

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT  
CONCERNING AMENDING THE  
LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP)  
FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of a resolution amending the Length of Service Award Program for qualifying active members of the Coldenham Fire Company, Inc. will held in and for the Coldenham Fire District on November 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Coldenham Fire House located at 511 Coldenham Road, Walden, New York 12586.

The proposed Resolution for consideration is abstracted as follows:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District, as authorized by Article 11-A of the GML, approves an amendment to the LOSAP to extend the maximum years of Service Credit that may be earned under its LOSAP from 25 to 40 years; and to provide prior Service Credit for qualifying active volunteer firefighters who continued to participate and earned 50 or more points for any year after attaining the current 25 year maximum Service Credit, and to increase the monthly Service Award from \$15 to \$30, therefore increasing the maximum projected monthly Service Award from \$375 to \$1200, effective January 1, 2024. The annual investment contribution cost of the current program for 2023 was approximately \$75,000 (\$750 per participating volunteer). The current cost of administration is about \$7,500 per year. The annual investment contribution cost of the program under this Amendment for current volunteers is estimated to be about \$160,000 (\$1,600 for participating volunteer). There will be no increase in the program administration costs as a result of this Amendment. The failure of the Amendment to be approved by the voters of the Coldenham Fire District will not affect the provisions of the Service Award Program presently in effect.

The full text of the Proposed Amendment can be read herein.

BY ORDER OF  
THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT

JOSEPH D. KEENAN, SECRETARY  
DATED: October 24, 2023

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners**

In the matter of amending the Length of Service Awards Program

**WHEREAS**, in 1997 the eligible voting residents of the Coldenharn Fire District approved a referendum to establish a defined benefit Length of Service Award Program ("LOSAP") for active volunteer firefighters of the Coldenham Fire District (the "Fire District") in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law ("GML"); and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, a qualified volunteer firefighter currently earns a \$15 monthly Service Award for each year of Service Credit, payable at the age of 60; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current LOSAP provisions, the maximum number of years of Service Credit a qualified volunteer firefighter may earn is 25 years, which represents a maximum monthly Service Award of \$375; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Fire District proposes to amend the LOSAP, effective January 1, 2024, to extend the maximum number of years of Service Credit for which a qualified volunteer firefighter may earn a Service Award to 40 years and increase the monthly Service Award to \$30, which represents a maximum monthly Service Award of \$1,200; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire District proposes to award prior Service Credit to those active volunteer firefighters who continued to participate and who earned at least 50 points per calendar year, for each year after having reached 25 years of Service Credit, subject to the maximum limit of 40 years. Such prior Service Credit is to be awarded and effective on January 1, 2024 for the prior award amount of \$15 monthly per credit year; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 400 of the Laws of 2021 amended GML §219 to allow a LOSAP Sponsor to extend the maximum number of years of Service Credit for which a participating active volunteer firefighter may earn a Service Award and allow for the increase of the monthly Service Award benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, this amendment is consistent with the intent of the LOSAP to recruit, retain, and reward volunteer firefighters; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District, as authorized by Article 11-A of the GML, approves an amendment to the LOSAP to extend the maximum years of Service Credit that may be earned under its LOSAP from 25 to

40 years; and to provide prior Service Credit for active volunteer firefighters who continued to participate and earned 50 or more points for any year after attaining the current 25 year maximum Service Credit, and to increase the monthly Service Award from \$15 to \$30, therefore increasing the maximum projected monthly Service Award from \$375 to \$1200, effective January 1, 2024. The annual investment contribution cost of the current program for 2023 was approximately \$75,000 (\$750 per participating volunteer). The current cost of administration is about \$7,500 per year. The annual investment contribution cost of the program under this Amendment for current volunteers is estimated to be about \$160,000 (\$1,600 for participating volunteer). There will be no increase in the program administration costs as a result of this Amendment. The failure of the Amendment to be approved by the voters of the Coldenham Fire District will not affect the provisions of the Service Award Program presently in effect; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution is subject to a mandatory referendum of the qualified voters of the Coldenham Fire District and said referendum shall be held on December 12, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Coldenham Fire House, 511 Coldenham Road, Walden, New York;

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

THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT, IN A RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 13, 2023, APPROVED AN AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINED BENEFIT LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, SPONSORED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHED FOR QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE COLDENDHAM FIRE COMPANY, INC.

IF APPROVED, THE AMENDMENT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND WOULD EXTEND THE MAXIMUM YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR WHICH A PARTICIPATING QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY EARN A SERVICE AWARD FROM 25 TO 40 YEARS, AND WOULD PROVIDE PRIOR SERVICE CREDIT FOR ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS WHO CONTINUED TO PARTICPATE AND EARNED 50 OR MORE POINTS FOR ANY YEAR AFTER ATTAINING THE CURRENT 25 YEAR MAXIMUM SERVICE CREDIT, AND WOULD INCREASE THE MONTHLY SERVICE AWARD TO \$30 FOR YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT EARNED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024.

THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTION COST OF THE CURRENT PROGRAM FOR 2023 WAS ABOUT \$75,000 (\$750 PER PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER). THE CURRENT COST OF ADMINISTRATION IS ABOUT \$7,500 PER YEAR. THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTION COST OF THE AMENDED PROGRAM FOR CURRENT VOLUNTEERS IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$160,000 (\$1,600 PER PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER). THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT. THE FAILURE OF THE AMENDMENT TO BE APPROVED BY THE VOTERS OF THE COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT WILL NOT AFFECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM PRESENTLY IN EFFECT.

THEREFORE, SHALL THE STATED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE COLDENHAM FIRE DISTRICT SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM BE APPROVED?