
2. Employees hired after January 1, 2007 – must work in a full-time capacity for the Township for a period of twenty-five (25) years to be eligible for continuing coverage and shall be responsible for 50% of the premium for dependent coverage or the premium contribution requirement as defined by State law, whichever is highest.
3. Employees hired after January 1, 2010 shall be responsible to contribute 50% of the premium for coverage.
4. Medical insurance coverage is extended to employees who retire on a disabilities pension (see Public Employees Retirement Manual) based on fewer years of service credited in the state retirement system and their spouse (based on cost sharing at time of retirement).
5. Medical insurance coverage is extended to surviving spouse, surviving civil union partner, and eligible dependent of active employees with twenty-five (25) or more years

of service in the State administered retirement system and twenty-five (25) or more years of service with the Township (based on cost sharing at time of death).

B. Dental Benefits

The Township will comply with State law (Chapter 78 P.L. 2011) when contributing toward the cost of a dental plan for employees:

1. The maximum premium contribution paid by the Township shall be \$600.00.
2. Permanent part-time employees, part-time hourly employees, temporary and seasonal employees are not entitled to dental benefits.
3. Dental benefits terminate at retirement.

D. Other Insurances

1. **Group Life Insurance and Accidental Dismemberment** – The Township pays for \$10,000 of life insurance and \$10,000 of accidental dismemberment insurance for all full-time employees. Employees with twenty-five (25) years with the Township may continue their \$10,000 life insurance when they retire. The retiree, if they elect to continue, must reimburse the Township for the premium.
2. **Long-Term Disability Insurance** – The long-term disability plan is subject to the below conditions:
 - a. Disability benefits shall begin after 60 days of consecutive illness and ongoing certifications by a licensed medical doctor that the employee can not work.
 - b. The Township uses a third-party consultant to monitor the employee's recovery process. Employees shall cooperate with First Managed Care and provide access to all requested medical information in order to qualify for continuing benefits.

- c. **An employee has the responsibility to recover and return to work. If medical recovery is determined to be unachievable, the employee has a responsibility to immediately apply for SSI and, if eligible, a pension disability retirement. Proof of application for SSI and/or pension disability shall be provided to the Township in order to qualify for continuing benefits.**
- d. **The employee, while on disability, can not work in any capacity and does not accrue service time towards pension or other benefits.**
- e. **The Township provides 67% of the employee's salary at the time of disability and continuing health benefits coverage.**
- f. **Disability coverage will be terminated for failure to comply with the program requirements, at the end of one hundred and twenty months (120), or at age 65.**

E. How Your Benefits are Acquired

The Township's medical and dental insurance coverage is handled through a self insurance fund called the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefit Fund.

A detailed description of the Township Health Care Plan can be found in the Health Plan document available in the Township Finance Department.

The Township reserves the right to change insurance carriers as long as substantially similar benefits are provided.

ARTICLE VIII
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

1. 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 to resolve grievances as soon as possible so as to assure efficiency and to promote employees' morale. The parties agree that this procedure will be kept as informal as may be appropriate.
2. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with the department head and having the grievance adjusted without the intervention of the Association.

B. Definition

The term "grievance" as used herein means any controversy arising over the interpretation or adherence to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and may be raised by an individual, the Association or the Township.

C. Steps of the Grievance Procedure

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent.

Step One: The moving party shall present the grievance in writing signed by the aggrieved to the department head within five (5) working days of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance for the purpose of resolution. In the discussion of the grievance, the persons involved shall make an earnest effort to resolve the matter. The department head shall make whatever additional investigation is necessary and shall, within five (5) working days after presentation of the grievance, give a decision.

Step Two: If a grievance is not resolved at Step One, the moving party may, within five (5) working days of receipt of the answer in Step One, submit the written grievance to the Township Manager, who shall provide a response within five (5) working days of the presentation of the grievance in Step Two.

Step Three: If the grievance is not resolved in Step Two, it may be appealed in writing within five (5) working days after receipt of the answer in Step Two for arbitration before the NJ Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC). The arbitrator's decision shall be final.

