

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

between

TOWN OF DEDHAM

and

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY
AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

AFL-CIO STATE COUNCIL

**NO. 93, LOCAL 362
DEDHAM CIVILIAN DISPATCH EMPLOYEES**

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017

PREAMBLE

This Agreement entered into by the Town of Dedham hereinafter referred to as the EMPLOYER and Local #362, Council 93, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the UNION, has as its purpose the promotion of harmonious relations between the EMPLOYER and the UNION, the establishment of an equitable and peaceful procedure of differences; and the establishment of rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

ARTICLE 1
RECOGNITION

The EMPLOYER recognizes the UNION as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the purposes of negotiating salaries, wages, hours and other conditions of employment for the following employees: Civilian Dispatchers and Supervisor of Civilian Dispatchers.

The EMPLOYER will not aid, promote or finance any labor group or organization which purports to engage in collective bargaining for such employees or make any agreement with any such group or individual for the purposes of undermining the UNION or changing any condition in this Agreement.

Permanent part-time employees who work fifteen (15) or more hours per week on a regular and continuous basis will receive benefits under the provisions of this agreement in the same proportion that their service bears to full-time service.

ARTICLE 2
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

Except where such right, powers and authority are specifically relinquished, abridged or limited by the provisions of this Agreement, the management and direction of the working forces shall be vested solely with the EMPLOYER.

ARTICLE 3
UNION DUES/AGENCY FEE

Employees shall tender monthly membership dues by signing the Authorization of dues form. During the life of this Agreement and in accordance with the terms of the Form of Authorization for Check-Off of Dues hereinafter set forth, the EMPLOYER agrees to deduct UNION membership dues levied in accordance with the Constitution of the UNION from the pay of each employee who executes or has executed such form and remit the aggregate amount to the treasurer of the UNION, along with a list of employees who have had said dues deducted.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 150E of the General Laws, all employees in the Bargaining Union (who are not members of the Union) shall, as a condition of

employment, pay to the UNION, the exclusive Bargaining agent and Representative, an agency fee.

In consideration of the municipal EMPLOYER'S entering into this Collective Bargaining Agreement, which Agreement includes an Agency Fee Service Provision, the UNION hereby agrees to indemnify the said EMPLOYER and hold it harmless from any and all claims. Liabilities or costs to the EMPLOYER which arise out of the payroll deduction of agency service fees. This provisions shall go into effect as of the date that this contract is executed.

ARTICLE 4
DISCRIMINATION AND COERCION

There shall be no discrimination by either UNION or EMPLOYER against any employee because of his/her activity, membership or non-membership in the UNION. The EMPLOYER agrees that there will be no discrimination against any member for his/her adherence to any provision of this Agreement

ARTICLE 5
UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The EMPLOYER shall be furnished the names of the UNION steward and representatives immediately after their designation and the UNION shall notify the EMPLOYER of change. The above and the employee shall be granted reasonable time off during working hours to investigate and settle grievances. The parties agree that every attempt shall be made to settle each and every grievance as expeditiously as possible. The Local Chapter Chairman or other elected delegate shall be granted three (3) working days each to attend Council 93 State Conventions provided they are held during working hours and that he/she is a delegate. An employee elected to the Executive Board of Council 93 shall be granted five (5) working days with compensation each year to attend meetings or perform duties designated by the Executive Board provided they occur during working hours.

ARTICLE 6
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A grievance to be subject to this grievance procedure shall only be for a grievance which occurs after the date of execution of this contract and which involves a claim that one or more of the provisions of this Agreement have been violated by the EMPLOYER. All grievances shall be filed on a standard grievance form. Any grievance or dispute which may arise between the parties, including the application, meaning or interpretation of this Agreement, shall be settled in the following manner:

Step 1: The UNION steward and/or representative, with or without the aggrieved employee, shall put the grievance or dispute in writing with the employee's immediate Supervisor, Department Head or elected board within

three (3) working days of the date of the grievance or his/her knowledge of its occurrence. The Supervisor or Department Head shall attempt to adjust the matter and shall respond to the steward within three (3) working days of receiving the grievance.

