

#2427

AGREEMENT

Between

Town of Boonton

Morris County, New Jersey

and

**TOWN OF BOONTON ASSOCIATION
OF STREET AND WATER EMPLOYEES**

January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1999

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AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this 16th day of December 1996 between the MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, with offices at 100 Washington Street, in the Town of Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the "Town") and the TOWN OF BOONTON ASSOCIATION OF STREET AND WATER EMPLOYEES (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"),

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Town and Association have met and negotiated the terms and conditions of the employment of employees of the Street and Water Departments of the Town of Boonton; and

WHEREAS, the parties have mutually agreed upon the terms and conditions of a new contract which is to begin on January 1, 1997 and continue until midnight December 31, 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE, in the consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and agreements between the parties which are herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1: CONTRACT

This Agreement represents the complete and final understanding on all bargainable issues between the Town and the Association.

SECTION 2: RECOGNITION

The Town hereby recognizes that the Town of Boonton Association of Street and Water is the bargaining agent for the Water and Street Department employees for the purpose of negotiations and agrees that this organization is the exclusive bargaining agent for said employees.

SECTION 3: DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

A. It is intended by all of the parties hereto that this Agreement shall cover all matters pertaining to employment, wages, salaries, hours and working conditions concerning the employees of the Water and Street Department (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"). This Agreement is effective **January 1, 1997**, and shall cover the years **1997, 1998 and 1999**. This said Agreement is to terminate at midnight on **December 31, 1999**.

B. Negotiations for the new contract which is to begin on **January 1, 2000** shall commence no later than **November 1, 1999**, and shall be completed by **January 1, 2000**.

SECTION 4: CIVIL SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

All employees shall be assigned primarily to the job classification for which each employee has been rated or assigned. No person is to replace or do the job for which they are not classified except on a temporary basis.

SECTION 5: THE WORKING PERIOD

A. It is agreed by the parties hereto that the employees of the Association are employed on the basis of a five (5) day, forty (40) hour week term, which period shall run from Monday morning through Friday afternoon and shall involve a work period each day of eight (8) hours.

B. The Water and Street Department employees shall start work at 7:00 a.m. and shall have one-half (1/2) hour for lunch between 12 noon and 12:30 p.m. and shall complete their workday at 3:30 p.m.

C. The DPW Director may vary the times for the lunch period if required in order to efficiently perform the work of the Departments.

SECTION 6: HOURLY WAGES AND OVERTIME

A. All wages shall be paid every two weeks in accordance with Schedule One.

B. All employees shall receive payment at the rate of time and one-half (1 1/2) of their regular hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of an eight (8) hour day. All employees shall be paid for overtime worked in any twenty four (24) hour period a minimum of three (3) hours between 3:30 p.m. to midnight and four (4) hours between midnight and 7 a.m. Monday - Friday. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays will continue to be paid on a 4 hour call out basis. This will take effect from the date of signed contract.

C. Effective January 1, 1997 Main Street, Boonton will have street cleaning, weather permitting, starting at 6:00 a.m. Monday and Thursday. Association member assigned to the street cleaning duty will receive only one (1) hour of overtime each day.

D. Regular employees shall be offered an opportunity to perform overtime work before such opportunity is offered to part time employees with the exception, the Town may hire a temporary non-union employee to work the recycling and compost details. Overtime shall be distributed as equitably as possible among the employees.

SECTION 7: LONGEVITY

A. In addition to base pay, employees shall be entitled to compensation for longevity of service based on a calendar year in accordance with the following schedule:

	1 through 3 years	0% of base pay
Beginning of	4 through 7 years	2% of base pay
Beginning of	8 through 11 years	3% of base pay
Beginning of	12 through 15 years	4% of base pay
Beginning of	16 through 19 years	6% of base pay
	20 years and thereafter	7% of base pay

Longevity shall be included in base pay for the purpose of calculating pension benefits, but not for the purpose of calculating base salary or for any other purpose.

B. All employees receiving permanent status before January 1, 1990 are eligible for longevity. No employee hired on or after January 1, 1990 shall receive longevity pay.

SECTION 8: SENIORITY

A. In determining the number of years of service of an employee, the year in which the employee was hired shall be considered as one (1) full year, notwithstanding that the employee may have been employed for only a portion of that year.

B. Any layoff or recall and vacation requests shall be granted on the basis of seniority and all employees laid off shall be the first to be rehired.