- D. A grievance will be considered settled upon its withdrawal in writing or when the grievant ceases to be an employee by resignation or when any time limit set forth above has expired for its appeal to the next step. Failure to answer a grievance within the proper time shall move it to the next step.**

ARTICLE IX

NO-STRIKE PLEDGE

- A. The Association covenants and agrees that during the term of this Agreement, neither the Association nor any person acting in its behalf, will cause, authorize, or support, nor will any of its members take part in any strike (i.e. the concerted failure to report for duty or willful absence of any employee from his position or stoppage of work or abstinence in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the employee's duties of employment) work stoppage, slowdown, walkout or other job action against the Township.**
- B. In the event of a strike, slowdown, walkout or other job action, it is covenanted and agreed that participation in any such activity by any employee covered under the terms of this Agreement shall be deemed grounds for termination of employment of such employee or employees.**
- C. The Association will actively discourage and will take whatever affirmative steps are necessary to prevent or terminate any strike, work stoppage, slowdown, walkout or other job action against the Township.**
- D. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the Township in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled in law or in equity for injunction or damages or both in the event of such breach by the Association or its members.**

ARTICLE X

DISCHARGE AND DISCIPLINE

- A. No permanent employee shall be discharged or suspended or otherwise disciplined without just cause.**
- B. The employer shall notify the Association at the time disciplinary action is taken.**
- C. Employees shall have the right to claim that suspension or discharge was unjustly imposed by submitting such claim to the Township Manager in writing within five (5) working days after the disciplinary action. This shall be the sole method of appeal of disciplinary action. Failure to so appeal shall be admission as to the propriety of the action taken.**

ARTICLE XI

SALARIES/PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

A. Full time and part-time employees shall receive the following salary and hourly increases:

- 1. Effective January 1, 2024, full-time employees shall receive a salary increase of \$1,000.00 plus a 2.0% increase; PT employees shall receive an increase of \$0.50 per hour.**
- 2. Effective January 1, 2025 full-time employees shall receive a salary increase of 2.25%; PT employees shall receive an increase of \$0.50 per hour.**
- 3. Effective January 1, 2026, full-time employees shall receive a salary increase of 2%; PT employees shall receive an increase of \$0.50 per hour.**

B. Newly Appointed and Recently Promoted Staff

Members hired or promoted after July 1 shall be exempt from the automatic salary adjustment for the following January 1. The Township may, however, grant said increase based upon a performance evaluation to be conducted by the department head and reviewed by the Township Manager. The Township Manager's decision shall be final.

C. Members are entitled to a merit bonus based upon annual performance. The merit bonus will be determined through the performance evaluation program. To attain the bonus outlined below, employees must attain a total evaluation rating of 20 or above. Merit stipends are not built into base salary.

**2024: \$375 per full-time employee achieving a rating of 20-29*
\$600 per full-time employee achieving a rating of 30-40***
**2025: \$475 per full-time employee achieving a rating of 20-29*
\$700 per full-time employee achieving a rating of 30-40***
**2026: \$575 per full time employee achieving a rating of 20-29*
\$800 per full-time employee achieving a rating of 30-40***

*** The merit stipend for part-time employees shall be pro-rated on a formula accounting for the number of hours worked per week by the employee.**

D. Performance evaluations shall be prepared for each employee by their supervisor and/or department head with approval by the Township Manager to determine if merit/performance increase shall be granted. In the absence of a department head, the Township Manager shall review the employee's performance. In the event that the employee believes that the performance evaluation is not representative of his/her performance, said employee may petition the Township Manager to undertake an examination. The decision of the Township Manager shall be final.

E. The Township Manager shall have the authority to increase individual salaries when in his/her opinion such an increase is warranted.

ARTICLE XII
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE/REPLACEMENT

For field staff, the Township shall provide a payment to cover the employee's cost of shoes, boots, and/or foul weather gear. Employees shall receive the following:

June 1, 2024:	\$250.00
June 1, 2025:	\$300.00
June 1, 2026:	\$350.00

ARTICLE XIII

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

It is mutually agreed that there shall be no discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation based upon a bona fide job requirement. Association and Township representative shall work cooperatively to assure the achievement of equal employment opportunities. Any employee who fails to cooperate to this end shall be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, employees who feel they have been discriminated against shall be encouraged to use the grievance provisions of this Agreement prior to seeking relief through other channels.

ARTICLE XIV

SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

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 XV

FULLY BARGAINED PROVISIONS


This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties on 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 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 of the parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

THIS Agreement shall take effect retroactive to January 1, 2024, and shall remain in full force and effect through December 31, 2026, and thereafter from year to year unless either party shall give notice in writing no sooner than one hundred twenty (120) nor later than sixty (60) days in advance of the expiration date of this Agreement of the desire to amend or terminate the same. All changes by the moving party must be submitted in writing at the time the initial aforesaid notice is given. Thereafter, the responding party shall have thirty (30) days to give notice of proposed changes and/or counter proposals in writing. No such changes by either party shall be considered which are not received in accordance with this Section.

**RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION**

By: 
Richard Lindsay

Date: 3/18/2024

Witness:



**TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

By: 
Christine Carey, Mayor

Date: 3-21-24

Witness:


Donna Marie Luciani
Township Clerk

