

WORKING AGREEMENT

between

TOWN OF PROSPECT

and

**LOCAL 1303-379 OF COUNCIL 4
AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022

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This Agreement is made by and between the Town of Prospect, Connecticut, (hereinafter referred to as the "Town") and Local 1303-379 of Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to as the "Union").

WITNESSETH

ARTICLE 1 - RECOGNITION

The Town recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for:

All full-time employees of the Town of Prospect working in the Public Works Department, excluding supervisors and all others excluded by the Act.

**ARTICLE 2
PROBATIONARY AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES**

- Section 1:** Newly hired employees shall be considered probationary employees for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of employment.
- Section 2:** The Town may discharge the probationary employee at any time before the successful completion of the probationary period and such discharge shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration provisions of this Agreement.
- Section 3:** Upon successful completion of the probationary period, an employee shall have his seniority calculated from his date of hire.
- Section 4:** The Town may hire temporary employees for general work in the Town environs.
- Section 5:** The hourly rate of pay for temporary employees shall be set at the Town's discretion but in no event shall such rate of pay exceed the pay rate of current employees.
- Section 6:** Temporary employees shall not be entitled to any fringe benefits, including (but not limited to) sick leave or other leaves of absence, holidays, vacation, insurances, pension, etc., nor shall they be covered by any other provision of this Labor Agreement.
- Section 7:** The retention of such temporary employees shall be at the sole discretion of the Town except as limited herein. No temporary employee shall be guaranteed employment if a regular position becomes available. However, if such employee is hired into a regular position, he/she shall serve the initial probationary period set forth in this Agreement and his/her seniority shall be determined by the date of hire into a regular position.

ARTICLE 3 – UNION SECURITY

- Section 1:** The Town will deduct from the pay of employees who provide written authorization for such deductions, such membership dues, and service fees as may be fixed by the Union.
- Section 2:** Deductions under this Article shall be made during the last payroll period of the month and remitted to the Union along with a list of names of employees from whose wages such deductions have been made.
- Section 3:** The Union shall indemnify and hold the Town harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall or may arise out of or by reason of action taken by the Town for the purpose of complying with the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 4 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The Union recognizes the sole and exclusive prerogative of the Town to operate and manage its affairs in all respects in accordance with its public trust and interest, and further recognizes that the powers and authority which the Town has customarily possessed in the past, and has not had officially and specifically abridged, delegated or modified by this Agreement, are retained by the Town.

ARTICLE 5 - HOURS OF WORK

- Section 1:** The regular work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive eight (8) hour work days, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a twenty (20) minute paid meal break at noon each working day which must be taken on the job-site.
- Section 2:** Employees shall be entitled to a paid coffee break of fifteen (15) minutes at approximately 9:00 a.m. and approximately 2:00 p.m. Employees shall not leave the work site during the 2:00 p.m. coffee break only. Employees shall not consume alcoholic beverages during break or work time. The Assistant Director of Public Works may schedule the coffee break to avoid unnecessary disruption of the Town's operations. A ten (10) minute wash up period shall be permitted at the end of the workday.
- Section 3:** An employee called in to work outside his regularly scheduled hours shall receive a guarantee of four (4) hours pay at the contractual rate except that an employee who is called in and works continuously before the start of his

regular work day shall be paid for these hours at the contractual rate. The Town will pay employees from the time the employee is called into work, provided that the employee arrives within forty (40) minutes after such call.

Section 4: Employees shall be paid one and one-half (1 ½) time their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) during the work week. Employees shall receive a paid ten (10) minute break during each four (4) hours of overtime and a paid thirty (30) minute meal break during each eight hours of overtime midway in that work period. Employees shall be allowed to leave the work site during paid breaks when Town refreshment facilities are available. The current practice shall be continued. The paid breaks may be scheduled breaks to avoid unnecessary disruption of the work.

