

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR A BLOCK GRANT TO THE NEW HOPE EAGLE FIRE COMPANY FOR CERTAIN ELIGIBLE MEMBERS; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

BACKGROUND:

- A. New Hope Borough (the "Borough") is a Pennsylvania political subdivision, organized and existing under the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S. §101 *et seq* (the "Code").
- B. The New Hope Eagle Fire Company (the "Fire Company") is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation with its principal address at 46 North Sungan Road, New Hope, Bucks County, PA.
- C. Since its creation in 1870, the Fire Company has provided vital emergency services to the Borough's residents and businesses.
- D. The Fire Company is comprised entirely of volunteer firefighters and fire police serving the Borough, Solebury Township and neighboring municipalities. The Borough recognizes the difficulties faced by the Fire Company in recruiting, training and retaining an all-volunteer department.
- E. The Borough has consistently supported the Fire Company financially and otherwise in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including without limitation the Code.
- F. The Borough continues to examine all possible methods of equitably supporting the Fire Company and its members, while preserving the volunteer status of the firefighters and fire police providing services to the Fire Company.
- G. The Borough has determined that an annual block grant of funds to the Fire Company, distributable to eligible members ("Eligible Members") of the Fire Company who reside in New Hope Borough and meet all of the following standards, is an equitable means to assist the Fire Company in its recruitment and retention of needed volunteers:
1. Be an active fire fighter and/or fire police who resides in New Hope Borough for the full 2022 calendar year;
 2. Participate and volunteer a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of service during the full 2022 calendar year to the Fire Company; and
 3. Participate and volunteer with the Fire Company in service to New Hope Borough for the full 2022 calendar year.
- H. The Chief of the Fire Company has kept and maintained detailed records of each volunteer's activities in order to determine whether a volunteer qualifies as an Eligible Member to receive benefits pursuant to his Resolution. Such records shall be subject to periodic review and inspection by any volunteer member of the Fire Company, the Fire Company's executive officers, the New Hope Borough Manager, and the New Hope Borough Council and Mayor.

I. The President of the Fire Company, in conjunction with the Chief of the Fire Company, has prepared a list of all Eligible Members qualified to receive benefits pursuant to his Resolution and transmitted such list to the Borough of New Hope.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Borough of New Hope as follows:

Section 01: The BACKGROUND paragraphs set forth above are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein at length.

Section 02: The Council of the Borough of New Hope hereby authorizes a block grant of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) for each of the six (6) Eligible Members for a total disbursement of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to the Fire Company for the calendar year 2022.

Section 03: The Fire Company shall distribute one hundred percent (100%) of the Block Grant proceeds in equal shares to each Eligible Member in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Program, and shall provide written proof thereof to the Borough Manager immediately upon such distribution of funds.

Section 04: The Fire Company shall be responsible for paying any federal, state and/or local taxes incurred from the payment of the block grant to the Fire Company.

Section 05: Any additional block grants to benefit the Fire Company for any subsequent calendar year shall be at the sole discretion of New Hope Borough and subject to separate a Resolution approved by the New Hope Borough Council.

Section 06: All inconsistent provisions of all other Resolutions of the Borough of New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency. All other provisions of the Resolutions of the Borough of New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania unaffected by this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 07: The provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable. If any provision of this Resolution is declared to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 08: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the New Hope Borough Council.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Borough of New Hope this 21st day of February, 2023.

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

By: Connie Gering
Connie Gering, President

Attest: Peter Gray
Peter Gray, Secretary