

**RESOLUTION #24-0819-01**

**A resolution to approve the three-year renewal agreement between Liberty Township and United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW)**

**WHEREAS**, the USW and the Township have been negotiating a contract renewal through interest-based bargaining working with Township Officials and management representatives and IAFF union representatives and members, and

**WHEREAS**, the USW and the Township have made modifications to the renewal Contract which was previously agreed upon and approved with Resolution #24-0529-04, and

**WHEREAS**, the USW and the Township have reviewed, amended and agreed upon the attached three-year renewal contract dated July 9, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO**, approves the attached three (3) year renewal USW Collective Bargaining Agreement with an effective date of August 19, 2024. Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Liberty Township Delaware County Trustees and the USW dated August 13, 2024.

Motion made by S. Eichhorn and seconded by S. Donaldson.

**Vote:** yes Mrs. Eichhorn yes Mr. Newell yes Mr. Donaldson

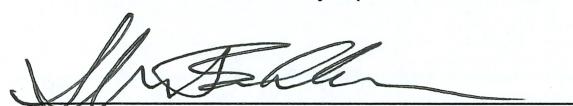
This Resolution shall be in force and become effective immediately upon its execution.

08.19.2024

Date

CERTIFIED BY:

Rick Karr, Fiscal Officer

  
Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee

  
Bryan Newell, Trustee

  
Scott Donaldson, Trustee

**Memorandum of Understanding Between**  
**The Liberty Township Delaware County Trustees and the USW**  
**August 13, 2024**

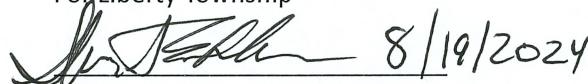
To implement the recently concluded negotiations the parties agree to the following:

1. The terms of the contract will be as set forth in the draft of the contract word document dated 07-09-2024.
2. The following modifications to the contract will be as follows:
  - a. The effective date of the contract will be August 19, 2024 following approval of the contract by the Trustees and ratification by the bargaining unit.
  - b. The effective date of wage increases in 2024 will be August 24.
  - c. The effective date for wage increases in 2025 and 2026 will be July 01 of each year.
3. Employees will receive a signing bonus after execution in the amount of \$1,500, to be paid on August 30, 2024.
4. The contract is not effective until after both the Township formally approves by resolution the contract and the Union ratifies the contract.

For the USW

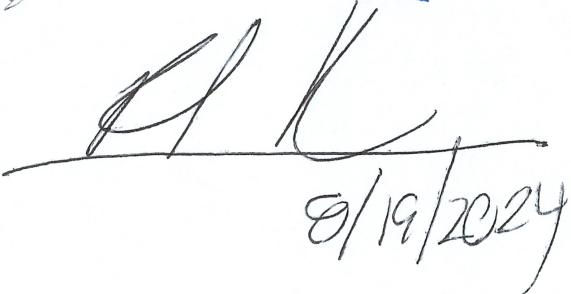
  
8/13/24  
Date  
8/13/24  
Date

For Liberty Township

  
8/19/2024  
Date

  
8/19/2024  
Date

  
08/19/2024  
DATE

  
8/19/2024

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP,  
DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO**

**AND**

**UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER,  
MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND  
SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO-CLC**

**AUGUST 19, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027**

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## ARTICLE 1. AGREEMENT

**Section 1. Agreement** This is an Agreement entered into by and between the Township of Liberty, Delaware County, Ohio (the "Township") and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO-CLC (the "Union").

**Section 2. Purpose** This Agreement is made for the purposes of promoting cooperation and harmonious relations among the Township, the Union, and the Employees represented by the Union.

### **Section 3. Legal References**

- A. This Agreement has been negotiated by the parties in accordance with, and is subject to, the specifications and requirements of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117.
- B. Should any part of this Agreement be held invalid or temporarily restrained, such invalidation or temporary restraint shall not invalidate or affect the remaining portions hereof or persons or circumstances other than those to whom or to which it has been held invalid or has been restrained.
- C. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall alter or abridge, reduce, or affect any lawful authority of the Township or any Township official.

## ARTICLE 2. RECOGNITION

**Section 1. Recognition** The Township recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive representative for all employees included in the bargaining unit described in Section 2 of this Article for the purpose of collective bargaining in matters relating to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, only so long as the Township remains a "public employer" as that term is defined in Ohio Revised Code § 4117.01(8).

**Section 2. Bargaining Unit** The bargaining unit employees (hereinafter sometimes referred to singularly as "Employee" and collectively as "Employees") shall include all full-time employees of the Parks and Roads Services, and Roads Workers Departments as specified in State Employment Relations Board Case No. 09-REP-05-0052.

**Section 3. Exclusions** The positions of Road Superintendent, Park Supervisor, Assistant Park Supervisor, and Road Maintenance Supervisor are excluded from the bargaining unit. Also excluded from the bargaining unit shall be all management, confidential, fiduciary, supervisory, temporary, casual, and seasonal employees who do not meet the definition of a public employee under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117. In the event the Township creates a new position in the Parks and Roads Services, and Road Workers Departments and the parties cannot agree upon the inclusion or exclusion of the position, the Union and the Township shall retain rights to submit the issue to the State Employment Relations Board for its determination.

## ARTICLE 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

**Section 1. Qualifications** As a condition of continued employment, each Employee shall obtain, possess and maintain the minimum qualifications which may be required at the signing of this Agreement, or in the future, at the time of hiring for the Employee's respective position including, but not limited to, a current, valid Ohio driver's license, proof of insurability under the Township's applicable liability insurance policy, and such other and/or additional certifications, licenses or qualifications and training as may from time to time be established and required for Employees by federal law, rule or regulation and/or state law, rule or regulation, such as a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Employees whose job duties require it are required to maintain a current CDL. If an Employee loses a certification required of a particular position while in the employment of the Township, the Employee shall bear the costs to obtain the requisite certification card in order to return to a position requiring that certification, and the Township shall bear no financial responsibility for those expenditures. Employees shall be solely responsible to maintain and renew certifications with Township's reimbursement of costs for a successful renewal of required certifications. In order to confirm the ongoing validity of the Ohio driver's license and insurability, the Township reserves the right to examine the licensing status and driving record of each Employee every year, and the Employees shall assist in this examination or sign any authorization which might be necessary to complete the examination.

**Section 2. Suspended Licenses or Certification** Temporary or administrative license suspensions shall not constitute the failure to maintain minimum qualifications under this Article. For purposes of this Article, a temporary or administrative suspension of a driver's license or CDL is thirty (30) days or less. During this period, the Employee shall either be placed on unpaid leave (unless the Employee elects to use accumulated vacation or personal leave) or may be temporarily placed into a position that the Employee is qualified to perform and where operation of a motor vehicle is not required. The Administrator reserves the right, in their sole and absolute discretion, to extend the time periods set forth as the maximum limit of a temporary certification.

**Section 3. Revocation of Licenses or Certification** Revocations are to be distinguished from temporary suspensions. All revocations or suspensions of licenses, which suspensions are not temporary under Section 2 of this Article, are deemed a revocation, shall constitute a failure to maintain licenses or certifications, and shall be grounds for discipline. Loss of insurability under the applicable Township liability policy shall constitute grounds for discipline at the discretion of the Administrator.

## ARTICLE 4. NON-DISCRIMINATION

**Section 1. Township Pledge** The Township agrees not to interfere with the rights of bargaining unit Employees to become members of the Union, and the Township shall not discriminate, interfere with, restrain or coerce any Employee because of Union membership or because of any activity performed in an official capacity on behalf of the Union.

**Section 2. Union Pledge** The Union recognizes its responsibility as bargaining agent and agrees to equally and fairly represent each and all Employees of the bargaining unit without discrimination, interference, restraint, or coercion. The Union agrees not to interfere with rights of Employees to refrain from or resign membership in the Union and the Union shall not discriminate, interfere with, restrain, or coerce any Employee exercising the right to abstain from membership in the Union or involvement in Union activities. In the event the Union fails to fulfill its duty of fair representation set forth in this Section 2, an Employee's sole remedy will be through the State Employment Relations Board.

**Section 3. Joint Pledge** As provided by law, neither the Township nor the Union will discriminate unlawfully against any Employee on the basis of age, sex, race, color, creed, disability, religion, or national origin.

