

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:08 P.M.

Commissioner John C. Kenny called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny – All the requirements of the “Open Public Meeting Act” have been complied with by advertising in the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger. Copies of the meeting notice have been sent to the Municipal Clerk’s Office and posted on the bulletin board of the fire house and the post offices of Woodbridge and Sewaren.

Commissioner John C. Kenny led a pledge to the flag.

A moment of silence was observed for our departed members and a special prayer for those suffering over there in Europe.

PRESENT: Commissioner John C. Kenny, Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr., Commissioner Jay Barcellona, Commissioner Patrick Kenny, Commissioner Jeffrey Moran

ALSO PRESENT: Nicole Grzeskowiak, Labor Counsel

Commissioner J.C.K.: I need a motion to suspend the minutes of the last previous meeting, the Special Meeting, until tomorrow’s normal Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a suspend the minutes of the last previous meeting, the Special Meeting, until tomorrow’s Regular Meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: We do have two resolutions tonight, Resolution 2022-4-1 which is about enhancing the educational stipend for the volunteers. I need a motion.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-4-1 which is about enhancing the educational stipend for the volunteers which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Kenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Next one is Resolution 2022-4-2 and that is a clarification in regards for healthcare.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-4-2 which is a clarification in regards for healthcare which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Kenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: I’d like to make a motion to go into Executive Session for legal and personnel matters.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to go into Executive Session for legal and personnel matters which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Kenny and carried unanimously at 5:11 P.M.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to go back to the regular portion of the Special Meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Kenny and carried unanimously at 8:13 P.M.

Commissioner J.C.K.: In summary the Board spoke at great length to accurately reply to the Chief's communication and answer any type of clarification questions that they may have. The Labor Attorney is going to get that communication out. We spoke about the policy on the bathroom just to give the Board an update on that. Commissioner Moran, to make the chiefs aware of what is coming in the upcoming 2023 business year, we received on improvements that are going to be happening on highways on where they stand in helping us in planning for the proper layout of the district and we came with a short-term plan about the rescue. The rescue is really going to be used for water rescue, elevator rescue, motor vehicle accidents and out of town RIT. Bob and Jeff and other members of the Board have agreed the Board should speak about the property owners and for the time study from the sub-station. The Board is going to speak to Mike Bart on the cost options for staffing and come up with a long-term ten-year plan that will stabilize the tax base. We also learned information of the county having a dental plan that seems to be potentially more adventitious than what we have now and Commissioner Moran is going to follow up on that. Does anybody have anything else or is anything missing?

Commissioner R.M.: No sir.

Commissioner P.K.: Nope.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:17 P.M. which was seconded by Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Bucsanszky
District Clerk

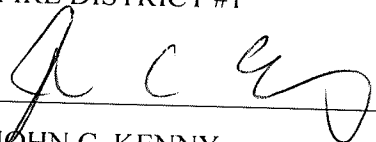
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge recognizes the vital role that volunteers serve as members of the Department and to public safety with the Fire District and Township, and the benefits that volunteers provide to the taxpayers of the Fire District.

WHEREAS in order to encourage and incentivize current volunteers and in order to enhance the recruitment and retention of new volunteers, an Education Assistance Plan (hereinafter "Plan") was established on October 4, 2017 to further those goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge hereby amends and expands the Plan to provided educational benefits under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code to all active volunteer members of the Woodbridge Fire Company, Fire District #1 to any volunteer who attends trade school or vocational programs as set forth in **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

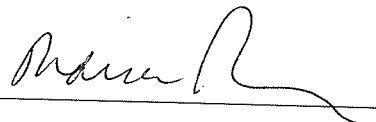
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT #1



JOHN C. KENNY

ADOPTED: 4/5, 2022

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge at their meeting held on 4/5, 2022.



MARIA BUCSANSZKY - Clerk

RESOLUTION 2022 – 4 – 1**Introduction:**

The Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes the vital role that volunteers serve as members of the Department and to public safety within the Fire District and Township, and the benefit that volunteers provide to the taxpayers of the Fire District. In order to encourage and incentivize current volunteers and in order to enhance the recruitment and retention of new volunteers, an Educational Assistance Plan will be established to further those goals.

The Plan:

On October 4, 2017, the Woodbridge Board of Fire Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board") established an Educational Assistance Plan (hereinafter "Plan") to provide educational benefits under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code to all active volunteer members (hereinafter "Volunteers") of the Woodbridge Fire Company, Fire District #1 (hereinafter "Company"). This document sets forth the Plan.

