

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE 11-22-10

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ,
CHAPTER 14 ENTITLED
“VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY”**

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Township Code does not currently include a chapter to address the contract between the Cranbury Volunteer Fire Company and the Township; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:14-68 provides for the means by which a township is to enter into an agreement with a volunteer fire company; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds it not only necessary but a requirement to have such an agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the Code of the Township at Cranbury be hereby supplemented as set forth below.

SECTION 1. Chapter 143 is created as follows:

§ 14.1. Establishment

There is, and has been established, within the Township of Cranbury a fire company, known as the Cranbury Volunteer Fire Company (hereinafter referred to as “CVF”) which was created and established and is hereby continued to be recognized by the Township of Cranbury. No other firefighting organization is to be formed within the Township without consent of the Township Committee. CVF must comply with all the requirements of this article and any rules or regulations promulgated hereunder.

§ 14.2. Line Officers.

The line officers of the CVF shall consist of Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief.

§ 14.3. Reports to Township Committee.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chief of the CVF to make all reports to Township Committee.

§ 14.4. Ownership of quarters.

The Township of Cranbury shall retain ownership and control over the firehouses at 2-4 South Main Street which have been entrusted to the CVF. Maintenance of the firehouses shall be the responsibility of the members of the CVF.

§ 14.5. Expenses.

The Township Committee shall supply to the CVF funding at its discretion, based upon the needs of CVF, taking into account cumulative funds raised by this volunteer organization over the years and upon review of the previous year’s financials.

§ 14.6. Purchasing and title of equipment and vehicles.

The Township of Cranbury shall retain title to all equipment and vehicles purchased with funds supplied by the Township for the purpose of purchasing such equipment or vehicles. However, nothing shall preclude the CVF from purchasing its own fire equipment, vehicles or other personal property and retaining title thereof; provided, however, that if the Township shall have a financial responsibility toward the purchase, operation or maintenance of such items, prior formal approval of the Township Committee for such purchase shall be required and the purchase will adhere to the state bid laws.

§ 14.7. Duties of Fire Chief.

- A. The Chief shall be in full command and complete control of all fires during the period of all alarms and shall be held accountable for his/her actions to the Township Committee and shall make written and verbal reports as the Township Committee may require. All other line officers shall be accountable to the Chief except when any officers are acting as Chief in his/her absence.
- B. The Chief shall formulate rules and regulations to govern the operation of the CVF, such rules and regulations being subject to review and approval by the Township Committee. The Chief shall be responsible to the Township Committee for the morale and general efficiency of the CVF.
- C. The Chief or line officer designated by him/her shall, at least once a month, conduct suitable drills or instructions in matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.
- D. The Chief or any line officer designated by him/her is hereby required to report to the Township Committee any suspected crime of arson and shall render all possible assistance to the Chief of Police in investigating the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires of questionable origin.
- E. The Chief shall cause to be kept complete records of all fires, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the CVF.
- F. The Chief shall report monthly to the Township Committee the number and type of fires during the month, the number and purpose of all other runs made, the number of members and man-hours involved in responding to each fire or other run, and the estimated loss involved in all building fires within the township.
- G. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Township Committee, such report to include information as specified in Subsection F of this section, together with comparative data for previous years and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the CVF, as well as an annual financial audit.
- H. The Chief shall be responsible to transmit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Township, on or before November 15th of each year, a proposed capital budget including quotes for items requested.

§ 14.8. Membership.

- A. Every person seeking to join the CVF shall make application to the CVF in accordance with the rules and regulations thereof, and the bylaws of the CVF. Upon obtaining membership in the CVF said person shall become a member in good standing of the CVF, subject to appointment thereto by the Township Committee.
- B. All members of the CVF shall serve without compensation except for an annual volunteer fee of \$25 per member and \$50 for the Chief.

§ 14.9. Equipment.

- A. Recommendations for the purchase of apparatus and equipment needed to maintain the effectiveness of the CVF and property to protect life and property from fire shall be made by the Fire Chief to the Chief Financial Officer.
- B. All Township equipment of the CVF shall be safely and conveniently housed by the CVF at the firehouse and maintained by the members of the CVF.
- C. Except as may be authorized by the Township Committee, no person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment of the Township for any private purpose. No person shall willfully and without authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the CVF.
- D. No person except authorized employees of the Township of Cranbury shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any equipment belonging to the Township unless accompanied by or having the special permission of an officer or authorized member of the CVF.
- E. The Chief is hereby authorized to extend aid to neighboring communities upon request for fire protection or to establish a mutual aid system.
- F. No apparatus of the Township shall be hired out or permitted to leave the Township of Cranbury without consent of the Township, except in response to a call for aid in a neighboring community or on official business. No apparatus is to leave the Township on official business without the consent of the Chief or highest- ranking line officer available. The line officer in charge of the CVF shall have power to assign equipment for response calls for outside aid in accordance with Subsection E of this section, and in other cases, only when the absence of such equipment in his judgment will not jeopardize fire protection in the Township of Cranbury.

§ 14.10. Removal of officers and members.

For good cause, the Township Committee may reprimand, suspend or remove from office the Fire Chief, any line officer of the CVF or member of the CVF.

SECTION 2. Repealer. All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Ordinance, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication, as required by law.

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Township of Cranbury, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey held on November 14, 2022. It will be further considered for final passage, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held in the meeting room of Town Hall, 23-A North Main Street, in the Township of Cranbury on November 28, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. and during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said ordinance will be made available at the Clerk's Office to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

Debra A Rubin, RMC

Municipal Clerk