Step 2: If the grievance has not been settled, it shall be presented in writing to the Town Manager within three (3) working days after the Supervisor's/Department Head's response is due. The Town Manager shall conduct a hearing allowing all interested parties to be heard and to call and cross examine witnesses and shall respond to the steward in writing within five (5) working days of completion of the hearing.

Step 3: If the grievance is still unsettled, either party may, within thirty (30) days after the reply of the Town Manager is due, by written notice to the other, request arbitration by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its labor arbitration rules then in effect or another arbitration agency which is mutually agreed to by the parties to perform the arbitration. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties, and the arbitrator shall be requested to issue his/her decision within thirty (30) days after the conclusion or testimony and argument. Grievances involving disciplinary action shall be processed beginning at Step 2. If the case reaches arbitration, the arbitrator shall have the power to direct a resolution of the grievance up to and including restoration to the job with all compensation and privileges that would have been due the employee. The aggrieved employee may waive the right of a hearing at any step in the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 7 SENIORITY

Seniority shall be defined as the length of continuous employment from the date of first hire by the EMPLOYER. Seniority will not be broken by vacations, sick leave or authorized leave of absence. Seniority will not accrue when an employee is on a leave of absence without pay. Upon a return from a leave of absence, the employee's seniority shall be restored. Any employee whose continuous employment has included both part-time and full-time service shall receive prorated credit towards seniority for the purpose of job bidding, layoffs, shift work and choice of vacation periods.

ARTICLE 8 JOB POSTING AND BIDDING

When a vacancy occurs within the bargaining unit and covered by this Agreement the EMPLOYER shall post such vacancy within thirty (30) days of the position being vacated. The methods of posting shall include system-wide email, posting on the bulletin boards located in the Police Department and the posting shall include a listing of the pay, duties and qualifications. A job may be posted later than the thirty day limit provided that the Union and the Employer agree to waive the time limit and

establish a new time limit. When a vacancy is posted, a copy of the posting shall also be given to the Chapter Chairman and the unit Steward. This notice of vacancy shall remain posted for ten (10) DAYS. Employees interested in the position shall apply in writing to the Town Manager's Office within the posting period. The Employer shall determine whether any applicants within the bargaining unit are qualified, based on the job description of the posted position. The results of the determination are subject to the grievance procedure. Where qualifications are relatively equal between two bargaining unit candidates, seniority will be the determining factor.

All applicants will receive a notice of appointment or denial in writing determination by the Employer. A vacancy which requires that the job be posted and awarded under this Article shall include any one of the following:

1. The promotion of a bargaining unit employee,
2. The resignation or discharge (for cause) of an employee,
3. The death of an employee, or
4. The creation of a new position or positions recognized within the bargaining unit.

Should a situation arise wherein the EMPLOYER does not wish to fill a vacancy, as described above, a meeting shall be called between the EMPLOYER and the UNION to discuss the reasons for same, with the final decision resting with the EMPLOYER.

A new employee or a promoted employee shall be given a six-month probation period in their new position. During the probation period, the employee shall be compensated at the applicable starting rate of pay. However, promoted employees shall be compensated at a rate which is equal to or greater than the employee's previous rate. If at the end of the probation period for promoted employees, it is determined that the employee is not qualified to perform the work of the higher level position, he or she shall be returned to his or her old position, and the job shall be re-posted. Under these circumstances, the determination of the person to fill the position shall rest with the EMPLOYER, however, said determination shall be subject to the grievance procedure. New employees who fail to meet the performance requirements of the position may be dismissed at any time during the probation period. Said dismissal is not subject to the grievance procedure.

Any employee hired after the initial effective date of this Agreement who has worked in a pay grade for less than thirty (30) weeks before July 1 of any year will be eligible for a step raise on the following January 1 and, up to the maximum step of the grade, on any subsequent January 1 thereafter. Otherwise, all step raises for employees covered by this section will occur on July 1 of each year.