Woodbridge Fire Department Educational Assistance Plan

- 1. Employment status.** Volunteer members qualify for the Plan and earn the benefits when they meet the following requirements:
 - a. Respond to 20% of all fire calls and 60% of drills in any given year;
 - b. Are actively enrolled and/or have successfully completed Firefighter 1 and any additional mandatory training as required by the Division of Fire Safety, and completed all mandatory training as required by the Board of Fire Commissioners and/or the Division of Fire Safety for certification as an interior structural firefighter.
 - c. Participants in the Plan must serve a minimum of six (6) years of active service as outlined in parts (a) and (b) above from the date of first receiving benefits.
- 2. Plan benefits.** The Company will reimburse the employee no more than \$5,250 a year for qualified educational programs. Should lawmakers enact an increase or decrease to the \$5,250 ceiling, this Plan automatically adopts the new ceiling on its effective date. Under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code, the employee receives the reimbursements under this Plan as tax-free fringe benefits.
- 3. Plan termination.** The Company reserves the right to change or terminate the Plan without prior notice. If the Company does end the Plan, the Company will reimburse all courses in process prior to termination, but it will not reimburse any classes that begin after Plan termination and notification.
- 4. Prohibited choices.** This Plan prohibits the Company from offering eligible employees a choice between educational assistance and other compensation.

5. Covered educational expenses. This Plan reimburses costs for tuition, fees, and books for college/university classes as well as trade school/vocational programs. The Plan does not reimburse costs for tools, supplies, meals, lodging, or transportation. The Plan does not reimburse costs for any education that involves sports, games, or hobbies.

6. Notification to Employer. Volunteers who plan to take advantage of the Educational Assistance Plan shall notify the Company in writing of such plan, course of study, and expected reimbursement amounts and dates no later than 30 days after the educational activity begins.

7. Reimbursements.

a) Upon completion of the courses, the participant must provide an official transcript of grades and original receipts for all items for which he or she seeks reimbursement. The Company will not reimburse any amounts already reimbursed by any financial assistance, scholarship, or any other financial benefit derived from public or private programs. The participant must also attain a grade of "C" or better to qualify for benefits under the Plan. The Company shall reimburse the participant within 45 days of request and proper submission of the supporting documents.

b) Any participant that fails to complete the service requirements in section 1, agrees to reimburse the Board a prorated amount of benefits received base on time served.

Attestment:

The Board and/or Company has explained this Plan to me, an eligible Volunteer, and I have read this Plan document.

With this signature, I verify that I have read this Plan document and understand the Plan.

For the Volunteer:

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

On behalf of the Board, I explained this Plan to the Volunteer above. Further, I furnished the Volunteer with a copy of the Plan and observed as he or she read the Plan. I hereby affix my signature in verification of these facts.

For the Board:

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

2022-4-2

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2001, the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge ("Fire District #1") passed a Resolution to provide and pay for continued complete health benefits for the employees, including members of the Board of Fire Commissioners, who have retired or will retire after 25 years or more of service with Fire District #1 of the Township of Woodbridge at the time of retirement or who have reached the age of 62 with fifteen (15) or more years of service with Fire District #1 of the Township of Woodbridge, or disability retirement to the extent permitted by Law, with said coverage to include payment of premiums for their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Todd Howell is a former commissioner who just retired who is at least 62 years of age and had more than 15 years with the District, and Fire District #1 wishes to continue to comply with the 2001 Resolution to provide Todd Howell and his dependents continued health benefits; and

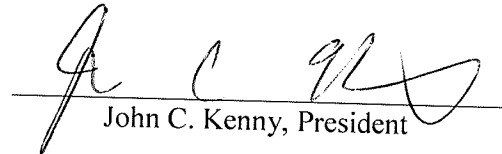
WHEREAS, Fire District #1 was unable to acquire benefits through the State Health Benefits Plan and therefore wishes to acquire equivalent health benefits through a third-party provider; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m) allows public entities to obtain or pay for health insurance without public advertising of bids and bidding; and

WHEREAS, Fire District #1 wishes to pay for AARP United Healthcare Plan F and Silver Script Smart Rx benefits for Todd Howell and his dependent, Kathryn Howell in order to provide health benefits equivalent to those provided to all other retirees pursuant to the September 2001 Resolution; and

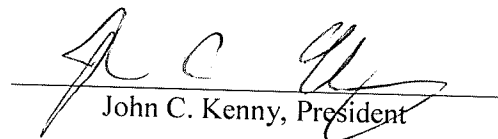
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:10-23, the Fire District shall obtain and pay the premiums for AARP United Healthcare Plan F and Silver Script Smart RX benefits on behalf of Todd Howell and his dependent, Kathryn Howell, in order to provide continued health benefits coverage in compliance with the Fire District's policy and September 2001 Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate officers of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District #1 of the Township of Woodbridge are authorized to execute and certify any forms required to obtain or pay for said health benefits.


John C. Kenny, President

ADOPTED: April 5, 2022

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, at their meeting held on April 5, 2022.


John C. Kenny, President