



North Merrick Fire District

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

2095 Camp Avenue, North Merrick, N.Y. 11566

(516) 223 - 4102 • FAX (516) 223 - 4105

NORTH MERRICK FIRE DISTRICT RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

In the matter of amending the Length of Service Award Program

WHEREAS, eligible voting residents of the North Merrick Fire District approved a referendum to establish a defined benefit Length of Service Award Program (a "LOSAP") for active volunteer firefighters of the North Merrick Fire Department in accordance with Article 11- A of the New York State General Municipal Law (GML); and

WHEREAS, the Fire District is the LOSAP Sponsor and Program Administrator; and

WHEREAS, GML § 216 authorizes the Fire District, as LOSAP Sponsor, to amend the LOSAP; and

WHEREAS, an active volunteer firefighter member currently earns a \$20 monthly Service Award benefit for each year of Service Credit, payable at the Entitlement Age of sixty (60); and

WHEREAS, a participating active volunteer firefighter obtains a nonforfeitable right to a service award upon earning five (5) years of Service Credit, the attainment of the Entitlement Age, death, or total and permanent disability; and

WHEREAS, under the current LOSAP provisions, the maximum number of years of Service Credit for which an active volunteer firefighter may earn a Service Award is 40 years which represents a maximum monthly Accrued Service Award of \$800; and

WHEREAS, a year of Service Credit is earned for each calendar year during which the active volunteer firefighter earns 50 or more points. Points are awarded for such things as attending training sessions, participating in drills, responding to calls, being an officer, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 400 of the Laws of 2021 amends GML § 219 to allow a LOSAP sponsor to extend the maximum number of years of Service Credit for which a participating active volunteer firefighter may earn a Service Award from 40 to 50 years maximum; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners desires to amend the LOSAP to extend the maximum years of Service Credit for which a participating active volunteer can earn a Service Award from 40 to 50 years; and

WHEREAS, this amendment will not increase the current cost of the LOSAP, but will extend the current cost longer into the future; therefore, the amendment will not require the Fire District to increase its annual LOSAP budget; and

WHEREAS, this amendment is consistent with the intent of the LOSAP to recruit, retain and reward volunteer firefighters; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Merrick Fire District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, as authorized by Article 11-A of the GML, approves an amendment to the LOSAP pursuant to Chapter 400 of the Laws of 2021 to extend the maximum years of Service Credit that may be earned under its LOSAP from 40 to 50 years, and therefore the maximum Accrued Monthly Service Award from \$800 to \$1,000, effective January 1, 2024. The calendar year 2023 contribution was calculated to be about \$250,000. Of this total contribution, the component attributable to each participating volunteer firefighter that earns Service Credit averages about \$1,900. The total annual contribution due and the average cost per volunteer firefighter that earns Service Credit will not increase as a result of this amendment. The Fire District pays an additional \$7,900 annually in administrative expenses, which will not change as a result of this amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to a mandatory referendum of qualified voters of the North Merrick Fire District and said referendum shall be held on December 12, 2023, between the hours of 2:00 PM and 9:00 PM (prevailing time) at 2095 Camp Avenue, North Merrick, NY 11566.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposition placed before the qualified voters read as follows:

THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NORTH MERRICK FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, COUNTY OF NASSAU, STATE OF NEW YORK, IN A RESOLUTION ADOPTED OCTOBER 10, 2023, APPROVED AN AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINED BENEFIT LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHED FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE NORTH MERRICK FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO EXTEND THE MAXIMUM YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR WHICH A PARTICIPATING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY EARN A SERVICE AWARD FROM 40 TO 50 YEARS, AND THEREFORE THE MAXIMUM PROJECTED ACCRUED MONTHLY SERVICE AWARD FROM \$800 TO \$1,000, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024. THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 CONTRIBUTION DUE FOR THE PROGRAM IS ABOUT \$250,000, WHICH INCLUDES AN AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION FOR EACH PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER THAT EARNS SERVICE CREDIT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,900. THE

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE AMENDED PROGRAM WILL NOT INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT. THE DISTRICT PAYS ADDITIONAL ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF ABOUT \$7,900 WHICH WILL NOT CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT. SHALL THE STATED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS BE APPROVED ?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Length of Service Awards Program shall continue to be administered by the North Merrick Fire District and that all other provisions of the LOSAP shall remain the same.

A motion by Commissioner Ellensohn, seconded by Commissioner Rogers unanimously approved to adopt this resolution: **Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers – yes, Commissioner Wilders – yes.**

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Chairman Ellensohn- YES
Commissioner Rogers - YES
Commissioner McCauley - YES
Commissioner Rockwin - YES
Commissioner Wilders - YES

Dated: October 10, 2023, New York

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners
North Merrick Fire District.
October 10, 2023