SECTION 9: SICK LEAVE, BEREAVEMENT LEAVE, INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

SICK LEAVE

A. Each employee shall be entitled to fifteen (15) days of sick leave per year, all of which shall be cumulative from year to year.

SECTION 9 (continued)

B. Upon request, an employee shall submit a doctor's certificate in the event of an absence by reason of sickness for more than three (3) full consecutive days.

C. Upon retirement, after twenty five (25) years of service, each employee shall be paid on the following basis:

1. Thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day for all unused sick leave earned up to December 31, 1982.
2. Forty dollars (\$40.00) per day for all unused sick leave earned starting January 1, 1983.
3. Any Street or Water Department employee hired after January 1, 1983 shall be reimbursed for accumulated sick leave at the rate of forty dollars (\$40.00) per day up to a maximum of two hundred (200) days.

The sum shall be paid in one (1) lump sum no later than thirty (30) days after effective date of retirement or upon the death of the employee before retirement to his beneficiary.

D. The Town may require any employee who has been absent due to personal injury occurring from employment other than for the Town of Boonton, to submit to an examination by a physician designated by the Town and at its expense. Such examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing his normal duties and that his health will not jeopardize the health of other employees.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A. In the event of the death of a member of an employee's family, he shall be granted three (3) days off with no loss in pay. Family shall be defined as spouse, father, mother, grandparent, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law. Such days shall be noncumulative and not considered as part of sick leave entitlement, or vacation or holidays, or charged against the employee in any other way.

B. For the death of a grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin of the first degree, the day of burial only shall be granted without loss of pay.

C. Exceptions to this provision may be made at the discretion of the DPW Director.

SECTION 9 (Continued)

INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY

A. In the event an employee is injured in the course of performing his duties as an employee of the Town, his absence will not be deducted from his sick time benefits.

B. During such absence, the Town will pay said employee the difference between the benefits he has received for Worker's Compensation payments or other similar disability benefits, at the wage rate as per contract. After fifty (50) working days, the Town shall have the right at its expense, to require the employee to submit to examination from time to time by a physician of its choice to verify the inability of said employee to perform his normal duties.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

An employee injured during the course of the performance of his duties shall complete an accident report and submit it to his immediate supervisor at the earliest time he is able to do so.

SECTION 10: TERMINAL LEAVE

Policy: The N.C. Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions, has directed in connection with the "Terminal Leave" at retirement that the manner and the items to be included in the payment of terminal leave are to be stated in a declared policy to assure that the policy is applied consistently to all employee-members of State Retirement Systems.

Employees who retire from service with the Town of Boonton, after 25 years of service with the Town, shall be entitled to receive a retirement contract which will include any provisions for terminal leave.

Terminal leave shall be defined as that time between the date the employee stops reporting to work and the employee's effective date of retirement. Terminal leave involves the using up of accumulated sick leave, vacation leave, and compensatory time prior to the effective date of retirement.

Procedure: An employee who is contemplating retirement shall notify his/her immediate supervisor or Department Head and the Town Administrator no less than three (3) months prior to the date of retirement. At such time, the employee shall be entitled to enter into a retirement contract with the Town which will include the following provisions for terminal leave:

SECTION 10: TERMINAL LEAVE (Continued)

- A. An employee can stop working for the Town (stop reporting for work) a length of time prior to his/her official retirement date during which time said employee will be using up any accumulated sick leave, vacation leave and compensatory time.
- B. In return for being granted terminal leave, said employee shall reimburse the Town or give back the following:
1. The number of days equal to one third (1/3) of the total number of accumulated time being used to calculate terminal leave. This number shall be subtracted from the employees total accumulated sick, vacation and compensatory time, subtracting first from the accumulated vacation time, then from the accumulated sick leave. For example:

Employee has: 200 sick days accumulated
 20 vacation days accumulated
 5 compensatory days accumulated
 225 total accumulated days

Employee will be utilizing a total of 90 days to calculate his/her terminal leave. Employee must therefore give back to the Town one third (1/3) of those days.

90 days x 1/3 = 30 days (giving the employee 60 days of terminal leave)

The 30 days of give back will be subtracted from the employee's total accumulated days as follows:

30 "give back" days
- 20 vacation days
 10
- 05 compensatory days
 5
- 05 sick days
 0

Ninety (90) days will then be subtracted or used from the remaining 195 accumulated sick days, leaving 105 sick days to be paid in accordance with contractual agreements in a lump sum payment. The time of said lump sum payment shall be agreed upon between the employee and the Town.