ARTICLE 9
JOB REDUCTION, LAYOFF AND RECALL

In case of a layoff or a reduction of work, the layoff and reduction of employees within each job classification or position assignment shall be determined by the length of continuous service within the bargaining unit. Employees in a particular classification may elect to bump into a lower classification provided they are qualified to perform the duties of that position. The employee with the least seniority shall be laid off first. Rehiring within each job classification or position assignment shall be in reverse order of seniority, that is, the person with the highest seniority shall be rehired or reinstated first.

ARTICLE 10
EMPLOYEES FILES AND RECORDS

The employee shall have the right to answer any material filed and to include the answer within the file. The employee shall have the right, upon request at reasonable times, to examine his/her personnel file and to have a copy of any material in it. The Department Head shall be responsible to keep all employee records up to date and free from being copied by any unauthorized person.

ARTICLE 11
SALARY SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015 (FY'16)

		<u>STEP 1</u>	<u>STEP 2</u>	<u>STEP 3</u>	<u>STEP 4</u>	<u>STEP 5</u>	<u>STEP 6</u>	<u>STEP 7</u>
Civilian Dispatcher	HOURLY	19.65	20.33	21.04	21.78	22.54	23.35	24.14
	BIWKLY	1,572.00	1,626.20	1,683.20	1,742.40	1,803.20	1,868.00	1,931.20
	ANNUAL	40,872.00	42,286.40	43,763.20	45,302.40	46,883.20	48,568.00	50,211.20
Dispatch Supervisor	HOURLY	23.54	24.37	25.21	26.08	27.00	27.96	28.94
	BIWKLY	1,883.20	1,949.60	2,016.80	2,086.40	2,160.00	2,236.80	2,315.20
	ANNUAL	48,963.20	50,689.60	52,436.80	54,246.40	56,160.00	58,156.80	60,195.20

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 (FY'17)

		<u>STEP 1</u>	<u>STEP 2</u>	<u>STEP 3</u>	<u>STEP 4</u>	<u>STEP 5</u>	<u>STEP 6</u>	<u>STEP 7</u>
Civilian Dispatcher	HOURLY	20.14	20.84	21.57	22.32	23.10	23.93	24.74
	BIWKLY	1,611.20	1,667.20	1,725.60	1,785.60	1,848.00	1,914.40	1,979.20
	ANNUAL	41,891.20	43,347.20	44,865.60	46,425.60	48,048.00	49,774.40	51,459.20
Dispatch Supervisor	HOURLY	24.13	24.98	25.84	26.73	27.68	28.66	29.66
	BIWKLY	1,930.40	1,998.40	2,067.20	2,138.40	2,214.40	2,292.80	2,372.80
	ANNUAL	50,190.40	51,958.40	53,747.20	55,598.40	57,574.40	59,612.80	61,692.80

ARTICLE 12
HOURS OF WORK

A normal work day consists of eight (8) consecutive hours. The regular hours of work for full-time employees shall be the same 4 days on and 2 days off work schedule that was in place on June 30, 2003 and shall remain in effect through out the duration of this Agreement. Upon the joint recommendation of the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, and with the approval of the Town Manager, the hours of work for employees in special situations may vary from the above guidelines. The hours of the Supervisor of Civilian Dispatchers will not be subject to regular shift assignments.

Employees whose regular shifts occur between the hours listed are entitled to receive a shift differential as noted for each hour worked on the shift:

	<u>4:00PM-Midnight</u>	<u>Midnight-8AM</u>
Effective July 1, 2011	\$1.10 per hour	\$1.25 per hour

This shift differential does not apply to overtime shifts.

The Town will reserve the right to install and maintain a time recording mechanism at each work location applicable to this bargaining unit, and to require all employees covered by this agreement to use said time clock when arriving at and leaving their respective work sites.

