

Contract no. 1208

A G R E E M E N T

BETWEEN

TOWN OF NEWTON

AND

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL/CIO

LOCAL NO. 1032

January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1992

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PREAMBLE

This Agreement entered into this 18th day of June, 1992, by and between the Town of Newton, in the County of Sussex, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "Town", and the Communications Workers of America, AFL/CIO, hereinafter referred to as the "Union", represents the complete and final understanding on all bargainable issues between the Town and the Union.

ARTICLE 1

RECOGNITION

A. The Town hereby recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive collective negotiating agent and representative for all full-time and part-time police communications operators/radio dispatchers employed by the Town of Newton and excluding all other employees of the Town, managerial executives, confidential and craft employees, professionals, police and supervisors within the meaning of the Act.

B. The title "employees" shall be defined to include the plural as well as the singular and to include males and females.

ARTICLE 2

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

A. The Town of Newton hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, except as hereinafter provided, 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. The executive management and administrative control of the Town Government and its properties and facilities and activities of its employees by utilizing the personnel, methods and means of the most appropriate and efficient manner possible as may from time to time be determined by the Town.

2. To make reasonable 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 sole 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 from time to time deem best for the purposes of maintaining order, safety and/or the effective operation of the Department after advance notice thereof to the employees to require compliance by the employees is recognized.

4. To hire all employees, to promote, transfer, assign or retain employees in positions within the Town.

Management Rights (Continued)...

5. To suspend, demote, discharge or take any other appropriate disciplinary action for just cause and according to law against any employee.

6. To lay off employees in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:_____ in the event of lack of work or funds or under conditions where continuation of such work would be inefficient and non-productive, as long as such lack of work or funds is bona fide.

7. The Town 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 efficiency and effective operation of the Department.

8. In the exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Town, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices and the furtherance thereof, and the use of judgement 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.

B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Town of its rights, responsibilities and authority under R.S. 40A and R.S. 11 or any other national, state, county or local laws or regulations.

C. The Town's rights are restricted by and shall not exceed those granted under New Jersey State Statutes.

ARTICLE 3

UNION RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

A. The Union shall have the right to designate such members of the Union as it deems reasonably necessary as Union representatives who shall not be discriminated against due to their legitimate Union activity. The Union agrees to furnish the Town with the names of Union representatives in writing. Employees who are designated as Union representatives shall be permitted to investigate and process grievances during regular working hours without loss of pay or benefits.

B. Union representatives, not to exceed two (2) in number, may participate in mutually scheduled collective negotiations and meetings during their scheduled hours of work and shall suffer no loss in their regular pay for the time they are so engaged.

C. Authorized Union representatives shall have the right to enter upon the premises of the Town during working hours for the purpose of conducting normal duties relative to the enforcement and administration of this agreement so long as such visits do not interfere with the work being performed or with the proper service to the public.

D. The Union may use Town buildings and designated facilities at reasonable hours when not otherwise in use when authorized and scheduled by the proper authorities.

E. An employee may request use of vacation leave or unpaid leave to attend Union activities. Such leave shall be granted provided that it will not interfere with the efficient operation of the Town and is requested in accordance with standard operating procedures for vacation and unpaid leave.

ARTICLE 4

WORK RULES

A. Proposed new rules or modifications of existing rules shall be provided to the Union representative at the earliest possible time and under no circumstances in less than five (5) days before they take effect.

B. Rules and regulations shall be in writing and copies shall be provided to the Union.

ARTICLE 5

NON-DISCRIMINATION

A. The Town and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, handicap or marital status.

B. The Town and the Union agree that all employees covered under this Agreement have the right, without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join and assist in Union activity or to refrain from such activity. There shall be no discrimination by the Town or the Union against any employee because of the employee's membership or non-membership or activity or non-activity in the Union.

C. The Town and the Union agree that all employees covered under this Agreement have the right to form, join and assist any fraternal or charitable organization or to refrain from such activity.

ARTICLE 6

MAINTENANCE OF WORK OPERATIONS

A. The Union hereby covenants and agrees that during the term of this Agreement, neither the Union 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 absence in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the employee's duties of employment), work stoppage, slow-down, walk-out, or other illegal job action against the Town.

B. In the event of a strike, slow-down, walk-out or job action, it is covenanted and agreed that participation in any such activity by any Union member shall be deemed grounds for termination of employment of such employee or employees.