By way of further example:

If employee uses all 225 total accumulated days to calculate his/her terminal leave, the employee must give back 1/3 of 225 or 75 leaving the employee 150 days of terminal leave.

SECTION 11: MEDICAL INSURANCE

A. Full Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage, including Rider "J" are to be provided at the Town's expense for employees and all members of the employee's immediate family and Major Medical, all as provided in accordance with coverage under the State of New Jersey Employees' Policy.

B. The Town reserves the right to change carriers on any of the medical plans provided that benefits to the employees are not reduced and the cost is not increased to the member of the Association beyond the contribution rate set forth below.

C. Members covered by this agreement agree to pay through payroll deductions a yearly contribution for health insurance premiums provided either the employer no longer obtains coverage through the State Health Benefits Plan or state regulations are revised to permit such contributions.

Prior to the Town's implementing new coverage, the Town agrees to consult with a representative of the Association.

The contribution rate would be as follows:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Single Coverage	\$200	\$200	\$200
Family Coverage	\$250	\$250	\$250

D. Upon retirement, after twenty five (25) years of service, an employee will be carried on the rolls under the New Jersey State Plan, with the effective date of May 1, 1973 for the employee, his spouse and family, provided the employee is not eligible to receive such benefits from any other source.

E. After age of sixty five (65) years has been attained, the employee and his spouse will be required to sign up for Parts A and B of the Medicare Program paid for by the Town, except that the Town will no longer reimburse for Medicare B for active employees and their spouses.

F. If desired by the employee for dental coverage, the employee will pay one half (1/2) of the Dental Plan (Program III A) and the employer, the Town of Boonton, will pay one half (1/2) the cost of the plan.

SECTION 12: DEATH BENEFITS

The estate of each employee shall be paid a death benefit of three (3) time the annual salary earned by a deceased employee at the time of his death in accordance with the terms of an insurance policy which has been issued to the Town.

SECTION 13: CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

A. Each employee shall be entitled to clothing allowance to purchase proper clothing to be used while working for the Town, as follows: 1997 - \$600.00; 1998 - \$600.00; 1999 - \$600.00. The clothing or work shoes purchased shall be with the Town's specifications as to said clothing. Said allowance shall be paid upon the presentation of a receipt, voucher or other document proving the purchase of same.

B. No new uniforms shall be required of all the employees in which the style and/or color are changed except at the beginning of each year. However, if any such changes are anticipated, the employees shall be notified at least three (3) months prior to the new contract year so that the employees do not purchase clothing which cannot be used on the job. The Town agrees to request ideas both as to style and color from the employees prior to making any such change.

SECTION 14: EDUCATION BENEFIT

The Town will reimburse the employees for the cost of books and tuition expenses for any job-related courses of study upon successful completion by the employee of said course and submission of proof of satisfactory completion.

SECTION 15: SALARY GUIDE

The Salary Guide contained in Schedule One attached hereto and made part hereof shall be in effect for the duration of this contract and shall apply to all employees. Upon successful completion of the 6 month working test period, new employees shall be placed in lowest job class for their job title.

If any employee is promoted to a different job title, they will be placed in the same class in the new job title upon certification by the Civil Service Commission.

SECTION 16: VACATION

A. Vacations shall be scheduled by the Department Superintendents and shall be available as follows:

1. 12 working days after 1 year employment
2. 15 working days after 5 years employment
3. 20 working days after 10 years employment
2. 25 working days after 15 years employment

SECTION 16: VACATION (Continued)

B. Vacation days may be taken on days preceding or following holidays or long weekends with prior approval of the respective Superintendent.

C. Vacation in excess of two (2) consecutive weeks shall not be granted without the prior approval of the Director of Public Works and the appropriate committee of the Board of Aldermen.

D. Vacations shall be granted to employees at times requested subject only to true emergency work and conflicts between employees' requests. No vacation may be canceled once approved, except for the existence of a true emergency, without the consent of the employees. Such cancellation can only take place upon the action of the particular municipal committee responsible for the department in which the employee works. Vacation days may be carried for not more than two (2) years unless vacations had been canceled by the Town due to emergencies, in which case the employee shall be paid for the unused vacation time.