ARTICLE 13
OVERTIME

Any hours worked beyond the four (4) and two (2) work week or an eight (8) hour shift will be considered overtime. Overtime hours shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half the applicable, regular hourly rate of pay for the employee. With the exception of those employees whose work schedule includes regular or occasional work on Sundays, all overtime work performed on Sunday shall be paid at the rate of double the applicable, regular hourly rate of pay for the employee. Authorized sick time will be considered as hours worked for the determination of an employee's work week. Any employee called back to work on the same day, after having his/her assigned work and left his/her place of employment and before his/her next regular scheduled starting time, shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked on recall. He/She will be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours pay at time and one-half. An employee working overtime shall continue to be compensated at the overtime rate through the next regular shift provided the overtime shift began before midnight until he/she has been relieved of duty or otherwise terminates that continuous work period. Overtime shall be equally and impartially distributed among full-time dispatch personnel.

ARTICLE 14
VACATIONS

All regular full-time employees of the Town are entitled to periods of vacation with pay. Vacation entitlement for individual employees will be computed from the original date of hire provided such service has been continuous, without interruption except by authorization of the Town Manager. Entitlement will be calculated and accrued for not longer than one year at a rate of days, and/or fractions thereof, per month during the year commencing with the anniversary of original hire.

The Vacation Year shall be the same as the fiscal year of the Town, (from July 1 through June 30 of the following year). Employees may carry over a maximum of five (5) days vacation into the following fiscal year. Compensation in lieu of vacation will not be approved unless otherwise authorized by the Town Manager. It is the responsibility of the Civilian Dispatch Supervisor to insure that vacations are taken within the "Vacation year". Employees may accrue, but may not take vacation time during the first six months of employment.

The Vacation Entitlement Year shall be the ten-month period from September 1 through June 30 of the following year. The rate of vacation accrual shall be one (1) working day per month. New employees hired on the first through the fifteenth of any month will receive one day's entitlement for that month; no entitlement for the month will be received if a new employee is hired on the sixteenth through the thirty-first of any month.

After four (4) years of continuous service to the town as measured from the original day of hire, the entitlement rate for the ten-month entitlement period shall be one and one-half days per month; the intent of this section being to provide the employee with three (3) weeks of earned vacation in his/her sixth and ensuing years of employment.

After nine (9) years of continuous service as measured above, the accrual rate shall be two (2) days per month; the intent being to provide the employee with four (4) weeks of earned vacation in his/her eleventh and ensuing years of service.

After nineteen (19) years of service as measured above, the rate of accrual shall be two and one-half days per month; the intent being to provide the employee with five (5) weeks of earned vacation in his/her twenty-first and ensuing years of service.

Upon retirement, termination or death of an employee an unused accrued vacation leave will be paid to the employee or beneficiary (or estate) as the circumstances dictate.

ARTICLE 15
LONGEVITY

Every regular full-time employee shall receive, in addition to his/her regular compensation the following annual longevity payments:

After five years of continuous employment	\$175
After ten years of continuous employment	\$275
After fifteen years of continuous employment	\$400
After twenty years of continuous employment	\$500
After twenty-five years of continuous employment	\$600
After thirty years of continuous employment	\$700

ARTICLE 16
HOLIDAYS

The following days will be recognized as paid legal holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents’ Day, Patriots’ Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If any of these days falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday will be considered as the holiday. Holidays falling on a Sunday will be celebrated on Monday. Dispatchers shall continue to receive holiday pay in the same manner as was practiced by the contract ending on June 30, 2003.

Dispatchers who work between the hours of twelve midnight on Christmas Eve and twelve Midnight on Christmas Day shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay for each hour worked during that time period.