## ARTICLE 5. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

**Section 1. Reservation of Rights** Unless otherwise agreed and set forth in this Agreement, the Township shall retain all rights imposed upon it by law to carry out the administration of government and management of the Township. The right to manage shall include, but not be limited to, the right to:

- A. Determine matters of inherent managerial policy which include, but are not limited to, areas of discretion or policy such as the functions and programs of the public employer, standards of services, its overall budget, utilization of technology, and organizational structure;
- B. Direct, supervise, evaluate, or hire employees;
- C. Maintain and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of governmental operations;
- D. Determine the overall methods, process, means, or personnel by which governmental operations are to be conducted;
- E. Suspend, discipline, demote, or discharge for just cause, or layoff, transfer, assign, schedule, promote, or retain employees;
- F. Determine the adequacy of the workforce;
- G. Determine the overall mission of the employer as a unit of government;
- H. Effectively manage the workforce;
- I. Take actions to carry out the mission of the public employer as a governmental unit.

The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities, the adoption of policies, rules and regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and by applicable law including, but not limited to, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117.

**Section 2. Work Rules** The Union recognizes and agrees that the Township has the right and authority to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations, revise and/or enforce rules and regulations governing the operations of the Departments and the conduct of Department personnel, so long as the establishment or enforcement does not violate this Agreement or Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117. The Union may make recommendations to the Township with respect to such matters through the Labor Relations Committee.

**Section 3. Posting** The Township will not make changes in rules, regulations, or working conditions which, if violated, might result in disciplinary actions without first posting such changes or additions on the bulletin board fourteen (14) consecutive days before the effective date of the change.

## **ARTICLE 6. SHIFT ASSIGNMENT**

Whenever a full-time shift-change/vacancy occurs in a full-time position, the Township shall post the shift-change/vacancy for a minimum of five (5) calendar days to allow any interested full-time Employee presently serving in a full-time position within the same job classification to apply for the shift-change/vacancy. The shift-change/vacancy shall be filled by the most senior, qualified Employee. Any subsequent vacancies caused by filling the shift-change/vacancy shall be filled in the same manner. Once opportunities to fill the shift-change/vacancy within the job classification are exhausted, the last remaining vacancy may be posted for five (5) calendar days and any interested Employee in the bargaining unit may apply. The Township shall identify the job duties/description, specialized qualifications, knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform the duties of the shift-change/vacancy. Employees in their probationary period shall not be eligible to apply to a shift-change/vacancy.

## **ARTICLE 7. DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1. Status and Termination of Employment** After completion of an Employee's initial probationary period or promotional probationary period, an Employee shall not be subject to disciplinary action resulting in reprimand, suspension, reduction in pay and position, or removal except for just cause as outlined in this Agreement. Before the imposition of any reduction in pay, suspension without pay, or removal becomes necessary, the Township or its representative shall hold a conference with the Employee to give the Employee an opportunity to learn the reasons for the intended disciplinary action and to provide any other information or otherwise to explain their behavior. The Employee has the right to be accompanied at the conference by the Unit Chair and/or Unit Griever and/or a Staff Representative. The parties agree that if either party intends to have legal counsel present, they will notify the other party within a reasonable amount of time so that the other party may also have legal counsel present, in addition to the representative. The conference will be scheduled as promptly as possible by the Township. The Township may record the conference, as may the Employee or his representative, provided notice to the other side is supplied. The Township may place the Employee on administrative leave with pay pending the conference and final disciplinary action, if any.

**Section 2. Progressive Discipline** The forms of discipline include oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspension up to thirty (30) days and removal/termination. Discipline shall be progressive in nature, taking into account the nature of the violation, Employee's record of performance and conduct, and any prior discipline. Discipline may, however, be advanced upon the initial infraction, including removal/termination and without regard to previous discipline, depending upon the nature and severity of the infraction. Oral or written reprimands shall not be subject to, or give rise to an arbitration.

**Section 3. Personnel Records** The official personnel file will be maintained in the Township HR Department. Employees will have reasonable access to their official personnel files during normal working hours, so long as the operations of the Department are not unduly disrupted. There will be no other official personnel files kept for information regarding an employee's work performance except files containing confidential medical or health related information.

**Section 4. Disciplinary Records** Written records of oral or written reprimands may not be considered for purposes of determining appropriate levels of discipline upon the expiration of two (2) years after the occurrence unless there is intervening misconduct documented thereafter. Records of suspension may not be considered for the purpose of determining appropriate levels of discipline upon the expiration of three (3) years after the occurrence unless there is intervening misconduct documented thereafter. Records of discharge will be permanent, as are evaluations.

## **ARTICLE 8. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**Section 1. Definition of Grievance** A grievance is an allegation by an Employee or Employees that there has been a breach of a provision of this Agreement.

**Section 2. Qualifications** A grievance may be initiated by an aggrieved Employee, by the Union as the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit in order to enforce its rights under this Agreement, or by an aggrieved Employee on behalf of such Employee and group of Employees who are affected by the same act or condition giving rise to the grievance in the same or similar manner. An Employee shall have the right to present grievances and have them adjusted with or without the intervention of the Union.

### **Section 3. Jurisdiction**

- A. This procedure shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for grievances. This procedure shall not apply to probationary demotions, or probationary terminations.
- B. It is the intention of the Township and the Union that all time limits in the grievance process be met to the end of encouraging thoughtful responses at each Step. The time limits at any Step may be extended upon mutual written agreement signed by the parties. In the absence of such an extension, the grievant may, if a response is not forthcoming within the time limits specified, advance the grievance to the next sequential Step within the applicable time frame as any grievance not processed within the appropriate time frame shall be deemed resolved in favor of management.
- C. All grievances should be set forth in writing which should contain the following:
  1. A short and plain statement of the nature of the grievance;
  2. The facts giving rise to the grievance;
  3. The articles and sections of the Agreement allegedly violated
  4. The relief being sought; and
  5. The names of all Employees who are affected by the grievance.

- D. For the purpose of computing the response time for the Township, the term "day" shall mean workdays, excepting therefrom Saturdays, Sundays, and those legal holidays listed in Article 19 hereof. For purposes of the grievant/Union, the term "day" shall mean (and include) all scheduled workdays. When an action is required to be performed within a specified period of time, the first day shall be excluded and the last day included.
- E. The Employee shall retain the right to be represented by the Union during a grievance. At any step of this grievance procedure, the grievant may elect to proceed with or without a representative of the Union. Should the grievant wish to be represented, he must indicate that election affirmatively at any point in the grievance procedure, provided such election does not result in an undue delay of the proceedings, nor necessitate a rescheduling of a grievance step meeting/hearing.
- F. A grievance may be withdrawn by the Employee at any stage of this procedure by the grievant's execution of a written statement to that effect.
- G. In the event an Employee initiates a legal proceeding instead of accessing the grievance procedure for violations of this Agreement, the affected Employee shall thereafter be precluded from pursuing such claim through this grievance procedure. It is further agreed that if an Employee files a charge/claim with a Federal or State administrative agency (such as the EEOC or OCRC) in which to address a claim, the Employee shall be precluded from pursuing such claim through this grievance procedure.

#### **Section 4. Grievance Steps**

The following are the implementation Steps and procedures for the handling of grievances:

- A. Step One.
  - 1. A grievant having an individual grievance shall submit the grievance in writing to their Department Head/Designee within ten (10) workdays after the events or knowledge of the events giving rise to the grievance occurred.
  - 2. The Department Head or designee shall have ten (10) workdays in which to schedule a meeting with the grievant and the Union.
  - 3. Within five (5) workdays after the meeting, the Department Head or designee shall submit to the grievant and the Union a written response to the grievance.
- B. Step Two.
  - 1. If the Employee is dissatisfied with the response at Step One, they may process the grievance to the Township Administrator by delivering a copy of the grievance and the written response at the prior Step to the Township Administrator within five (5) workdays after his receipt of the Department Head's/Designee's written response.
  - 2. The Township Administrator shall have five (5) workdays to schedule a meeting with the grievant and the Union if the grievant has secured its assistance. Within five (5)

workdays after the meeting, the Township Administrator shall deliver to grievant a written response to the grievance.

C. Step Three.

1. If the Employee is dissatisfied with the response at Step Two, they may process the grievance to the Board of Trustees by delivering a copy of the grievance and the written response at the prior Steps to the Board of Trustees within five (5) workdays after their receipt of the Township Administrator's written response.
2. The Board of Trustees shall have twenty-one (21) days to schedule a meeting with the grievant and the Union if the grievant has secured its assistance. Within fourteen (14) days after the meeting, the Board of Trustees shall deliver to grievant a written response to the grievance.