SECTION 17: HOLIDAYS

A. Employees shall be entitled to the following thirteen (13) paid holidays per year:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Columbus Day
Lincoln's Birthday	Veterans Day
Washington's Birthday	Election Day
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	

B. Employees called in to work on a holiday will receive regular pay, plus time and one half (1 1/2) for hours worked.

C. Request for an exchange of holidays shall be submitted through the DPW Director or the designee of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at least one (1) month in advance. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen have the right to reject such request.

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A. Definition: A "grievance" within the meaning of this procedure shall be defined as any difference or dispute between the Town and employee covered by this Agreement with respect to the interpretation, application or alleged violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

B. To provide for the expeditious and mutually satisfactory settlement of grievances which may arise with respect to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the following procedure shall be followed:

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES (Continued)

Step 1. An employee with a grievance shall first discuss it with his DPW Director or Supervisor or his designated representative either directly or through the Association for the purpose of resolving the matter informally within ten (10) days of the event causing the grievance.

Step 2. In the event the aggrieved employee is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Step 1, or if no decision has been rendered within three (3) working days after presentation of the grievance, a written grievance may be filed with the Town Administrator, who shall meet with the employee and/or the Association officers or designated representative within five (5) working days of the filing of the written grievance. A decision thereon shall be rendered in writing within five (5) working days after the meeting.

Step 3. If the aggrieved employee is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Step 2, or if no decision has been rendered within five (5) working days after the holding of such meeting, the matter may be referred by the Association or individual to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boonton, who after filing the said grievance in writing with the Clerk of the Town, shall be given a hearing before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen within ten (10) working days after the date of such filing.

Step 4. If the aggrieved employee and/or the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance in Step 3, or if no decision has been rendered within eight (8) working days after the holding of such meeting, the matter may be referred by the Association to remedies provided by the Civil Service Act.

A. Referral to Civil Service shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the written decision or from the date said decision would be due.

B. If the appeal to Civil Service is not taken within the aforesaid time period, the decision rendered in Step 3 will be deemed final and binding.

C. The time limits specified in the grievance procedure shall be construed as maximum. However, these may be extended upon mutual agreement between the parties.

D. No meeting whereunder any steps of the procedure shall be public unless the parties mutually agree to do so in writing.

E. Any employee may be represented by himself or a representative selected and approved by the Association.

SECTION 18: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES (Continued)

F. It is understood that employees shall, during and notwithstanding the pendency of any grievance, continue to observe all assignments and applicable rules and regulations.

G. In matters of discipline or discharge, the parties may mutually agree to waive the first step of the grievance procedure and proceed immediately to Step 2 or 3.

H. No charge shall be made against an employee unless it is first reduced in writing and served upon the employee so charged. The charge shall set forth the exact nature and facts surrounding the charges. No information concerning the charges shall be released to the newspapers or news media until the employee has had a hearing and has been found guilty of the charges against him in accordance with the terms of this agreement or except as otherwise provided by law.

I. Any employee who has been charged with any violation of any of his duties owed to the municipality shall first be charged, tried and convicted and all appeal times on his grievance procedure shall run before any fine or suspension may be actually imposed upon the individual employee.

SECTION 19: FIRE EMERGENCIES, TIME CLOCK AND ADDED BENEFITS

FIRE EMERGENCIES

All firemen who are employees shall have the duty as an employee to respond to any fire call or emergency call in which the Fire Department is involved as an employee of the Town. The employee shall stay at the scene of the emergency until the Chief of the Fire Department or Ranking Officer present shall determine that their services are no longer needed and such members shall then return directly to the job site at which they were working or the to the supervisor or foreman for reassignment.

Employees will be covered under the existing Town insurance policy while the employees are working for the Town.

TIME CLOCK

All employees shall record their attendance at work by punching a time clock at the time of arrival and departure from work. NO employee shall punch the time card of another employee under any circumstance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hand and affixed their corporate seals the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON

Ann Marie Fitch
Ann Marie Fitch
Clerk

BY Edward J. Bolgar, Jr.
Edward Bolgar, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

TOWN OF BOONTON ASSOCIATION OF
STREET AND WATER EMPLOYEES

Larry Kramer 12/17/96

BY Robert Ezzi 12/17/96
Robert Ezzi, President