C. The Union agrees that it will make every reasonable effort to prevent its members from participating in any strike, work stoppage, slow-down, or other activity aforementioned, or supporting any such activity by any other employee or group of employees of the Town, and that the Union will publicly disavow each action and urge all such members who participate in such activities to cease and desist from same immediately and to return to work.

D. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the Town in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have in law.

ARTICLE 7

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. 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 employment under this Agreement.

B. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the Department.

C. 1. The term "grievance" as used herein means an appeal by an individual employee, or the Union on behalf of an individual employee or group of employees, from the interpretation, application or violation of policies, agreements, and administrative decisions affecting them.

2. No grievance may proceed beyond Step 3 herein unless it constitutes a controversy arising over the interpretation, application or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Disputes concerning terms and conditions of employment controlled by Statute or administrative regulation, incorporated by reference in this Agreement either expressly or by operation of law, shall not be processed beyond Step 3 through this grievance procedure.

D. The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances arising under this Agreement, and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent:

Step 1

The aggrieved or the Union shall institute action under the provisions hereof within seven (7) working days after the event giving

Grievance Procedure (Continued)...

rise to the grievance has occurred, or after the date on which the grievant may reasonably have known of the event. An earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the aggrieved employee and his/her immediate Supervisor for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within said seven (7) working days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance in this procedure.

Step 2

If no agreement can be reached orally within seven (7) working days of the initial discussion with the Supervisor, the employee or the Union may present the grievance in writing within seven (7) working days thereafter to the Department Head, or his designated representative. The written grievance at this step shall contain the relevant facts, the applicable section of the Contract violated, or the violation, misapplication, or misinterpretation of existing policy or regulations, and the remedy requested by the grievant. The Department Head or his designated representative will answer the grievance in writing within five (5) working days of receipt of the written grievance.

Step 3

If the Union wishes to appeal the decision of the Department Head, such appeal shall be presented in writing to the Town Manager or his/her designated representative within ten (10) working days thereafter. This presentation shall include copies of all previous correspondence relating to the matter in dispute. The Town Manager

Grievance Procedure (Continued)...

may schedule a grievance meeting within ten (10) working days after receipt of the grievance. The Town Manager shall respond in writing to the grievance within ten (10) working days of the submission. This response shall be considered the final administrative decision.

ARTICLE 8

DUES DEDUCTION AND AGENCY SHOP

A. The Town agrees to deduct from the salaries of its employees, subject to this Agreement, dues for the Union. Such deductions shall be made in compliance with Chapter 123, Public Laws of 1974, N.J.S.A. (R.S.) 52:14-15.9e, as amended.

B. A check-off shall commence for each employee who signs a properly dated authorization card, supplied by the Union and verified by the Town Treasurer during the month following the filing of such card with the Town.

C. If, during the life of this Agreement, there shall be any change in the rate of membership dues, the Union shall furnish the Town written notice thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such change, and shall furnish to the Town either new authorizations from its members showing the authorized deduction for each employee, or an official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by any officer of the Union advising of such changed deduction.

D. The Union will provide the necessary "check-off authorization" form, and the Union will secure the signatures of its members on the forms and deliver the signed forms to the Town Clerk.

E. The filing of notice of withdrawal shall be effective to halt deductions in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-15.9e as amended. Dues deductions and Agency Shop Fees, along with a list of said employees and the amounts deducted, shall be sent to:

Communications Workers of America - Local 1032
900 Brunswick Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08638
Attention: Local Treasurer

Dues Deduction and Agency Shop (Continued)...

F. The Town agrees to deduct the fair share from the earnings of those employees who elect not to become members of the Union and transmit the fee to the majority representative.

G. The deduction shall commence for each employee who elects not to become a member of the Union during the month following written notice from the Union of the amount of the fair share assessment. A copy of the written notice of the amount of the fair share assessment must also be furnished to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission.

H. The sum representing the fair share fee shall not reflect the costs of financial support of political causes of candidates, except to the extent that it is necessary for the Union to engage in lobbying activity designed to foster its employees' goals in collective negotiations and contract administration, and to secure for the employees it represents advances in wages, hours and other conditions of employment which ordinarily cannot be secured through collective negotiations with the Town.

I. The Union shall provide advance written notice to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission, the Town and to all employees within the unit, of the information necessary to compute the fair share fee for services enumerated above, at least once a year.

Dues Deduction and Agency Shop (Continued)...