Section 5: The Town shall equalize the distribution of overtime among employees qualified to perform available overtime throughout the year by utilizing a rotation list posting as described below. Overtime shall be required between November 15 and April 15 each year.

- a. A chart shall be drawn and maintained by the Director of Public Works listing employees top/down based on seniority of each day of each month of the year.
- b. Firstly, overtime shall be offered to the senior person down until all in line have been offered/or refused to work overtime, whereupon such employee shall be charged such hours whether worked/or refused.
- c. Thereafter, all employees shall be offered overtime based on the employee lowest in hours being asked first and so on.
- d. During the period November 15 to April 15 each year, overtime offered shall be required as set forth above, and must be equalized within 24 hours every two (2) months and otherwise (November 15 to April 15) each month.
- e. Outside the above mentioned mandatory period (April 16 to November 14 each year) employees may refuse overtime work or be charged, except it shall be incumbent upon the two (2) least senior employees to accept such overtime.
- f. Employees on medical leave, vacation leave, short-term disability leave, workers' compensation leave, or FMLA leave shall, upon their return from leave, be credited with the higher of (i) their actual overtime hours or (ii) the overtime hours of the bargaining unit employee with the lowest number of overtime hours.

- g. Employees shall be asked for overtime no less than forty-eight (48) hours before the event.

Section 6: The Town will allow employees to respond to emergency calls when such employees are members of the Town's Volunteer Fire Department, provided that a Public Works emergency shall take precedence over other emergencies.

ARTICLE 6 – JUST CAUSE

Section 1: Employees shall not be disciplined or discharged except for just cause.

It is the Town's general practice to use progressive disciplinary counseling procedures between the employee and their immediate supervisor in which the supervisor will explain the charges and allow the employee to explain his or her position. The procedures provide for sanctions to be imposed on an employee to correct inappropriate behavior, whether the behavior is a single offense, repeated offenses of a similar nature, or multiple offenses of differing nature.

When possible and appropriate, the steps of progressive discipline will be as follows:

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Suspension
- Discharge

The Town reserves the right to skip, advance or repeat any level of discipline that it deems appropriate. Depending on the individual circumstances, the Town may, at its option, advance the level of discipline to the step it deems appropriate, up to and including immediate discharge from employment.

Section 2: A copy of any written disciplinary action shall be placed in the employee's personnel file and copies shall be furnished to the Union and affected employee within five (5) working days.

ARTICLE 7 - SENIORITY, LAYOFF, RECALL

Section 1: Seniority is defined as the total continuous length of service in the bargaining unit since the employee's last date of hire.

Section 2: An employee shall lose his seniority when he:

- a. Quits voluntarily or retires.
- b. Is discharged for just cause.
- c. Fails to return to work within five (5) days after notice of recall.
- d. Is absent, except for layoff, for three (3) consecutive working days without notice to the Assistant Director of Public Works or his designee. In the event of an emergency, such notice shall be given as soon as possible.
- e. Is laid off for a period of eighteen (18) consecutive months.

Section 3: The Town will lay off employees in inverse order of seniority, provided that the employees to be retained are qualified to perform available work. The Town will recall employees in reverse order of layoff, with the last laid off to be the first recalled.

Section 4: Layoffs shall be in the following order:

- a. Seasonal or temporary employees;
- b. Part-time employees;
- c. Probationary employees;
- d. Full-time employees.

Section 5: Laid off employees shall be entitled to recall according to seniority for a period of eighteen (18) months from layoff, provided that the affected employee must keep the Town advised of his current address. If the employee notifies the Town by certified mail prior to the execution of recall rights and prior to the expiration of the original eighteen (18) month recall period that they wish to extend the recall time for additional six (6) months, it shall be granted.

Section 6: The Town shall provide the Union a seniority list updated annually.

Section 7: New hires shall not accrue seniority until after successful completion of the probationary period. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, seniority shall be calculated from the employee's date of hire.