D. Step Four.

1. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Employee in Step Three, the Union may make a written request that the grievance be submitted to binding arbitration. The written notice must be submitted to the Board of Trustees within ten (10) workdays following the date of the Board of Trustees' written response in Step Three. In the event the grievance is not referred to arbitration within the time limits prescribed, the grievance shall be considered resolved based upon the Step Three reply.
2. Upon receipt of a request for arbitration, the Township and the Union shall, within fourteen (14) workdays following the request for arbitration, jointly agree to an arbitrator or request a list of seven (7) impartial arbitrators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). Upon receipt of the list of seven (7) arbitrators, the parties shall meet to select an arbitrator within ten (10) workdays from the date the list is received. The parties shall use the alternate strike method from the list of seven (7) arbitrators submitted to the parties by the FMCS. A coin toss shall determine the order in which the names are to be stricken and the party winning the coin toss shall be the first (1st to strike a name and alternate in this manner until one (1) name remains on the list. The remaining name shall be designated as the arbitrator to hear the dispute in question. All procedures relative to the hearing shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the FMCS. The arbitrator shall hold the arbitration promptly and issue a decision within a reasonable time thereafter.
3. The arbitrator shall determine the grievance in accordance with the terms of the Agreement in effect on the date of the incident giving rise to the grievance. The arbitrator shall hold the arbitration hearing promptly and issue a decision within a reasonable time thereafter. The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the provisions of this Agreement or to require an act prohibited by, or contrary to, law. The arbitrator shall limit the decision strictly to the specific Articles and/or Sections of this Agreement alleged to be breached. The arbitrator shall expressly confine the decision to the precise issues submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted. The arbitrator shall be without authority to recommend any right or relief on an alleged grievance occurring at any time other than the contract period in which such right

originated. The arbitrator shall not establish any new or different wage rates not negotiated as part of this Agreement. The question of arbitrability of a grievance may be raised by either party before the arbitration hearing of the grievance, on the grounds that the matter is non-arbitrable or beyond the arbitrator's jurisdiction. Accordingly, the first question to be placed before the arbitrator will be whether or not the alleged grievance is arbitrable. If the arbitrator determines the grievance is within the purview of arbitrability, the alleged grievance will be heard on its merits before the same arbitrator and, if practicable, on the same day that the question of arbitrability is finally decided by the arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding. The cost involved in obtaining the list of arbitrators and the rent, if any, of the hearing room shall be borne equally by each party. The expense of any non-employee witness shall be borne, if at all, by the party calling them. The fee of the court reporter shall be paid by the party requesting the same; provided, however, that such fee shall be split equally if both parties desire a reporter or request a copy of a transcript. All costs directly related to the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by each party. The Township shall not be responsible for or incur any overtime expenses as a result of this Article.

## ARTICLE 9. PROBATIONARY PERIODS

**Section 1. Probationary Period** Newly hired full-time Employees will begin employment effective as a 40-hour work week employee. The Employee will serve a six-month (180-day) probationary period, during which time the Employee shall serve at the pleasure of the Township as an at-will employee, subject to termination with or without cause. Following the satisfactory completion of the entire six-month (180-day) probationary period, the Employee shall only be subject to termination as described in this Agreement. The Township shall be the sole authority empowered to determine whether or not the Employee has completed their probationary period in a satisfactory manner, and shall provide notice to the Employee, in writing, if the probationary period has not been satisfactorily completed prior to the expiration of the six-month period. Notice shall be deemed effective as of the date of mailing, personal delivery or electronic transmittal. If an Employee moves from part-time status to full-time status in the same capacity, the part-time service will apply to reduce the probationary period one day for each day worked in part-time service but not to exceed ninety (90) days.

**Section 2. Probationary Termination** An Employee can be terminated by the Township, with or without cause, at any time following their employment, prior to the expiration of the six-month (180-day) probationary period. Further, the Employee recognizes and acknowledges that during the time they serve in this six-month (180-day) probationary period, and upon termination by the Township, they shall have no recourse to contest the termination and discharge or to pursue other rights of appeal provided to permanent full-time Employees in this Agreement, including the right to initiate and pursue a complaint concerning the termination and discharge through the Grievance Procedure set forth at Article 8.

**Section 3. Promotional Probationary Period** On the occasion, if ever, that the Employee may be promoted to a higher position or classification, the Employee shall be required to successfully complete a six-month (180-day) promotional probationary period in the Employee's newly

appointed position. The probationary period for the newly promoted Employee shall begin on the effective date of the promotion. If service at any point during this time is deemed unsatisfactory, the Employee, subject to the promotional probationary period, may, at the Township's option, be notified they will be returned to their former position and salary, with full credit for service during the promotional probationary period. The notice to the Employee for promotional probationary reduction shall state the reason for the reduction. In the event of timely notice and the enunciation of a nondiscriminatory reason for the promotional reduction, the Employee shall have no recourse to contest the promotional probationary reduction and resultant demotion, including the right to pursue a complaint through the Grievance Procedure set forth at Article 8. This section shall not apply to an Employee who moves from part-time to full-time status in the same capacity.

## **ARTICLE 10. LAYOFF, ABOLISHMENT AND RECALL**

**Section 1. Notification to Union** In case the layoff of Employees is anticipated, the Township shall notify the Union thirty (30) days prior to the impending layoff. The Township and the Union shall meet to negotiate the effects and possible alternatives of the layoffs.

**Section 2. Layoffs Rationale** Layoffs may result from lack of funds or the abolishment of positions. A lack of funds means the Township has a current or projected deficiency of funding to maintain current, or to sustain projected, levels of staffing and operations. The Township shall not be required to transfer any monies from funds other than the Road and Bridge Fund in the case of the Street Department, or the General Fund in the case of the Parks Departments, or any other applicable fund, in order to offset a projected deficiency in the applicable fund. An abolishment results from the permanent deletion of a position or positions due to lack of continued need for the position. The rationale for an abolishment may include reorganization for the efficient operation of the appointing authority, reasons of economy, and lack of work.

**Section 3. Layoff Notice** Affected Employees shall receive notice thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective day of layoff. The notice shall specify the rationale for the layoff.

**Section 4. Layoff Order** Layoffs will occur by laying off the least senior Employee in each designated Department category or classification first.

**Section 5. Recall List** Employees who are laid off shall be placed on a recall list for a period of two (2) years. If there is a recall, Employees who are still on the recall list shall be recalled in the inverse order of their layoff. In order to remain eligible for recall, the Employees must maintain the licenses, certifications, and other minimal eligibility criteria for ongoing employment.

**Section 6. Notice of Recall** Notice of recall shall be sent to the Employee by certified mail with a copy to the Union. The Township shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligations by mailing the recall notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last mailing address provided by the Employee. It shall remain the Employee's obligation to notify the Township of any change of address. In order to preserve their right to reinstatement, the Employee must notify the Administrator, in writing, of their intention to return to duty. The notification of the intention to return to duty must be received by the Administrator not later than twenty-one (21) days after Notice of Recall is transmitted.

**Section 7. Effect of Recall** An Employee who is recalled from layoff shall suffer no loss of seniority or break in service for the time during which the Employee was laid off, provided that the Employee is recalled and timely returns to work during the duration of the recall list. However, an Employee shall receive no service credit for time spent in layoff and shall accrue no sick leave, vacation, or other benefit leaves during the layoff. An Employee who is recalled from layoff during the duration of the recall list shall return to the step commensurate with the Employee's years of service, provided that no Employee shall be entitled to return to such Employee's former position or classification. If, during the two (2) year duration of the recall list, an Employee is recalled to a position or classification lower than that previously held at the time of the layoff, then should the Employee's former position or classification be reestablished and become available during the two (2) year duration of the recall list, such Employee shall be entitled to appointment to that position or classification. If a position or classification is reestablished and becomes available and there is more than one Employee who previously held such position or classification, then the appointment shall be based upon seniority in that position or classification; provided, however, that ties in seniority within a position or classification will be broken based upon total seniority in the respective Liberty Township department. In all cases, an Employee's right to appointment to any position shall expire upon the expiration of the recall list. Furthermore, this right of appointment shall not be construed as a requirement on the part of the Township to reestablish any position or as a limitation of the Township's right to determine that adequacy of the workforce and the organizational structure of the applicable departments.

**Section 8. Seniority** For purposes of this Article, seniority shall be computed on the basis of uninterrupted length of continuous active service as a regular full-time or part-time Employee. Continuous service shall be deemed broken when an Employee resigns, retires, is on unpaid leave of absence, is on disability, or is discharged. Ties in seniority with other Employees shall be resolved by listing Employees' last names in alphabetical order beginning with the letter "A." The seniority of Employees established at the time this Agreement is executed is reflected on Exhibit A, attached and incorporated herein. Employees hired after the signing of this Agreement shall be added to the list upon the successful completion of their probationary period following their hire. Seniority for Employees who move from part-time to full-time status shall be established as of the date full-time service begins.