ARTICLE 17
SICK LEAVE

Each employee shall be credited with one and one-fourth (1 ¼) days sick leave starting the first month and each succeeding month of his employment and may be allowed unlimited accumulation. Sick leave credit shall be calculated from the month in which the employee is in the employ of the Town on the first working day of the month. The Supervisor may, at his discretion request proof of illness after the third consecutive sick day and such request shall be for reasonable cause. In the case due to a work related accident, the EMPLOYER agrees to make up the difference between his regular wages and the amount received by Worker’s Compensation. The amount of such difference shall be charged to sick leave. Any employee whose personal illness extends beyond the period compensated for above shall be granted a leave of absence without pay for up to six (6) months. Notification of accumulation shall be given at the beginning of the year. An employee may utilize a maximum of three (3) days per year to care for an ill member of the immediate family.

Three working days each year not charged to sick leave may be used for personal reasons, with forty-eight hours notice except in cases of emergencies. In the event that an employee voluntarily terminates employment, except for reasons of retirement or death, there shall be no monetary value attached to accrued sick leave. All full-time employees having accumulated fifty (50) sick days will be paid \$50.0 per day upon retirement or death to a maximum of 100 days beyond the accumulated fifty (50) days, or a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Civilian Dispatchers will be eligible to participate in an annual incentive plan. Civilian Dispatchers shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each quarter of the year in which no sick days are used, and an additional \$100 for a full year without the use of sick leave.

ARTICLE 18
SICK LEAVE BANK

A Sick Leave Bank (the “Bank”) for use by eligible employees listed as (referenced earlier as an “employee”) covered by this Agreement who have exhausted their own sick leave will be established. Employees in other units covered by contracts are eligible to participate in the Bank on the same terms and conditions as eligible workers if so provided in such agreements and approved by the bargaining unit.

Each employee shall contribute at the end of his/her first year of employment one (1) day of sick leave from his/her accumulated sick leave for the establishment of the Bank to be maintained from year-to-year until it is exhausted. Any employee may request not to participate or to terminate his/her participation provided such request is made in writing to the Union Steward during the thirty (30) days immediately following the start of his/her employment or, the beginning of the fiscal year, whichever is later. Any employee terminating his/her participation in the Bank will forfeit any sick leave contributed to the Bank. A non-participating employee will be ineligible for benefits under this section. A non-participating employee may request to participate (or re-participate) in the Bank provided such request is made in writing to the Union Steward during the thirty (30) day period immediately following the start of any fiscal year and the employee contributes one (1) day of sick leave to the Bank.

The Sick Leave Bank shall be administered by a Sick Leave Bank Committee consisting of three (3) members. Two (2) members shall be designated by the Union and one (1) by management.

The initial grant of sick leave by the Sick Leave Bank Committee to an employee shall be made upon written application and shall not exceed ten (10) days. The criterion for the granting of such leave from the Bank is a demonstrated need supported by adequate medical evidence of illness or injury and the employee’s prior attendance record.

Upon completion of the ten (10) day period, the period of entitlement may be extended by the Sick Leave Bank Committee for additional periods not to exceed ten (10) days each, upon demonstration by the applicant of continued need supported by adequate medical evidence. The maximum number of days that may be granted to an employee for a continuous illness shall not exceed seventy-five (75) days.

If the Sick Leave Bank is exhausted, it shall be renewed by the contribution of one (1) additional day of sick leave from each participating employee covered by this Agreement to be deducted from each employee’s accumulated sick leave.

The decision of the Sick Leave Bank Committee shall be final and binding and not subject to grievance/arbitration.

ARTICLE 19
HEALTH INSURANCE

The Employer agrees to continue to provide for the term of this agreement, group, hospital, surgical and medical insurance coverage to the extent provided under the present policies. The Employees electing coverage under indemnity plans shall pay 50% of the total monthly premium cost for the duration of the agreement. Employees electing coverage under Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) shall contribute not less than twenty percent (20%) of the cost thereof. In addition, all employees hired after July 1, 2006 will contribute no less than 20% of the cost of the HMO plan of their choice.

