

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ORDINANCE 1265-24**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF THE
BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN, TITLED “DEPARTMENTS”, BY
REPEALING AND REPLACING § 27-15 TITLED “OFFICERS”**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Old Tappan, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Section 27-15 of the Code of the Borough of Old Tappan titled “Officers” is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

§ 27-15 Officers.

- A. The Fire Department, as well as each company, shall have power to choose their officers by ballot and to determine the qualifications of its members, except as hereinafter set forth and except that no officers or members shall be installed until after approval by resolution by the Mayor and Council.
- (1) The Chief of the Department and Deputy Chief shall be chosen by majority vote by ballot of the members of all the companies of the Department and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are chosen.
 - (2) Throughout the duration of his/her appointment, the Chief of the Department shall reside in any town that is served by the Pascack Valley Mutual Aid Group or Interboro Mutual Aid Group, which includes : Hilldale, Westwood, Woodcliff Lake, Washington Twp, River Vale, Old Tappan, Emerson, Montvale, Norwood, Alpine, Rockleigh, Closter, Haworth, Demarest, Dumont, Bergenfield, Cresskill, Park Ridge, Harrington Park, Northvale and Tenafly. The Mayor and Council may choose to waive this requirement by future resolution.
 - (3) Department officers shall be chosen by the majority votes by ballot of the members of the respective companies and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are chosen.
 - (4) Department officers shall not also be officers in the Fire Department of another municipality.
- B. All officers of the Department shall be collectively referred to as the "Board of Fire Officers."
- C. Removal, suspension or reprimand of officers. Any officer of the Fire Department may be expelled, suspended, demoted, or reprimanded for cause by resolution of the Mayor and Council upon charges brought, in writing, by the Chief or Board of Fire Officers and hearing thereon. The Chief of Department may be expelled, suspended, demoted, or reprimanded for cause by resolution of the Mayor and Council upon charges brought, in writing, by the Fire Commissioner and hearing thereon.

Section 2. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to said inconsistencies and conflicts.

Section 3. Severability

If any section, part of any section, or clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The governing body of the Borough of Old Tappan declares that it would have passed the ordinance and each section thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take immediate effect upon passage and publication according to law.