## **ARTICLE 11. LABOR RELATIONS MEETING**

**Section 1. Labor Relations Meetings** The Township and the Union recognize the benefit of exploration and the study of current and potential issues which may affect the standard of services to be provided by the Parks and Roads, Services, and Roads Departments. Accordingly, the parties agree to establish a Labor Relations Committee to discuss approaches and possible solutions to matters of mutual concern. By mutual agreement, any relevant topic may be considered at these discussions.

**Section 2. Labor Relations Committee** There is hereby established a Labor Relations Committee which shall consist of one (1) Trustee or their respective designee together with a Department Head and the Township Administrator, for a total of not more than three (3) representatives, and

three (3) bargaining unit Employees. The Committee may meet quarterly upon the call of either party and at any other time as the parties may mutually agree.

**Section 3. Authority** The Committee's authority shall be limited to discussion, exploration and study of subjects covered under this collective bargaining agreement, including, but not limited to, safety, physical fitness and health, together with such other issues mutually agreed to between the parties. The Committee shall have no authority to bargain for the Union and the Township, or to modify, add to, or delete the provisions of this Agreement, and discussions of the Committee shall not be construed as bargaining sessions. To the extent that mutual agreement may be reached, the Committee may endeavor to find ways of accomplishing joint objectives consistent with the provisions of this Agreement or may recommend to the Union and the Township that changes be made in the Agreement by mutual accord in writing.

## **ARTICLE 12. COMPENSATION**

### **Section 1. Entry Rate**

The base hourly entry rate for employees hired into the bargaining unit for all services performed is set forth in the attached table, Exhibit A. Such wages shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis, in accordance with the regular payroll of Township Employees. Such compensation shall be subject to withholding for federal, state, and local income taxes, and such other taxes and charges as may be subject to withholding from employee wages, and further subject to withholding for any other deductions or charges as may, from time to time, be authorized or requested in writing by the Employee and agreed to by the Board. At each successive anniversary date for the Employee, the Employee shall receive the next higher step allowed under the pay schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A. Provided, however, that the next higher step shall not be received until an entire pay period is worked following the anniversary date.

### **Section 2. Wage Increases**

For the second year of this contract, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a 4 % wage increase effective July 1, 2025.

For the third year of this contract, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a 4% wage increase effective July 1, 2026.

### **Section 3. Compensation**

Wages shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis, in accordance with the regular payroll of Township Employees. Such compensation shall be subject to withholding for federal, state, and local income taxes, and such other taxes and charges as may be subject to withholding from Employee wages, and further subject to the withholding required for union dues, pension contributions, and further subject to withholding for any other deductions or charges as may from time to time be authorized or requested in writing by the Employee and agreed to by the Board.

## ARTICLE 13. OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (OPERS)

**Section 1. OPERS Contribution** In general, all Township employees, except Fire Department personnel, are required to be a member of the State of Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). The Township will deduct 10% of the employee's gross wages or salary as the employee's contribution to OPERS. The Township is required to make a contribution on behalf of the employees each quarter. The Township contribution may vary - the current amount is 14% of the employee's gross wages or salary. Current percentages can be found on the OPERS website.

## ARTICLE 14. WORK HOURS AND OVERTIME

### **Section 1. Work Hours and Overtime**

The Township may from time to time establish the regularly scheduled work hours and work periods for Employees and will calculate all work periods and overtime in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act unless otherwise noted. The pay period is established as to every fourteen (14) days. The work hours for the Employee shall be as follows:

- A. The regular work schedule for the Employee will be arranged by the Administrator and the Department Head so that the normally scheduled work week averages forty (40) hours per week and eight (8) hours per day.
- B. Employees shall be compensated at the hourly rate set forth in Article 12, Compensation for all hours actually worked. For all hours actually worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week, the Employee shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the hourly rate except holidays when they shall be compensated at two (2) times the hourly rate. The term "hours actually worked" shall include work hours as well as all hours in paid status while on any approved paid leave, including holiday, personal, vacation, injury leave, compensatory time and military leave, but specifically excludes sick leave. The term "hours actually worked" shall also include all hours expended in training required by the Township, and any time during which an Employee takes a test for purposes of securing CDL certification.

Employees shall not work overtime without authorization. Further, employees shall not receive compensatory ("comp") time in lieu of overtime for such unauthorized work.

**Section 2. Temporary Work Assignment** Any Employee who is assigned by the Administrator, or their Department Head, to perform duties normally performed by an Employee in another job description than they presently hold shall be paid at the hourly rate of pay for the job actually performed for the number of hours required or assigned. An Employee so acting must work at a minimum of eight (8) continuous hours in any single out of class pay assignment in such position to qualify for this pay.

**Section 3. Recall** Whenever the Employee is called back to work by the Administrator, or an appropriate officer, on hours not abutting the Employee's regular shift hours, the Employee shall

be paid or credited with a minimum of three (3) hours actually worked at the hourly rate of pay. This minimum call-in guarantee shall be paid at the Employee's overtime rate.

**Section 4. No Duplication or Pyramiding** There shall be no duplication or pyramiding in the computation of overtime or other premium payment. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require the payment of overtime and/or other premium paid more than once for the same hours worked and/or credited.

**Section 5. Shifts** For 40 hour employees, the normal work day consists of eight (8) hour shifts. The Parks and Roads Department Supervisor(s) may establish the time(s) and day(s) for each shift to begin and end. Employees shall be entitled to one 15-minute paid break during the morning hours, and one 15-minute paid break during the afternoon hours.

**Section 6. Seasonal Hours** From time to time, as the customary demands of the Department might require, the Parks Department Supervisor may provide a seasonal work schedule to best utilize staffing needs.

## ARTICLE 15. COMPENSATORY TIME

**Section 1. Compensatory Time** In lieu of payment for overtime worked, the Employee may elect to receive compensatory time off in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Labor.

**Section 2. Carryover** The Employee may accumulate up to two hundred (200) hours of compensatory time through Dec. 31, 2024 and one hundred sixty (160) hours through Dec. 31, 2025 and thereafter, and may carry over from year to year not more than the maximum of one hundred twenty (120) hours of compensatory time. Compensatory time is accumulated in accordance with Article 14. Section B.

Any overtime worked by an Employee who has accumulated the maximum hours of compensatory time to their credit must be paid to the Employee at the next regular pay period, in accordance with Article 14. Section B.

In the event an Employee has accrued, to their credit, at year-end, compensatory time in excess of one hundred twenty (120) hours, the balance of hours in excess of one hundred twenty (120) hours will be paid out in the next regular payroll at regular hourly rate since compensatory time is accumulated at time and a half.

Employees may also cash out up to one hundred and twenty (120) hours of their accumulated compensatory time, not more than four (4) times per year, regardless of their minimum balance.

**Section 3. Payment Upon Termination** If the Employee has accrued compensatory time off, they shall, on termination of employment for any reason, be paid the unused compensatory time at the hourly rate earned by the Employee at the time of separation from employment.

**Section 4. Duplication, Pyramiding, and Recall** The prohibitions against duplication and pyramiding, and the limitations to recall time set forth in Article 14, shall apply to Compensatory Time Calculation as well.

## ARTICLE 16. LONGEVITY

### **Section 1. Longevity**

The Employee shall receive a longevity incentive based upon the Employee's number of continuous years of active service with Liberty Township as a full-time Employee, which incentive shall be paid in the following manner:

- A. After the fifth anniversary of the date of full-time employment with Liberty Township, the Employee shall be eligible to receive an annual longevity incentive in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) plus Fifty Dollars (\$50) per year for additional years completed following the fifth anniversary.
- B. The Employee will receive their longevity incentive, evidenced by separate receipt from normal payroll, on the first pay following the anniversary date of said Employee. The Township shall make deductions required by federal and state tax regulations. Payment shall be based upon the completed years of continuous active service as a full-time Employee of Liberty Township as of the time of payment.

## ARTICLE 17. UNIFORMS

**Section 1. Uniforms** All Employees are required to wear a work uniform while working for the Township. Uniform items shall not be worn outside of normal working hours, unless traveling to or from work. In September of each year of this contract, a Labor Management committee comprised of two (2) USW Employees selected by the USW and two (2) management Employees selected by the Township, will review uniform vendors and items and select a mutually agree upon clothing vendor(s) to provide the clothing options for required and optional uniform items (listed below).

**Section 2. Uniform Allowance** Each August of this contract, Employees shall be eligible for a reimbursement for uniform costs of up to \$375 dollars for clothing items and up to \$200 for steel toed safety approved work boots. Employees shall select from the mutually agreed upon vendor the required uniform items and any optional uniform items (listed below). Employees may select items throughout the year as desired or as needed for replacement; however, Employees will not be reimbursed for any purchases that exceed the annual allotment. Every other year, Employees are eligible for reimbursement by the Township for the costs to replace winter weather gear (items listed below).

