

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 1283-25**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 27-15 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF  
OLD TAPPAN, TITLED "FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS".**

**SECTION 1. NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Old Tappan, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that § 27-15 of the Code of the Borough of Old Tappan is amended to read , as follows:

§ 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 within a four-mile radius from the Old Tappan Fire House, located at 231 Old Tappan Road, Old Tappan, New Jersey. 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 another volunteer fire department but may be line officers with their career position in a paid department.
- 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All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to said inconsistencies and conflicts.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.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Jean M. Donch, Borough Clerk

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Thomas E. Gallagher, Mayor

Introduced: , 2025

Adopted: , 2025

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