J. The Union shall establish and maintain a procedure whereby any employee can challenge the assessment as computed by the Union. This appeal procedure shall in no way involve the Town or require the Town to take any action other than to hold the fee in escrow pending resolution of the appeal.

K. The Union shall indemnify, defend and save the Town harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other actions taken by the Town in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards or the fair share assessment information as furnished by the Union to the Town, or in reliance upon the official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by any officer of the Union, advising of such changed deduction.

ARTICLE 9

HOURS OF WORK

A. All full-time police radio dispatchers in the Town of Newton Police Department shall work a forty (40) hour work week. The work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive eight (8) hour days with two (2) consecutive days scheduled off, to the extent possible.

ARTICLE 10

OVER-TIME

A. All full-time employees shall be entitled to over-time pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any scheduled work week at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) times their regular base hourly rate of pay.

B. Part-time or temporary employees will be paid on a straight time basis for hours worked, with no allowance for over-time pay. Routinely, part-time or temporary employees are not scheduled to work more than twenty (20) hours in a work week. In the event that a part-time or temporary employee works more than forty (40) hours in any scheduled work week, he or she will be paid time and one-half (1.5) for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours.

C. Employees may take compensatory time at the convenience of the work schedule and with the approval of the Department Head or the Town Manager.

D. In the event an employee is called back to work outside of his regularly scheduled hours, he shall be paid a minimum of two (2) hours at the over-time rate. Over-time performed immediately before or immediately after regularly scheduled hours, or immediately before or immediately after a meal recess shall not be subject to the minimum. No employee shall have the right to call out another employee without permission from his immediate Supervisor, except in a major emergency.

ARTICLE 11

SALARIES

A. Effective January 1, 1992, the base hourly rate of pay for each of the classifications shown below shall be as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>1992 Hourly Rate</u>
Communications Operator, Temporary	\$ 5.05*
Communications Operator, Trainee (Less than one year experience)	7.50
Communications Operator	8.00
Senior Communications Operator	8.65

B. Present employees of the Town and their status in the above classifications shall be as shown in Appendix A.

* Minimum wage.

ARTICLE 12

BREAKS

A. Each employee shall be entitled to one paid fifteen (15) minute break for each half day period worked (morning and afternoon, and equivalent periods for shift work).

B. Each employee shall be entitled to one-half (1/2) hour lunch break during each eight (8) hour shift or major portion thereof.

C. Reasonable effort will be made to provide breaks and lunch. Upon approval of the shift supervisor, which will not be unreasonably withheld, employees may leave the building during breaks and lunch.

ARTICLE 13

LONGEVITY

A. In addition to designated salary or hourly wages, all full-time permanent police radio dispatcher employees are entitled to additional longevity pay at the following rate:

<u>Years of Cumulative Service</u>	<u>Longevity Pay</u>
5 Years	2%
10 Years	4%
15 Years	6%
20 Years	8%
25 Years	10%

B. Longevity pay is to be effective on the July 1st or January 1st following the anniversary date of employment.

C. In the event that additional longevity benefits are granted to Town of Newton employees by the Town Council, those employees covered by this Agreement shall receive those benefits as well.

ARTICLE 14

PAY PERIOD

A. All employees are paid biweekly, normally on Monday.

B. All payments are made by check accompanied by a check stub showing detailed deductions from employees' wages. Pay periods reflect the two weeks preceding and ending on Monday at midnight.

ARTICLE 15

HOLIDAYS

A. All full-time employees shall be granted twelve and one-half (12 1/2) paid holidays annually. These holidays are as follows:

New Year's Day	Columbus Day (Second Monday in October)
M. L. King, Jr.'s Birthday (Third Monday in January)	Veterans' Day (November 11)
Washington's Birthday (Third Monday in February)	Thanksgiving Day
Good Friday	Day After Thanksgiving
Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)	Second Half of the Shift on December 24th
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Labor Day	

B. If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it shall be observed on either the preceding Friday or the following Monday.

C. A day's holiday pay shall be equal to the employee's pay for his/her regularly scheduled work day.

D. In the event that an official holiday is observed during an employee's vacation, he shall be entitled to an additional vacation day, and should an official holiday occur while an employee is on sick leave, he shall not have that holiday charged against his sick leave.

E. In the event that any additional holidays are granted to Town of Newton employees by the Town Council, those employees covered by this Agreement shall receive those additional holidays as well.