New Employees, upon start of employment and for their first full year of employment with the Township, will receive \$475.00 for the purchase of a full set of uniform items and \$200 for approved steel toe work boots items.

In order to receive reimbursement for the purchase of required and/or optional uniform items, replacement items and/or winter weather gear (listed below), Employees must submit a Township expense report and receipts to their Department Head. To be eligible for reimbursement, purchases must be made from the approved vendor(s) for the items noted below. Uniforms shall have Township logo patch added at the cost to the Township as required.

**Section 3. Condition of Uniform Clothing** It is the employee's responsibility to ensure uniform items are clean and in undamaged condition. Employees may be sent home, without pay, if not properly uniformed at the sole discretion of the Employee's Department Head. Safety equipment must be worn at all applicable times.

Management may require replacement items be purchased to replace badly worn items. Replacement of items, above and beyond the annual allotment, must be approved in advance by the Department Head. Replacement uniform items needed as a result of unusual and/or non-work-related wear and tear may be at the Employee's expense.

**Section 4. Uniform Requirements** The following items are uniform requirements:

- 5 safety color t-shirts or long sleeve shirts with the Liberty Township logo or logo patch
- 5 pairs of heavy-duty long pants
- 1 pair of steel toed safety boots
- 1 insulated jacket (weather dependent) with the Liberty Township logo patch
- 1 insulated pair of overalls (weather dependent)

In addition to the required items above, employees may also choose one (1) jacket, one (1) sweatshirt, and two (2) billed caps (a.k.a. a baseball cap).

Safety equipment, as necessary and appropriate, including but not limited to safety vest, hard hat, ear protection, eye protection, and work gloves, shall be provided and replaced as needed by the Township.

**Section 5. End of Employment** Upon termination of employment with the Township, each Employee shall return to the Administrator all uniforms, pants, equipment, and safety gear provided and paid for by the Township.

## ARTICLE 18. VACATION

**Section 1. Accrual** Only full-time Employees shall be eligible to accrue and utilize vacation leave. Vacation time shall accrue and be credited by pay period as follows (based on a twenty-six pay period year), beginning upon the Employee's first day of work. To determine the appropriate accrual rate, the higher rate of accrual will begin on the first day of the pay period after which a year of continuous service is completed.

<u>Years of Continuous Active Service</u>	<u>Acc. Rate Per Pay Period</u>	<u>Annual Accrual</u>
Start Date and thru 5 years	3.07 hours	2 weeks (80 hours)
6 years thru 10 years	4.62 hours	3 weeks (120 hours)
11 years thru 15 years	6.15 hours	4 weeks (160 hours)
16 years thru 20 years	7.69 hours	5 weeks (200 hours)
21 years or more	9.23 hours	6 weeks (240 hours)

Upon a break in service, no vacation time shall accrue until the Employee returns to active service with the Township. The Employee may, with the prior approval of the Administrator and the Employee's Department Head, take vacation time subject to the following terms and conditions.

**Section 2. Use** Vacation time is not cumulative from year to year. Employees may carry over a maximum of one year's worth of vacation accrual plus one week of vacation accrual into the following year. Any vacation hours remaining unused at the end of the year exceeding these amounts shall be forfeited without pay.

The Employee may only take a maximum of two (2) consecutive weeks (80 hours) of vacation at any one time.

Upon approval of the Department Head, an Employee's vacation leave accrual may go into a negative balance of not more than forty (40) hours. Bi-weekly accruals of vacation leave shall be applied until the leave balance has been brought out of the negative.

In the event an Employee separates from Township employment with a negative vacation leave balance, the negative vacation leave balance shall be deducted from the Employee's final paycheck until it is no longer negative at the hourly rate of pay at the time of the Employee's separation.

Unless otherwise approved by the Administrator, or their Department Head, no vacation time shall be taken for less than two (2) consecutive hours. When vacation time is used, it shall be deducted from the Employee's credit on the basis of one hour for every one hour of absence.

**Section 3. Public Service** An employee shall be credited for service time on record and as reported by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System when calculating the employee's entitlement to accrued vacation (aka calculated service date) following the effective date of this Agreement. An Employee who has retired in accordance with the provision of a retirement plan offered by the State shall not have his prior service with a township counted for purposes of computing vacation leave. No transfer of accrued but unused vacation leave previously accumulated by the Employee in the employment of another employer shall be accepted by the Township to the credit of the Employee.

**Section 4. Payment Resulting From Retirement** The Employee agrees and understands that any accrued vacation time paid to him upon his service retirement will not be considered salary for purposes of calculating his final average salary, and shall not be treated as salary absent written instruction from the Public Employees Retirement Service Fund, or such other retirement fund in which Employee is a vested participant.

**Section 5. Death** When an Employee dies while in paid status, any unused vacation leave to their credit shall be paid in a lump sum to the surviving spouse, dependents, or to the estate of the deceased. Such payment shall be at the Employee's hourly rate of pay at the time of death.

**Section 6. Scheduling Vacation and Holiday Time** The scheduling of vacation time for each calendar year will be in order of seniority and will be scheduled with the Department Head and the Administrator. Vacation time use may be restricted by the Township during peak seasonal hours.

## ARTICLE 19. HOLIDAYS

### **Section 1. Holiday**

A. **Full-time Employees**. Full-time Employees, effective on date of hire, shall be entitled to eight (8) hours of pay for each enumerated holiday per calendar year, or a total of eighty eight (88) hours of holiday time. The holidays are:

1. the first day of January, known as New Year's Day;
2. the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King Day;
3. the third Monday in February, known as Washington-Lincoln Day;
4. the day designated in the "Act of September 18, 1975," 89 Stat 479, 5 U.S.C. 6103, as now or hereafter amended, for the commemoration of Memorial Day;
5. June 19, known as Juneteenth;
6. the fourth day of July, known as Independence Day;
7. the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day;
8. the second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day;
9. November 11, known as Veterans Day;
10. the fourth Thursday in November, known as Thanksgiving Day; and
11. the twenty-fifth day of December, known as Christmas Day.

## ARTICLE 20. INJURY LEAVE

**Section 1. Injury Leave** Full-time Employees may be granted injury leave with pay not to exceed one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive calendar days for each service-connected injury; provided such injury is reported to the Administrator or Department Head not more than three (3) days from the date such injury occurs. Service-connected injuries are defined as injuries received while acting within the course and scope of, and arising out of, the Employee's employment as a full-time Employee with Liberty Township as specified under Ohio workers compensation program. Injury leave may be granted for all service-connected injuries.

**Section 2. Required Endorsement** As a condition of receipt of injury leave benefits, the Employee shall apply for worker's compensation benefits under the Ohio Worker's Compensation program as soon as practicable. Copies of all workers' compensation applications shall be submitted to the Administrator. The Employee shall endorse over to the Township any and all wage and salary benefits awarded to the Employee by the Ohio Worker's Compensation system, which extends over the same period for which the Employee is granted injury leave. In compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation, the Employee shall execute a written agreement reflecting the provisions of this paragraph prior to an award of injury leave.

**Section 3. Injury Report** A timely report of the cause of the injury, signed by the Employee, shall be submitted to the Administrator as soon as practicable. The Administrator may periodically require the Employee to be examined by a physician appointed and paid for by the Township. The Employee shall not return to work without the written approval of an attending physician. In addition, the Township may require a second opinion from a second health care provider designated by and paid for by the Township. If the first and second opinions conflict, the Township may require the Employee to submit to a third examination, at the Township's expense, by a health care provider chosen by the Administrator. The opinion of the third health care provider is final and binding.

**Section 4. Leave Use Pending Approval** While the Employee's request for injury leave is pending, the Employee may use accrued but unused sick leave or vacation leave, which time usage will be re-credited to the Employee's appropriate leave balance(s) upon certification by the Township that injury leave has been approved. If injury leave is not approved by the Township, the Employee will be charged the designated leave initially used. If the Employee has exhausted his injury leave, the Township may permit him to use accrued but unused sick leave or vacation leave.