ARTICLE 8 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- Section 1:** A "grievance" is a dispute over the application or interpretation of a specific provision of this Agreement, and shall be processed exclusively in accordance with the procedure set forth herein. The parties agree to resolve grievances on as low an administrative level as possible.
- Section 2:** The Union may appoint a steward solely for the purpose of discussing grievances in accordance with this Article. The Union staff representative will be given reasonable access to the Town offices for purposes of investigation and processing grievances in accordance with this Article. Employees shall not engage in Union activity during working time except as necessary to process a grievance in accordance with this Article.
- Step 1.** A grievance must be presented in writing to the Assistant Director of Public Works no later than seven (7) working days after the events giving rise to the grievance allegedly occurred. The Assistant Director of Public Works, the steward and the grievant shall meet within seven (7) working days after the grievance is received to resolve the grievance. The Assistant Director of Public Works may resolve or deny the grievance subject to the final approval of the Mayor.
- Step 2.** If the grievance is not resolved at the Step 1 meeting, the Union representative may present the grievance in writing to the Mayor within five (5) working days of receipt of the Step 1 decision. The Mayor or his designee, the Union staff representative and the grievant shall meet within ten (10) working days after the grievance is received to resolve the grievance. The Mayor shall issue a decision within fifteen (15) working days after the grievance is received.
- Step 3.** In the event the Mayor and the Union staff representative fail to reach a mutually satisfactory settlement at the Step 2 meeting, the Union may within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Mayor's Step 2 decision file the grievance with the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (the "Board") and use mediation services if mutually agreeable to the Town and the Union.
- Section 3:** The decision and award of the arbitrator shall be in writing and shall be final and binding upon all parties. The arbitrator shall have no authority to change, amend, add to, or subtract from any of the specific provisions of this Agreement and shall have the authority only to determine whether, by the acts alleged in the grievance, the Town misinterpreted or misapplied the specific provision expressed in the Agreement as the Union claims.

Section 4: The time limits specified herein may only be extended by mutual written agreement of the Town and the Union. Failure by the steward or the Union representative to process a grievance within the time limits provided above shall be deemed a waiver of such grievance, and the grievance shall be considered resolved in accordance with the position of the Town. Failure by the Town to meet or respond to the grievance within the time limits provided above shall permit the Union to process the grievance to the next step within the time limits set forth above.

Section 5: An employee with information necessary to the dispute and their local, shall attend arbitration and prohibited practice conferences and hearings without loss of pay. The Union shall be reasonable with the use of witnesses.

ARTICLE 9 - HOLIDAYS

Section 1: The following days are designated and observed as paid holidays for employees:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Columbus Day
Lincoln's Birthday	Veterans Day
President's Day	Thanksgiving
Good Friday	Day after Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	Floater (either employee's birthday to be taken during birth month--or day for religious observance)

The Town shall also provide a paid holiday on the day before Christmas if such day falls on a regularly scheduled work day. The Town will provide one-half paid holiday for the day before New Year's Day if such day falls on a regularly scheduled work day.

Section 2: If the holiday, except for Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, falls on a Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the following Monday. If the holiday, except for Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday, the holiday will be observed on the preceding Friday. If there is a conflict between these provisions and the federal Monday Holiday Law, the federal law shall prevail.

In accordance with Article 9, Sections 1, 2 and 6(a), the Christmas and New Years holidays shall be treated as follows during the term of this Agreement:

- Section 3:** To be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must work his last regularly scheduled day before the holiday and the next regularly scheduled day after the holiday, except in the case of an approved absence.
- Section 4:** If a holiday falls during an employee's vacation, the employee shall not be charged a vacation day and shall be paid for said holiday.
- Section 5:** The Floater holiday shall be scheduled on a mutually agreeable day.
- Section 6:** (a) Employees shall receive two (2) times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked on the following holidays, in addition to holiday pay: Christmas, New Year's Day and Thanksgiving Day only. Such hours of work will commence at 12:01 a.m. and end at 11:59 p.m. on the holiday day.
- (b) Employees shall receive one and one-half (1-1/2) time their regular rate of pay for all hours worked on all other holidays in addition to holiday pay.