ARTICLE 16

VACATION LEAVE

A. Every permanent full-time employee shall be granted the following annual vacation time with pay during the calendar year:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Amount of Vacation Leave Earned per Month</u>
One month to five years	One day
Sixth year to ten years	One and one-fourth days
Eleventh yr. to fifteen yrs.	One and one-half days
Over fifteen years	One and three-fourths days

B. All vacation time must be taken in the year accrued. If an employee is unable to take his or her vacation time in the year it accrues because the Town does not allow the employee to take the vacation based upon the manpower needs of the Town, then any vacation accrued and not taken by the employee shall be carried into the next succeeding calendar year only.

C. Vacation time may be taken as earned at the convenience of the departmental work schedule and with the approval of the Department Head and the Town Manager.

D. An employee may not use more than fifteen (15) consecutive vacation days without written approval of the Department Head or the Town Manager.

E. Conflicts in scheduling vacation leave shall be resolved by seniority.

F. Employees desiring to use their vacation time will notify the Chief of Police or his designee fourteen (14) days in advance and the Chief or designee will schedule it unless an extreme emergency makes

Vacation Leave (Continued)...

it impractical to do so or unless the employee has been issued a subpoena to appear in court as a result of his/her employment.

G. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Town from permitting an employee to take vacation time which has not yet been earned in the event of extenuating circumstances. Each employee shall be able to use his/her vacation leave for December from the first day of that month, even though it has not yet been earned.

H. Any employee whose service with the Town terminates shall have unused vacation time paid to him/her or the employee's legal representative in the event of his/her death.

ARTICLE 17

SICK LEAVE

A. In the first year of employment, an employee shall be entitled to one (1) day sick leave for each month of employment. Thereafter, sick leave shall accumulate on the basis of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) days per month, or fifteen (15) days per year. Sick leave may be accumulated from year to year.

B. Accumulated sick leave may be used by an employee for personal illness, illness in his/her immediate family which requires his/her attendance upon the ill person, quarantine restrictions, pregnancy or disabling injuries.

C. For the purpose of this Article, "immediate family" shall be defined to include spouse, child, parent or brother or sister, or a relative or dependent living under the same roof as the employee.

D. If an employee is absent from work due to illness for a period of three (3) consecutive work days, or more than ten (10) days in any calendar year, he may be required to furnish a medical certificate from a physician in support of the employee's absence from work.

E. The Town may require proof of illness of an employee on long term sick leave, whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.

Sick Leave (Continued)...

F. When any employee is absent from work due to illness he is expected to report that fact to his Department Head one (1) hour prior to his scheduled starting time. This procedure must be followed in order for the absence to qualify as a valid charge against accumulated sick leave.

G. Sick leave must be used while an individual is still employed. Any unused sick leave is forfeited upon termination of employment.

H. In case of leave of absence due to contagious disease, a certificate is required from a valid health agency. In case of death in the family of an employee, any reasonable proof will be sufficient.

I. 1. Each employee covered by this Agreement may utilize three (3) days per annum as personal days, which days shall be deductible from his sick leave on a day-for-day basis. These days are non-cumulative and, if unused at the end of the calendar year, the remaining days shall revert to sick leave and be placed in the employee's accumulated sick leave bank.

2. In order to be eligible to receive said personal days, the employee must give reasonable notice of his request to utilize the personal days. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

J. Upon eligibility for full retirement or disability retirement pursuant to the Public Employees Retirement System, individuals covered by this Agreement will be reimbursed for sick time as follows:

10 Years of Service	5% of Accrued Sick Time
15 Years of Service	10% of Accrued Sick Time
20 Years of Service	15% of Accrued Sick Time
25 Years of Service	20% of Accrued Sick Time

ARTICLE 18

INJURY LEAVE

A. In the event an employee becomes disabled by reason of a service connected injury or illness and is unable to perform his duties, then in addition to any sick leave benefits otherwise provided for herein, he may be entitled to full pay for a period of up to one (1) year.

B. Any employee who is injured while working, whether slightly or severely, must make an immediate report to the Department Head.

C. It is understood that the employee must file an injury report with the Department Head so that the Town may file the appropriate Workers' Compensation Petition. Failure to so report said injury may result in the failure of the employee to receive compensation under this Article.

D. The employee shall be required to present evidence by a certificate of a physician designated by the insurance carrier that he is unable to work, and the Town may reasonably require the employee to present such certificate from time to time.