It is agreed by both parties that the implementation of Article 19, Health Insurance, shall be retroactive to the date of the contract, i.e. as pay increases are retroactive so shall be the implementation of insurance contribution rates.

ARTICLE 20
BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

In the event of a death in the immediate family of an employee, he/she will be granted leave with pay. Such leave shall not be charged to sick leave or vacation leave. Four (4) days shall be granted for an employee's spouse, child, father, mother or person living in the employee's household; three (3) days for the employee's sister, brother, mother-in-law and father-in-law and grandchild; two (2) days only shall be granted for sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild, son-in-law or daughter-in-law. One (1) day only shall be granted for brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt or uncle.

ARTICLE 21
MILITARY LEAVE

A military leave of absence without compensation shall be granted to any employee called to active duty with the United States Armed Forces. United States military service incurred by a Town employee, after the onset of his/her employment with the Town, shall be credited as time served in the Town's employ provided he applies for reinstatement within ninety (90) days of discharge or release to inactive duty. Any employee required to serve on annual tours of duty with some United States Reserve component, shall be paid an amount equal to the difference between the compensation received for such service and his regular pay.

ARTICLE 22
MATERNITY LEAVE

A maternity/adoption leave of ninety (90) days shall be granted to employees subject to and in conformity with the requirement of Chapter 149, Section 105D of the Mass General Laws.

ARTICLE 23
JURY DUTY

Any employee required to serve as a juror shall be paid an amount equal to the difference between the compensation received for such service and his/her regular pay.

ARTICLE 24
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A leave of absence, without pay, may be granted to an employee at the discretion of the Town Manager for a period not to exceed six (6) months. In all instances, the employee may utilize the grievance procedure based on a claim of arbitrary or capricious action by the Town Manager. Seniority and benefits shall not accumulate during this time of absence.

ARTICLE 25
SAFETY

If needed, all uniforms, protective clothing or protective devices shall be furnished to the employee by the EMPLOYER and shall be worn during working hours. The cost of maintaining the uniform or protective clothing in proper working condition shall be paid by the EMPLOYEE. The standards for uniforms will be established by the Joint Labor/Management Committee for civilian dispatchers. Every regular full-time employee covered by this agreement shall receive a clothing stipend of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) per year for the purpose of purchasing the established uniform and shall be provided an annual cleaning allowance in the amount of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) to be used for the purposes of cleaning and laundering of the Civilian Dispatchers' uniforms. The cleaning allowance shall be paid in the first pay period of December. It is expressly agreed that the Department Head retains all management rights in setting and enforcing dress policies for the Department. Employees required to wear safety shoes will receive \$125.00 for the purchase of work boots.

ARTICLE 26
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Bulletin Board – Announcements shall be posted in a conspicuous place on a bulletin board provided by the Town. Parties to this Agreement, both of whom may use the bulletin boards for notices of routine nature, agree that it would be improper to post denunciatory or inflammatory material on such bulletin boards.
2. Pay Checks- The Employer has the exclusive authority to determine the manner

and method by which pay checks will be distributed to the employees. However, any change to the prevailing practice of distribution may only occur after written notice has been given to the Union at least thirty (30) days prior to the implementation of such change. The Employer agrees that if the practice of distributing paychecks on a weekly basis changes to bi-weekly distribution, the paychecks will include information pertaining to the current amount of vacation, sick leave, personal leave available for the employees' use.