ARTICLE 10 - VACATION

- Section 1:** Employees shall be granted annual vacation at their base rate of pay computed from their anniversary date of employment in accordance with the following schedule:
- a. One (1) week of vacation on the anniversary date of one (1) year of service. Two (2) weeks of vacation on the anniversary date of two (2) years of service.
 - b. Three (3) weeks of vacation on the anniversary date of five (5) years of service.
 - c. Four (4) weeks of vacation on the anniversary date of ten (10) years of service.
 - d. Five (5) weeks of vacation on the anniversary date of fifteen (15) years of service.
 - e. Employees hired before July 1, 2012 will be granted one (1) additional day of vacation on each anniversary date of service (after the fifteenth (15th) anniversary date of service) to a maximum of six (6) weeks of vacation.
 - f. Employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 will not be eligible for the additional days of vacation under Article 10, Section 1(d) & (e) above.

- Section 2:** Employees shall take their vacations at times agreeable to the Assistant Director of Public Works. Seniority of employees shall determine vacation time priorities. Employees eligible for more than two (2) weeks vacation shall not select those weeks until all employees eligible for vacations shall have chosen their vacation time.
- Section 3:** Vacation may be taken in one (1) day increments, but no more than two times per year. Vacation must be scheduled four (4) weeks in advance except for one (1) day vacation must be scheduled seven (7) days in advance. Vacation time shall not be unreasonably denied.
- Section 4:** There shall be no vacation carry over. Employees will be paid for accrued but unused vacation at the end of the fiscal year
- Section 5:** If an employee would like to be paid before vacation, he must notify the Assistant Director of Public Works at least ten (10) days in advance of the last pay period before the vacation.
- Section 6:** The Town may limit vacation to two (2) employees during the same week, provided that vacation shall be limited to one (1) employee and one (1) week at a time between November 15th and April 15th. The Town will permit three (instead of two) employees to be on vacation on the same week during the period from April 16th through November 14th provided the remaining members of the bargaining unit are available to work and not, for example, on any medical leave of absence.
- Section 7:** The vacation period shall be considered to commence at the end of the work day on the last day worked by the employee and shall be considered to end immediately prior to the start of the scheduled work day that the employee is expected to return from their vacation.

ARTICLE 11 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- Section 1:** Paid sick leave for personal illness shall be paid up to nine (9) days per year beginning each fiscal year. Employees may accumulate sick leave to a maximum of ninety (90) days.
- Section 2:** Employees must notify the Assistant Director of Public Works on the first day of absence to be eligible for sick leave. The Town may require employees to provide a doctor's certificate, at the Town's expense, stating the nature and duration of the illness or injury for any repeated absence of three (3) consecutive work days or more.

Section 3: The Town will grant three (3) personal leave days per year for any purpose other than to extend vacation. Personal days cannot be accumulated and must be used each calendar year. Use must be approved by the Assistant Director of Public Works in advance, except in the case of a verifiable emergency notice shall be given as soon as possible.

Section 4: Upon voluntary termination or retirement, employees shall receive payment for seventy-five (75%) percent of their accumulated sick leave. To be eligible to receive accumulated sick leave, an employee must provide a two-week notice prior to a voluntary termination, except in the case of an emergency. Upon death, the Town will pay the employee's estate seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's accumulated sick leave.

Section 5: Employees discharged for just cause shall not be entitled to collect for any accumulated sick days.

Section 6: In the event of a death in the immediate family of a regular employee; or the immediate family of his/her spouse, such employee will be paid for the time lost from scheduled work at his base rate of pay to attend the funeral services not to exceed three (3) days. 'Immediate family' for the purpose of this clause is defined as parent, grandparents, spouse, sisters, brothers, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, aunt and uncle. The Town may request verification of the date of the death and funeral and the relationship of the deceased.