E. If the Town does not accept the certificate of the physician designated by the insurance carrier, the Town 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 Town.

F. In the event the Town appointed physician certifies the employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated.

Injury Leave (Continued)...

G. The Town, at its option and upon certification by the Town appointed physician, may extend the disability pay for no more than one (1) additional year. The Town appointed physician must certify that the employee is incapable of performing his duties for the additional time period.

H. In the event any employee is granted said injury leave, the Town's sole obligation shall be to pay the employee the difference between his regular pay and any compensation, disability or other payments received from other sources provided by the Town. At the Town's option, the employee shall either surrender and deliver any compensation, disability or other payments to the Town and receive his entire salary payment, or the Town shall pay the difference.

I. If the Town can prove that an employee has abused his privileges under this Article, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action by the Town. If the employee is found to be in violation of this Article, he shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Town to the extent which is provided within this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19

FUNERAL LEAVE

A. In the event of a death in the immediate family, an employee will be granted time off without loss of pay from the day of death up to and including the day of the funeral, but not to exceed three (3) work days.

B. "Immediate family" shall be defined as father, mother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild, spouse, child, step or foster child, sister or brother of the employee. It shall also include relatives of the employee residing in the employee's household.

ARTICLE 20

MILITARY LEAVE

A. Military leave will be granted in accordance with the New Jersey State Statutes.

ARTICLE 21

JURY DUTY

A. Any regular full-time employee who loses time from his or her job because of jury duty as certified by the Clerk of the Court shall be paid by the Town the difference between his or her daily base rate of pay (up to a maximum of the normal number of hours per day) and the daily jury fee, subject to the following conditions:

1. The employee must notify his or her Supervisor immediately upon receipt of a summons for jury service;

2. The employee has not voluntarily sought jury service;

3. No employee is attending jury duty during an extended leave of absence. An employee who has scheduled vacation time and is called for jury duty shall be permitted to reschedule his/her vacation.

4. The employee submits adequate proof of the time served on the jury and the amount received for such service.

B. If on any given day an employee is attending jury duty and he or she is released by the Court prior to eleven o'clock (11:00 a.m.), that employee shall be required to return to work by twelve o'clock (12:00 noon) that day in order to receive pay for that day.

C. An employee assigned to the evening or night shift shall be reassigned to the day shift for the period of time he or she is scheduled for jury duty.

ARTICLE 22

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

A. The Town Manager may grant an employee a leave of absence without pay for a period of up to thirty (30) days.

B. A leave of absence for longer than thirty (30) days must first be approved by the Town Council.

C. A leave of absence longer than twelve (12) months must be approved by the New Jersey Department of Personnel (formerly the Department of Civil Service).

D. Approval of leaves of absence without pay shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Town and the Union agree that the manpower needs of the Town are a reasonable reason for denial, unless such leave is for medical purposes.

E. An employee on any type of leave of absence, except medical, shall be responsible for reimbursing the Town for medical insurance premiums, prescription program premiums and/or dental program premiums. Failure to reimburse the Town for these premiums timely shall result in cancellation of the employee's coverage.

F. An employee on any type of leave of absence shall be responsible for the employee's share of pension and contributory insurance. Such premiums shall be deducted from the employee's pay check upon return to work, if not previously paid and upon certification from the Division of Pensions.

ARTICLE 23

ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE

A. Any permanent employee who is absent from duty for a term of five (5) consecutive days without good cause or authorized leave of absence will be subject to termination.

ARTICLE 24

CLOTHING

A. The Town agrees to provide all full-time employees covered by this agreement with a clothing allowance of \$125.00 on July 1, 1992.

B. The Town agrees to provide all part-time employees covered by this agreement with a clothing allowance of \$62.50 on July 1, 1992.

ARTICLE 25

GROUP INSURANCE

A. After three (3) months of full-time employment, a new employee becomes eligible for the following coverage through the State Health Benefits Plan of New Jersey:

1. Hospitalization
2. Medical-Surgical
3. Major Medical

This coverage includes single, family and family with maternity memberships.

B. The Town reserves the right to change insurance carriers, or to self insure any or all portions of the insurance benefits, so long as the same or substantially similar benefits are provided. The Town agrees to notify the Union of its intent to change carriers or self insure at least thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated date of implementation, and agrees to schedule a meeting with the Union to discuss the proposed change as soon as mutually possible.