3. Any benefit, privilege or working condition existing from July 1, 1995, not covered by this Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect and, if proper notice is given by either party as to the desirability of amending, modify or changing such benefit, privilege or working condition, it shall be subject to negotiation between the parties.
4. No Discrimination – The parties to this Agreement agree that they shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, sex or age and that all covered employees shall receive the full protection of this Agreement.
5. Access to Premises – The EMPLOYER agrees to permit representatives of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO and/or Council #93 and/or Local #362 to enter the premises at reasonable times for individual discussion of working conditions with employees, provided such representatives do not interfere with the performance of duties assigned to the employees.
6. In the event that an employee is assigned to perform the work in a grade higher than that of the employee's regular position to fill on a temporary full-time basis due to the illness, leave of absence, resignation or retirement of another employee, said reassigned employee shall be compensated in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. Commencing with said employee's eleventh (11th) consecutive working day of actual service in the higher position, payment shall be made for as long as the employee performs said service.
 - b. After thirty (30) consecutive working days, the reassigned employee will receive retroactive compensation back to the first (1st) day in the higher position.
 - c. Compensation shall be at the minimum rate for services in that higher grade of work being performed, or, if the employee's present pay is already above that minimum, it shall be at the lowest step rate which is higher than said employee's present rate, provided that said employee has shown that the requirements of that higher position have been satisfactorily met.
7. The parties will form a joint study committee, comprised of both Employees and Management to discuss wages, job descriptions and other related items.

ARTICLE 27
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

An annual tuition reimbursement fund of \$2,000 will be created to reimburse union members for the cost of tuition for job-related educational courses and training, subject to the following conditions: (1) employees will be required to seek and receive prior approval of the department head and Town Manager that the course or training is job-related; (2) that a maximum reimbursement of \$250 per course will be paid; (3) that the employee must attain a grade of "B" or better in the approved course (or a grade of "pass" in a pass/fail system), and (4) that participation in the tuition reimbursement program will be on a first come first serve basis (subject to the appropriation limit) with no employee participating in the program more than once in a fiscal year unless no other employees seek such reimbursement. For a course to be approved, it must either be related to the work being performed by the employee or reasonably related to the work that might be expected to be performed by the employee. Any employee who fails to receive prior approval of the department head and Town Manager shall be ineligible for reimbursement. All requests for course approval shall be submitted prior to May 1st of each fiscal year.

ARTICLE 28
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEM

The parties to this agreement agree to establish a performance evaluation system for all members of the bargaining unit effective January 1, 1998. The system will be implemented as a means of improving job performance and increasing communication between supervisors and employees, and will not be used as a basis for denying step raises or as a sole basis for disciplinary action. However, the results of such evaluations may be a source of reference during disciplinary proceedings by both management and employees. It is further agreed that employees will be entitled to attach their own written response to the evaluation forms placed in their personnel file. The Town Manager will work cooperatively with a union-appointed sub-committee to develop the evaluation instrument.

ARTICLE 29
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY

The parties hereby agree to adopt the "Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy" attached hereto as a Memorandum of Agreement.

ARTICLE 30
DEFIBRILATOR CERTIFICATION

Effective July 1, 2005 any regular, full-time Civilian Dispatcher who successfully completes a defibrillator certification course and maintains certification will receive an annual stipend of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) annually paid in the first pay period of December.

ARTICLE 31
EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

1. Effective Date – This Agreement by the authorized representatives of the Union and the Employer shall become effective on the first day of July 2015
2. Termination – This Agreement will remain in effect until June 30, 2017 unless renewed in writing by both parties.
3. Changes – Should either party to this Agreement wish to inaugurate collective bargaining discussions over changes it may wish to introduce into this Agreement for the year succeeding the termination of this contract, it is agreed that notice of the substance of the changes and the language with which such desired changes are to be expressed, shall be mailed by Registered Mail to the authorized parties signatory to the Agreement by October 1st prior to the date of expiration of the Agreement. The parties receiving such notice of desired changes shall forthwith seek establishment of a meeting for purposes of discussion and negotiating of the desired changes. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude either party from modifying any previous proposals during the course of the negotiations.
4. Should any provision of this Agreement be found to be in violation of any federal or state law or Civil Service rule by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provision of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Employer has caused this instrument to be duly executed by its authorized officials and the Union, acting in behalf of the Employees, has caused this instrument to be signed by its proper officers hereunder, duly authorized, this 29th day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

LOCAL 362, STATE COUNCIL
93, AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF STATE, COUNTY & MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES, AFL/CIO