Section 7: An employee may use up to five (5) days of his/her sick leave when a member of the employee's household is ill. This request may be accompanied by a Doctor's note.

Section 8: Military leave, not to exceed two (2) weeks shall be granted to employees who are required to serve a period of active Reserve or National Guard Duty. During this period, the employee shall be paid the difference, if any, between his regular and military pay.

In cases of National or State 'call up of Reserves' the Town will conform to State/Federal statutes regarding any pay or reinstatement requirements.

ARTICLE 12 - INSURANCE

Section 1: The Town shall provide the current Connecticut State Partnership Plan 2.0 medical plan or a substantially equivalent plan to employees and their dependents during the term of this Agreement. The Town may change insurance carriers to provide these benefits. The parties recognize that, because the Town is a small employer with less than 50 employees in its

group health insurance plan, the terms of the insurance plan may be changed by insurance carrier without the consent of the Town and that such changes shall be effective upon all employees in the plan. In such a circumstance, the Town shall provide as much advance notice as reasonably possible to employees of the changes to the policy. If the state of Connecticut allows the Town to participate in a state health insurance pool, the parties agree to negotiate only this one item during the term of the contract.

Section 2: Employees shall contribute weekly under an IRS 125 tax free plan the following toward the premium cost for the coverage selected:

- Effective July 1, 2020, employees shall contribute 15.5% of the premium cost of insurance.
- Effective July 1, 2021, employees shall contribute 16% of the premium cost of insurance.

Section 3: The Town will provide employees with the same Life Insurance coverage on the same terms and conditions as is provided to other Town employees who currently receive Life Insurance coverage at a rate of one (1) times their annual straight time earnings.

Section 4: Any employee who: (1) as of May 18, 2010 is employed by the Town and is a member of the Union; (2) retires from their employment with the Town under the provisions of the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS); (3) has at least 15 years of full-time service with the Town; and (4) is at least 55 years old at the time of retirement is entitled to \$2,000 per year for up to five years or until the employee turns 67 years old, whichever occurs first.

An employee who is planning to retire pursuant to this Article 12, Section 4 shall give the Town 60 days advance notice of the retirement date and the Town shall pay the first payment hereunder within 60 days of the retirement date and annually thereafter, as applicable.

The moneys paid out under this Article 12, Section 4 are intended to be used for medical expenses.

If there is a change under applicable law that materially alters either of the parties' rights or obligations under this Article 12, Section 4, the parties agree to negotiate this one item.

ARTICLE 13 - SHORT TERM DISABILITY

Section 1: The Town will provide short-term disability insurance coverage through an

insurance provider for employees who become temporarily disabled due to an injury or illness that occurred outside of work. Employees who are eligible for short-term disability insurance coverage will receive 60% of their base wages for up to 26 weeks. Employees who are receiving 60% of their pay from the Town's short-term insurance carrier may use their accrued sick time to make up the difference between the 60% payment that they are receiving from the insurance carrier and their regular base weekly wages, for up to 26 weeks. After an employee has exhausted their accrued sick time, the Town will pay the employee the difference between the 60% payment that they are receiving from the insurance carrier and their regular base weekly wages, for up to eight (8) weeks.

Section 2: If a medical condition makes it necessary for an employee to take a short term disability leave, he must notify the Assistant Director of Public Works in writing as soon as possible and provide written documentation from the treating physician attesting to the disability.

Section 3: Leaves of absence necessitated by medical conditions related to maternity are covered by the short term disability leave policy.

Section 4: Employees on disability leave of absence must notify the Assistant Director of Public Works of their intent to return to work. In addition, employees returning from disability leave must provide the Assistant Director of Public Works with medical clearance to return to work.

Section 5: The Town will reinstate an employee returning from disability leave without loss of seniority.