C. The full cost of the insurance provided by the Town's insurance carrier shall be covered by the Town for the employee. However, should an employee choose to enroll with another carrier, the Town will pay no more than the amount it currently pays with its own carrier.

D. Coverage for families shall be paid in full in 1992.

E. Dental coverage for all employees covered by this Agreement with five (5) or more years of service will be offered at the same rate and level of coverage as that received by other non-union Town employees and Department Heads.

ARTICLE 26

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

A. In the event an employee is authorized to use his private automobile for Town business, he will be reimbursed for mileage at a rate of \$.20 per mile as established by the Town Council. All reimbursements must be authorized in advance by the Town Manager.

B. Employees who use their automobiles for Town business on a regular basis may be authorized a flat monthly allowance for travel within Sussex County. This allowance may be granted only after the recommendation of the Town Manager and the approval of the Town Council.

ARTICLE 27

DAMAGE TO TOWN EQUIPMENT

A. Whenever any employee damages any Town equipment, a full written report shall be made and forwarded to the Town Manager's Office.

B. When any Town owned vehicle is involved in an accident, the Police Department must be notified immediately so that they may conduct an on-the-scene investigation and prepare an accident report as required. The driver must also file a full report as required by section "A" above.

C. In the event of an accident, the Town Manager may convene a review board consisting of the Department Head and at least one (1) other bargaining unit employee to review the accident and determine if negligence is involved, or if any disciplinary action should be recommended. If disciplinary action is recommended, the employee retains the right to all appeals outlined in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 28

SAFETY

A. The Town agrees to provide safe and adequate working areas and equipment. The Union reserves the right to call upon the Town to investigate any matter involving work areas or equipment. Such requests will only be made where the Union feels that the employee is subject to possible impairment of health and safety.

ARTICLE 29

PERSONNEL RECORDS

A. All personnel records are kept on file in the Town Manager's Office.

B. Annually, by February 1st, each employee will be given a copy of his vacation leave and sick leave record.

C. Other personnel file information may be reviewed by appointment with the Town Manager's Office.

ARTICLE 30

WORKING TEST PERIOD

A. Every new employee will be subject to a three (3) month working test period.

B. The purpose of this period is to give the Department Head and the Town Manager an opportunity to observe how well an employee fulfills his duties and responsibilities, and to decide whether the employee merits permanent status.

C. If, at the discretion of the Department Head and the Town Manager, the employee does not satisfactorily perform within the working test period, the employee's employment with the Town shall be terminated. The employee's only recourse to such termination is through N.J.A.C. 4A:2-4.

ARTICLE 31

PERMANENT STATUS

A. Employees who have been certified and have satisfactorily completed their working test period have attained permanent status.

B. After permanent status has been established, an employee can be removed from his position only by the decision of the Town Manager, and only in accordance with Civil Service law and local ordinances and this Agreement.

ARTICLE 32

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

A. Employees shall be allowed to take time off with pay to take open competitive and promotional examinations established by the Civil Service system for positions in the Town.

ARTICLE 33

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

A. In order to encourage an effective employee training program, it is necessary to distinguish among the various types of educational opportunities available to employees and to encourage participation under the following conditions:

1. The Town will pay employees taking such courses at their regular wage rates. The Town will reimburse one hundred percent (100%) of an employee's tuition costs, mileage costs (the latter at the prevailing rate established by the Town Council), and course materials costs, upon satisfactory completion of all courses which employees are required to take in order to obtain any specialized training, certification, licenses and/or registrations **required** to perform the duties of their position. The employee must obtain prior confirmation from his/her supervisor for said courses in order to be entitled to said payment.

ARTICLE 34

ADHERENCE TO NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL RULES

A. The Town and the Union understand and agree that all rules promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Personnel or superseded by Public Employment Relations Commission ruling concerning any matter whatever not specifically covered in this Agreement shall be binding upon both parties.

ARTICLE 35

LAYOFF OR REDUCTION IN FORCE AND RECALL

A. The Town Manager may lay off an employee for purposes of efficiency or economy, or other valid reason requiring a reduction of the number of employees.

B. No permanent employee shall be laid off until all emergency employees, temporary employees, provisional employees, and those serving their working test period are first separated.

C. Whenever possible, at the sole discretion of the Town, employees shall be demoted in lieu of layoff, to some lesser office or position.