## ARTICLE 21. SICK LEAVE

**Section 1. Accrual** Each full-time Employee shall accrue sick leave with pay at the rate of 4.62 hours per pay period in which the Employee is in active service with the Township. Sick leave may only be used for absence due to medical, dental or optical consultation or treatment of the Employee, or personal illness, injury, exposure to serious, contagious disease which could be communicated to other Employees, and to illness or injury of a member of the Employee's immediate family who resides in the Employee's household, or for the death of an Employee's

immediate family, including Employee/spouse's (parent or parent's spouse, sibling or sibling's spouse); provided that, in cases of such illness or injury, the Employee's presence is urgently required. (Once the initial emergency is over, sick leave will not be granted merely because continuing care is needed.) When sick leave is used it shall be deducted from the Employee's credit on the basis of one hour for every one hour of absence from previously scheduled work. One (1) hour of sick leave shall be used for each regularly scheduled hour the Employee is absent due to illness. Sick leave may be accumulated and carried over from year to year, subject to a maximum accrual limit of 1,040 hours. If the Employee has a break in service, the previously accumulated sick leave of the Employee shall be credited to the Employee upon reemployment with the Township in a full-time basis at this previous position; provided that such reemployment takes place within five years of the date on which the break in service occurred.

**Section 2. Scheduling and Use** The scheduling and use of sick leave shall be subject to the following rules and conditions:

- A. The Employee shall notify the Administrator or Department Head as soon as reasonably possible of the taking of each day of sick leave and the circumstances under which it is being used, which notification shall occur no later than within one (1) hour before the start of the Employee's regularly scheduled shift each day.
- B. The Administrator may require the Employee to furnish a satisfactory written, signed statement to justify the use of sick leave. An Employee who has been off three (3) or more consecutive regularly scheduled days shall furnish a certificate signed by a licensed physician stating the nature of the illness or injury in order to verify proper use of sick leave.
- C. In the event of extended illness, injury or sickness, the Township may require a second opinion from a second health care provider designated by and paid for by the Township. If the first and second opinions conflict, the Township may require the Employee to submit to a third examination, at the Township's expense, by a health care provider chosen by the Medical Director. In choosing the third health care provider, the Medical Director must be reasonable and act in good faith. If it is determined that the Employee is unable to fulfill the essential duties of the Employee's position without restriction as a result of such illness, sickness or injury, the Township shall attempt to accommodate the Employee, including assigning them to a position, the essential duties of which the Employee is able to perform. In the event reasonable efforts to accommodate the Employee are unsuccessful, the Employee, if available, shall continue to utilize their sick leave for up to a maximum of six (6) months. If either no sick leave is available, it is exhausted, or if the Employee is still unable to perform the essential functions of their position after being off work on sick leave for a maximum of six (6) months, the Township may, in its discretion, relieve the Employee of duty, place the Employee on paid or unpaid leave of absence, or disability separate the Employee.

**Section 3. Break in Service** Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, upon a break in service, other than retirement, disability separation from active service or death in the line of duty, the Employee shall not be entitled to receive payment for any accrued but unused sick leave, which

leave shall be forfeited without payment or compensation therefor unless the Employee is reemployed with the Township on a full-time basis and qualifies for reinstatement of sick leave as provided above. Upon retirement or disability separation from active service with the Township or death in the line of duty, the Employee shall be paid for one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) the value of the Employee's accrued but unused sick leave, provided that the maximum amount paid shall not exceed the value of 260 hours of such leave. For the purpose of making this calculation, the sick leave payable hereunder shall be made at the then-current calculated regular hourly rate. No sick leave shall accrue to the benefit of an Employee while the Employee is on injury leave, disability leave, or uncompensated FMLA leave.

**Section 4. Transfer of Credit** The Township may accept a transfer of up to, but not in excess of, 460 hours of sick leave accrued to the credit of an Employee while in the next previous employment of another township. The transfer will be accepted upon certification of the Fiscal Officer of the Township, which was the next previous employer as to the amount of leave previously accrued to that Employee's benefit. The determination of whether to accept the transfer is entrusted to the sole and absolute discretion of the Board of Trustees, whose decision will be final.

**Section 5. Donation of Leave** An Employee may donate not more than ten percent (10%) of their accrued sick leave balance to another Township Employee within the bargaining unit once each year. The receiving Employee will have exhausted all of their available sick leave and other paid leave balances accrued to his credit to be eligible to receive the transfer. The donating Employee must, as a necessary prerequisite for the transfer, have accumulated leave credits in excess of two hundred forty (240) hours and must execute a written request for the Township to make the transfer. Once transferred, the sick leave credits must remain in the account of the original transferee.

**Section 6. Quarterly Conversion** Upon the expiration of each calendar year quarter, or every three (3) months, full- time Road and Parks Department Employees shall be eligible to convert for cash payout up to eight (8) sick leave hours accrued to the Employee's credit. The option shall only be available to the Employee if no sick leave is utilized by the Employee during the preceding calendar year quarter. The election shall be made by the Employee during the first five (5) workdays of April, July, September, and January by delivery of written election, signed by the Employee, to the Fiscal Officer. Payment shall be made as soon as practicable after the receipt of the written election.

## ARTICLE 22. FUNERAL LEAVE

**Section 1. Funeral Leave** Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator or Department Head, the Employee shall be permitted a leave of absence with pay of up to three consecutive regularly scheduled work days for purposes of funeral attendance due to the death of a member of the Employee's immediate family. One of the days must include the day of the funeral. The Administrator, in their sole and absolute discretion, may approve an additional leave of absence, with pay, for not more than one additional regularly scheduled work day. Payment shall be made at the Employee's hourly rate for each regularly scheduled hour of work missed due to funeral leave. The Employee shall notify and obtain the approval of the Administrator prior to the day

funeral attendance leave is taken. Absent special circumstances, in the event the Employee fails to so notify and obtain the approval of the Administrator, such leave may be charged first against sick leave and then vacation time.

**Section 2. Immediate Family** Immediate family shall mean the Employee's spouse, children, step-children, parents, parents- in-law, siblings (siblings-in-law), grandparents. Immediate family will also include those aunts, uncles, and cousins for whom which the Employee stood in loco parental status or for whom the Employee was providing direct care as demonstrated by a health care professional.

## **ARTICLE 23. HEALTH CARE INSURANCE**

**Section 1. Insurance Coverage** Medical, dental, and vision coverage shall be made available to the Employee at their option. Life and Accidental Disability will also be made available to the Employee. Separately, Employees may elect to enroll and pay the entire cost for short-term disability insurance through payroll deduction, to the extent disability insurance remains available.

**Section 2. Advisory Committee** In the event the Board of Trustees identifies the possibility of a change in the premium, deductible, type of coverage or level of coverage, the Board of Trustees will announce the possibility not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the current policy. The Township's Advisory Committee has been established to help investigate the insurance coverages that are available for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than a total of six (6) people. The Union shall be entitled to two (2) representatives on the Advisory Committee, with the balance to be appointed by the Board of Trustees from the other Township departments. The Board of Trustees shall have the unlimited discretion to name other Employees to the Advisory Committee. The Board of Trustees shall consider but shall not be bound by any recommendation of the Advisory Committee, prior to determining which insurance coverage they determine to provide in their sole and absolute discretion, or the amount of premium, deductible or contribution of the Employees, so long as the Employee's premium contribution amounts are within the limits specified in Section 4 of this Article 23. Should, however, the Board of Trustees not select one of the plans recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee may meet again with the Trustees prior to enactment.

**Section 3. Employee Acknowledgement** The Employees and the Union acknowledge that, for budgetary and cost reasons, the Township will no longer bear the entire expense of health care coverage. Consequently, the Employees shall have to contribute a portion of the premium and deductible costs associated with the coverage each elects, and such contributions shall be deducted from their gross pay amounts on a pro-rata bi-weekly basis. The Township is hereby specifically authorized to deduct such amounts from each Employee's gross pay.

**Section 4. Employee Contribution** Beginning July 1, 2024, Members shall pay 5% of the premium costs for medical, dental, and vision insurance provided to them by the Township. For the insurance cycles beginning in 2025 and 2026, the Members' premium cost share shall not exceed 7% of the premium costs for medical, dental, and vision insurance provided to them by

the Township. For the insurance cycle beginning in 2027, the Members' premium cost share shall be the same as the amount negotiated by the IAFF. The Members' payment is with pre-tax dollars.

**Section 5. Opt-out Payment** Under the same terms that are applicable to non-bargaining unit Township Employees pursuant to Township policy and in compliance with ORC 505.603, Employees who opt out of coverage under the Township's medical insurance shall be entitled to a cash payment in lieu of medical insurance not to exceed 25% of the cost of premiums that otherwise would be paid by the Township. If, however, another bargaining unit negotiates a greater opt-out benefit in a contract with a start date after this Agreement, the Township agrees to provide this bargaining unit with that greater benefit.

**Section 6. Employees Health Insurance Deductible** The Members shall be responsible for the entire deductible. The Township shall establish a Health Savings Accounts (HSA) for Members enrolled in the Township provided health care plan. At the beginning of the insurance cycle, the Township shall deposit four thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$4,150) for single and eight thousand three hundred dollars (\$8,300) for family. The township HSA contribution shall not increase more than ten (10%) percent each year.