ARTICLE 14 - PENSION

Section 1: The Town shall continue to participate in the Municipal Employees Retirement System ("MERS"), Connecticut General Stat. § 7-425 et. seq., and the Town and covered employees shall make contributions to MERS, as provided by applicable law.

Section 2: If there is a change under applicable law that would permit the Town to terminate the participation in MERS by employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 and allow such employees to participate in the Town's defined contribution plan in lieu of MERS, the parties agree to negotiate this one item.

ARTICLE 15 - NO STRIKE NO LOCKOUT

The Union shall not authorize a strike, slow-down, suspension, or stoppage of work nor shall there be any lockout by the Town.

ARTICLE 16 - SAFETY AND UNIFORMS

- Section 1:** The Town will provide employees with the following shoe allowance, cleaning allowance, clothing and safety equipment:
- a. Employees are required to wear steel toed safety shoes at all times. The Town will reimburse each employee up to \$175 each contract year for the price employees pay to purchase such steel toed safety shoes.
 - b. Five (5) pairs of work pants or as needed, five (5) t-shirts, work gloves with cuffs as needed, two (2) sweatshirts, one (1) coat adaptable for heavy winter weather use, and one (1) high visibility rain suit with Department of Transportation markings. Employees are required to wear the Town-provided clothing and equipment at all times during their employment.
 - c. Eye and ear protection to be distributed at reasonable times throughout the year.
 - d. Effective July 1, 2012, the Town will provide each employee annually a \$400 cleaning allowance to be paid by August 1st. Employees are expected to report to work wearing clean and neat clothing.
 - e. If an employee is required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and his or her physician is not registered on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners to perform the required CDL examination, the Town will pay the cost for the employee to have their physical taken at Concentra or its successor.

ARTICLE 17 - WAGES

Wages shall be paid according to the attached Schedule A.

ARTICLE 18 – DRUG TESTING

- Section 1:** The Town may randomly drug test employees that drive in the Public Works Department or require any employee in the Public Works Department to be tested where the Town has reasonable suspicion to believe that the employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol that adversely affects or could adversely affect such employee's job performance. The Town will confirm any initial positive drug test with a second test from a split sample. Any

employee who tests positive (after testing the split sample) for the presence of any illegal controlled substance in violation of the Town's Drug and Alcohol policy may be immediately suspended from employment without pay and without any recourse to the grievance procedures contained herein, and may be required to enroll in an employee assistance program. The employee will not be allowed to return to work until he/she successfully completes the program. For a period of 12 months following completion of the program, the employee will consent to random alcohol and drug testing. If the employee tests positive (after testing the split sample) for a second instance, violates the Town's Drug and Alcohol policy, or refuses to take a drug test, the employee may be immediately terminated from employment, without any recourse to the grievance procedure contained herein.

Section 2: Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the Town from taking any other disciplinary action against an employee that violates its Drug & Alcohol Policy including immediate termination of employment.

ARTICLE 19 - DURATION

This Agreement shall be effective as of July 1, 2020, and as specified herein, and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2022 and, unless at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the end of the effective period either party shall serve written notice by certified mail upon the other that it desires revision or modification of any designated provision or provisions of this Agreement, it shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of twelve (12) months. In the event negotiations are entered into as above provided and such negotiations extend beyond June 30, 2020, this agreement shall remain in full force and effect until such time as a new agreement is reached.

[signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed at Prospect, Connecticut this 8th day of January, 2021.

TOWN OF PROSPECT

**LOCAL 1303-379 OF COUNCIL 4
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO**



Mayor
Robert J. Chatfield



Nicholas Tuccillo

LORIN DAFOR STAFF REP

St. Ann SERVICE REP

SCHEDULE A – WAGES

Effective Date	Wage Increase	Hourly Rate
July 1, 2020	2.25%	\$30.00
July 1, 2021	2.75%	\$30.83