D. In the event the Town plans to lay off employees for any reason, the Town shall meet with the Union to review such anticipated lay off at least two (2) weeks prior to the date such action is to be taken, if possible.

E. The Town shall forward a list of those employees being laid off to the local Union President on the same date that the notices are given to the employees.

F. When the work force is increased after a layoff, employees will be recalled according to seniority. Notice of recall shall be sent to the employees at their last known address by registered mail. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the Union.

G. Layoffs will be effectuated in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 36

RESIGNATION

A. Employees are required to give at least a two (2) week written notice upon resignation.

B. All resignations will be reviewed by the Town Manager.

C. Failure to provide two (2) weeks written notice will be considered by the Town as cause for a resignation in bad standing.

ARTICLE 37

RETIREMENT

A. Within four (4) months after regular or permanent appointment, full-time employees must join the Public Employees Retirement System.

B. If an employee terminates his municipal service prior to retirement, his contribution will be returned, with interest, upon application to the Retirement System.

ARTICLE 38

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. An employee who acquires permanent status may be disciplined in accordance with Civil Service regulations, general law, and this Article by any of the following actions which are stated in order of severity, for the cause stated in this section by the Manager, and no employee shall be suspended or dismissed without the approval of the Manager:

1. Informal, verbal reprimand
2. Written reprimand
3. Suspension from duty
4. Dismissal

Appeal may be made to the Town Council from any disciplinary action taken by the Manager.

B. All discipline shall be progressive in nature and corrective in intent. Discipline for this purpose means any penalty greater than an oral reprimand.

C. The causes for which disciplinary action may be invoked include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Neglect of duty
2. Absence without leave or failure to report after authorized leave has expired, or after such leave has been disapproved or revoked
3. Incompetency, inefficiency or incapacity due to mental or physical disability
4. Insubordination or serious breach of discipline
5. Intoxication while on duty

Disciplinary Action (Continued)...

6. Commission of a criminal act
7. Disobedience of a rule or regulation
of the Town
8. Conduct unbecoming a public employee
9. Negligence in the use of or unauthorized
use of Town equipment
10. Falsifying important records
11. Absence without leave

D. An employee shall be entitled to Union representation at each stage of a disciplinary proceeding instituted pursuant to this Agreement.

E. No employee shall be requested to sign a statement of an admission of guilt to be used in a disciplinary proceeding without having Union representation.

F. Employees disciplined under the provisions of this Article shall have the right to challenge the disciplinary action through the Grievance Procedure.

ARTICLE 39

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

A. Employees shall be entitled to engage in any lawful activity and obtain any lawful work while off duty.

B. It is understood that full-time employees will consider their position with the Town as their primary job. Any outside employment must not interfere with the employee's efficiency in his position with the Town and must not constitute any conflict of interest.

C. No employee planning to or engaging in outside employment during off-duty hours shall be permitted to wear any uniform or clothing supplied to him by the Town.

D. All continuing outside employment shall be approved by the Police Chief or his designated representative. Written notification including the name of the employee seeking outside employment, that employee's address, telephone number, a description of the type of work to be performed, and the work schedule must be submitted to the Police Chief to allow him to determine if approval of outside employment is justifiable.

ARTICLE 40

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 to be contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 41

DURATION OF AGREEMENT

A. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 1992 and shall remain in effect to and including December 31, 1992, without any reopening date. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, until one party or the other gives notice, in writing, of their intention to negotiate no sooner than one hundred fifty (150) days nor no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals at the Town of Newton, New Jersey on this 18th day of June, 1992.

TOWN OF NEWTON
NEW JERSEY

COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF
AMERICA, AFL/CIO

(Original signed by Mayor)

John L. Iliff, Mayor

(Original signed by Manager)

Camille Furgiuele, Manager

(Original signed by Clerk)

Douglas L. Cummins, Clerk

(Original signed by A. Janks)

Anne Janks

(Original signed by J. Marketti)

Jim Marketti

(Original signed by M. Richards)

Michael Richards

APPENDIX A

FULL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

Michael Richards is classified as a Senior Communications Operator.

Lisa K. Santos is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

Andrea Wehrenberg is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

Edward Fransen is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

Anna Marie Miller is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

Joseph Sapio is classified as a Senior Communications Operator I.

Christopher Tornillo is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

Roger White is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

Michael Monaco is classified as a Communications Operator and will be classified as a Senior Communications Operator I upon certification by APCO.