## **ARTICLE 24. MILITARY LEAVE**

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) and applicable state law, including Ohio Revised Code § 5923.05, or other statutes of like tenor and effect as they may be amended from time to time, will govern all uniformed services leave as set forth in the policy adopted by the Township.

## **ARTICLE 25. FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

The Township shall comply with the Family Medical Leave act of 1993 (FMLA). Nothing in this Article shall be construed as providing lesser treatment than that required under the FMLA or deprive any employee of any right or forum thereunder.

## ARTICLE 26. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

**Section 1. Policy** The parties recognize that the safety sensitive nature of the positions requires that personnel conduct themselves in a manner consistent with high standards of health and safety. Alcoholism and drug abuse and/or addiction are recognized by the parties as interfering with the Departments' safety and services. While the parties agree that Employees afflicted with a substance abuse problem are to be encouraged to seek qualified assistance and will not be disciplined solely for seeking assistance for a substance abuse problem, the presence of drugs or alcohol on the job and the influences of these substances on Employees during working hours will not be tolerated. Any violation of the following Township's policy or the refusal to comply with it may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.

- A. The illegal use, sale, transfer, or possession of narcotics, drugs or controlled substances;
- B. The use, sale, transfer, or possession of alcohol while on the job or Township property is prohibited. Property includes Township vehicles or work sites;
- C. Employees are forbidden to work while under the influence of alcohol or having used illegal drugs. This will also apply to Employees taking prescription or over-the-counter medication that may cause impairment unless such medications are disclosed to the Department Head prior to beginning work and the Employee is permitted to begin work notwithstanding the taking of prescription or over-the-counter medication. Employees who are determined to be unfit may be released from duty, placed on paid leave, and sent home;
- D. The decision to seek diagnosis and accept treatment for a drug or alcohol problem is the responsibility of the Employee. Continued failure of an Employee to seek and pursue treatment when job performance is affected may be grounds for discipline in accordance with Article 7 of this Agreement. Employees who have a substance abuse problem should contact their physician, a drug abuse counselor or other qualified person, or if they so choose, they may contact their Department Head and/or Union.

**Section 2. Testing Procedures** The Township reserves the right to perform random alcohol/drug testing through a third-party service. Upon reasonable suspicion that an Employee has used or is under the influence of illicit drugs or controlled substances or has used or is under the influence of alcohol on the job, the Employee may be ordered to undergo a screening test(s) administered through a provider under contract with the Township. Reasonable suspicion must be based upon specific facts or observations and reasonable inferences drawn therefrom indicating the Employee in question has used or is under the influence of illicit drugs or controlled substances or has used or is under the influence of alcohol on the job. Reasonable suspicion includes, but is not limited to, slurred speech, disorientation, impaired motor function, abnormal conduct, an arrest or conviction for drug or alcohol related offenses, or a sudden, unexplained change in work performance or unexplained, excessive tardiness or absenteeism. Reasonable suspicion is conclusively presumed to exist, for purposes of this Agreement, in the event of a motor vehicle or any other job- related accident resulting in serious property damage or personal injury. Employees who refuse to test or who test positive for alcohol or drugs post-accident may be ineligible to receive worker's compensation benefits as provided by the Ohio Revised Code Section 4123.54.

All drug screening tests shall be conducted by medical laboratories certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or certified by a DHHS recognized certification program.

The procedures utilized by the Township and testing laboratory shall follow Department of Transportation standards and shall include an evidentiary chain of custody control. The split sample method of collection shall be used following prescribed testing procedures. If a drug confirmation test is positive, the Employee may, upon written request and at the Employee's expense, have the split sample re-tested by a DHHS certified laboratory. This request shall be presented within seventy-two (72) hours upon being notified of a positive result. In the event the split sample test confirms the results of the first test, the Township may proceed with the sanction as set forth in this Article. In the event that the split sample test contradicts the result of the first test, the split sample result is determined to be the final result. The results of this test, if positive, shall allow the Township to proceed with sanctions as set forth in this Article. If the results are negative, the Employee shall be given the benefit of the doubt, and no sanctions shall be imposed. If the results are negative, the Employee shall be reimbursed for the re-test expense. The results of the testing shall be delivered to the Township and the Employee tested. An Employee whose confirmatory test result is positive shall have the right to request a certified copy of the testing results in which the vendor shall affirm that the test results were obtained using the approved protocol methods. A positive result from an alcohol test means a level of eight-hundredths of one percent by weight of alcohol in the blood, or eight hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath, or such other minimum level as may be prescribed by the traffic laws of the State of Ohio for the level at which an Employee is presumed to be under the influence of alcohol such as is prescribed at Ohio Revised Code Sections 4511.19(A) and (8), respectively. An Employee taking any prescription and/or non-prescription drug(s) that may adversely affect job performance and/or any testing results has an obligation to inform such Employee's Department Head in advance of assuming the Employee's duties.

**Section 3. Test Results** If the screening and confirmatory tests are positive, the Township may discipline the Employee up to and including discharge. Furthermore, an Employee who refuses to submit to any ordered test shall be deemed insubordinate and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**Section 4. Counseling and Rehabilitation Program** An Employee who notifies the Department of such Employee's alcohol and/or drug dependency problem may be required to participate in an approved counseling and rehabilitation program. An Employee participating in such a program will be allowed reasonable use of such Employee's accrued but unused sick leave, vacation leave and/or personal time for absences due to actual participation. If no such leave time is available, the Employee may be granted a leave of absence without pay for a reasonable period of time for purposes of actual participation in such a program. An Employee approved for participation in such a program shall be obligated to successfully initiate, participate in and complete such program as provided by the health insurance or at the Employee's own cost. While participating in such a program, the Employee shall be required to authorize the release of sufficient information so as to enable the Department Head to determine that the Employee is actively participating in and/or has completed such program.

Upon completion of the program, an Employee shall be re-tested in order to demonstrate that the Employee is no longer abusing any prohibited substance. If the re-test demonstrates that the Employee is no longer abusing any prohibited substance, the Employee may be returned to an available position for which the Employee qualifies. Furthermore, the Employee shall be subject to periodic re-testing for drugs and alcohol upon such Employee's return for a period of two (2)

years and such testing is deemed to be based upon a reasonable suspicion that drug or alcohol use is occurring on the job. An Employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge if the Employee: (1) refuses to take a screening or confirmatory test, or to initiate an approved counseling and rehabilitation program if ordered to do so; (2) fails to successfully complete an approved counseling and rehabilitation program; or (3) tests positive at any time within two (2) years after the Employee's return to work upon completion of an approved counseling and rehabilitation program.

**Section 5. Confidentiality** Unless otherwise required by applicable law, all test results will be kept confidential in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

**Section 6. Costs** The Township shall pay for all drug and alcohol screening and confirmatory tests ordered by the Department Head.

**Section 7. Agreement to Cooperate and Amend** The Township, Employees, and Union all acknowledge that the Township may realize significant savings in worker's compensation premiums through the adoption of a policy which complies with guidelines for a drug-free workplace as defined by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation. To facilitate the capture of those discount incentives, Liberty Township, the Employees, and the Union agree the Township shall have the right to modify this Article 26 upon notice delivered by the Township, so that the Article meets the minimum requirements necessary to obtain such incentives including discounted rates. The Employees and the Union agree to cooperate to the extent necessary in the effort to qualify for those discount incentives.

## **ARTICLE 27. SUSPENSION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**Section 1. Waiver** In cases of emergency declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Ohio, the Board of Delaware County Commissioners, or the Liberty Township Board of Trustees, resulting from acts of God, civil disorder, or otherwise, the following conditions of this Agreement shall automatically be suspended:

- A. Time limits for management, the Union, or an Employee to reply on grievances; and
- B. Selected work rules and/or agreements and practices relating to the assignment of Employees to duties as they pertain to the operation of the applicable Department.

**Section 2. Termination** Upon the termination of the emergency, should valid grievances exist, they shall be processed in accordance with the provisions outlined in the grievance procedure and shall proceed from the point in the grievance procedure to which the grievance(s) had properly progressed.

## ARTICLE 28. UNION BUSINESS

**Section 1. Union Activity** The Township agrees that during the working hours, on the Township's premises, and without loss of pay, one Union representative shall be permitted a reasonable period of time to perform the following functions subject to the advance approval of the Administrator and provided the normal operations of the Department are not disrupted.

- A. Attend meetings with Management;
- B. Transmit communications, authorized by the local Union or its officers to the Township or its representatives;
- C. Consult with the Township or its representatives concerning the enforcement of any provision of this Agreement;
- D. The Township agrees that the Union's representatives may post Union notices, decals and literature only on bulletin boards provided for such use, distribute Union literature during non-work hours, and solicit Union membership in non-work areas.
- E. The Union shall be permitted to place and maintain one bulletin board in each facility at which Employees work subject to the approval of the Administrator. Bulletins and materials subject to the Union's function as exclusive representative of the bargaining unit are the only materials to be posted by the Union and its Employees. Materials which contain personal attacks and scandalous or derogatory comments about any Employee, other Employees or elected officials or candidate shall not be posted on any of the bulletin board(s). No political materials shall be posted.
- F. The Township agrees to provide 80 hours of unpaid time off per year to Union Representatives to attend union training and conventions. It will be at the discretion of the unit chair to divide up this time. Time off is subject to the approval of the Township based upon operational and staffing needs of the Township. All accruals continue during this time.

## ARTICLE 29. SAFETY AND HEALTH

**Section 1. Safe Workplace** The Township and the Union agree to cooperate to the fullest extent in the promotion of safety. Employees shall forward any concerns they may have to the Labor Relations Committee to be addressed as set forth in Article 11.

Local Unit Employees will be granted five (5) days of paid leave to be allocated among the Employees to attend the Union's Safety and Health training one (1) time per year of the Agreement. This leave is paid and the Employee's accruals of all leaves and vacation will continue while attending this training.

## ARTICLE 30. DUES DEDUCTION

**Section 1. Employee Dues, Initiation Fees, and Assessments** During the term of this Agreement, the Township agrees to deduct Union membership dues, initiation fees and/or assessments in the amount specified by the Union from the pay of those Employees who individually sign a lawful checkoff authorization card. Upon receipt of the proper authorization, the Township will deduct dues from the next payroll check following receipt of the authorization card. Dues shall be

deducted from each payroll period, and the total amount of deductions shall be remitted each month by the Township to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the Union at the address which is authorized for that purpose.

**Section 2. Certification of Amount** On or before each January 5<sup>th</sup> the Union shall certify to the Township Fiscal Officer the amount to be deducted per pay period from Employees' checks as dues, initiation fees, and assessments. This amount shall apply throughout the succeeding calendar year, and successive calendar years, unless timely notice under this Section is served upon the Fiscal Officer identifying an alternate amount.

**Section 3. Termination of Deduction** The Township shall be relieved from making such individual dues deductions upon an Employee's (1) termination of employment; (2) transfer to a job other than one included in the bargaining unit; (3) layoff from work; (4) unpaid leave of absence; and (5) written revocation of the check-off authorization by an Employee.

**Section 4. Union Indemnification** The Union agrees that it shall indemnify and hold the Township harmless from any recovery of damages and expenses sustained by the Township relative to the Township's agreements under this Article.

## **ARTICLE 31. OPTIONAL PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS**

An Employee may submit written, signed requests for optional payroll deductions to the Administrator for approval. Upon approval of the Administrator, and with the consent of the Fiscal Officer, the Fiscal Officer shall be permitted to make the payroll deductions called for and to pay those deductions to the indicated recipient(s). The decision to consent to the request, or not, shall be at the sole discretion of the Administrator and at the sole discretion of the Fiscal Officer, whose decisions shall be final and not grievable or appealable.

## **ARTICLE 32. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Section 1. Gender and Number** Whenever words are used here in any gender, they shall be construed as though they were used in the gender appropriate to the circumstances; and whenever words are used herein in the singular or plural form, they shall be construed as though they were used in the form appropriate to the circumstances.

**Section 2. Successor Negotiations** If either party desires to commence successor negotiations, written notice of such intent shall be delivered to the other party as per Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117.

### **Section 3. Definitions**

(1) Active paid status shall mean the time during which the Employee is employed by the Township on a full-time basis in the bargaining unit and is paid, or entitled to payment, for the performance of duties for the Township, including that time during which the Employee is paid, or entitled to payment, on account of a period of time during which no duties are

performed due to regularly scheduled non-working days, vacation, holidays, sick leave, except leaves of absence without pay or injury leave.

- (2) Anniversary date shall mean the first day following the first 365 days of continuous active full-time service by the Employee with the Township, and, if applicable, the same date of each calendar year thereafter.
- (3) Break in service shall mean that period of time commencing on the date on which the Employee is not entitled to payment for the performance of duties for the Township or on that date on which the Employee's employment with the Township is terminated. Time spent on an unpaid leave of absence, unpaid FMLA leave, or injury leave is a break in service. Time spent on unpaid disciplinary suspensions shall not be considered a break in service. Upon a break in service involving an unpaid leave of absence or injury leave, whether or not approved, no further vacation, holiday and/or sick leave time shall accrue or be credited unless and until the Employee is returned to active paid status with the Township.
- (4) Insurance Cycle shall mean the one-year (12-month) period covered by the Township's insurance policy. In 2018 this period is the time between April 1 and March 31 of the following year. These precise dates, and the duration of the cycle in months, are subject to change without altering the application of this term to the Agreement.
- (5) Retirement shall mean the date when the Employee retires or is retired from the employ of the Township and on which the Employee qualifies for and receives full retirement benefits under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System codified at Ohio Revised Code Chapter 145, or a similar retirement system, and who has at least five (5) consecutive years of active service with the Township.

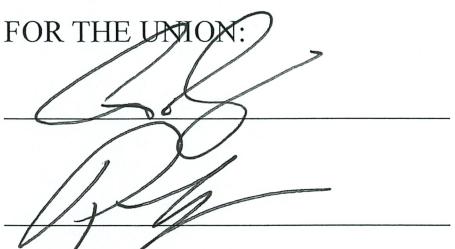
**Section 4. Entire Agreement** The Parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right to make demands and proposals on any subject matter as to which Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117 imposes an obligation to bargain. Therefore, the Township and the Union, for the duration of this Agreement, agree that they shall not be obligated to bargain collectively or individually with respect to any subject or matter specifically referred to in this Agreement, or which constitutes a mandatory subject of bargaining for which Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117 imposes an obligation to bargain.

**Section 5. Duration** The term of this Agreement shall be from August 19, 2024 until termination at midnight on June 30, 2027.

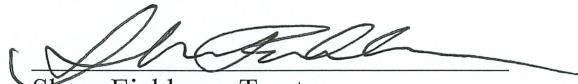
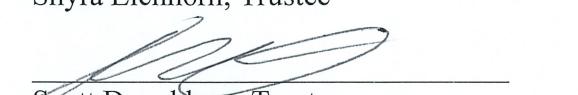
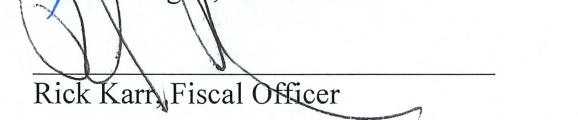
This Agreement is entered into by and between the Township of Liberty, Delaware County, Ohio (the "Township") and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO-CLC (the "Union").

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement on or as of August 19, 2024.

FOR THE UNION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE TOWNSHIP:

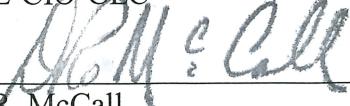
  
Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee  
  
Scott Donaldson, Trustee  
  
Bryan Newell, Trustee  
  
Kevin Vaughn, Administrator  
  
Rick Karr, Fiscal Officer

*AS TO FORM:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan J. Downes, Labor Counsel  
Zashin & Rich

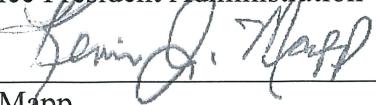
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

UNITED STEELWORKERS-USW  
AFL-CIO-CLC

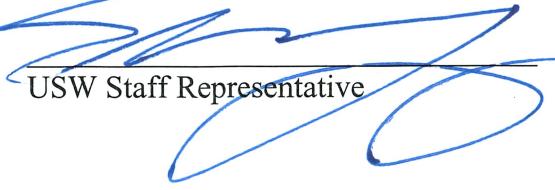
  
D. R. McCall  
International President

  
John E. Shinn  
International Secretary-Treasurer

  
Emil Ramirez  
Int'l Vice President Administration

  
Kevin Mapp  
Int'l Vice President Human Affairs

  
Donald E. Blatt, District 1 Director

  
USW Staff Representative

## EXHIBIT A

	Year 1 August 24, 2024	Year 2 July 01, 2025	Year 3 July 01, 2026
Step 1	\$22.00	\$22.88	\$23.80
Step 2	\$26.00	\$27.04	\$28.12
Step 3	\$30.00	\$31.20	\$32.45