

# TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE

## RESOLUTION 2021-R-71

### RESOLUTION SUSPENDING OPERATIONS OF INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF MAPLE SHADE FOR A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the Township is authorized to enact ordinances and pass resolutions for the protection of person and property and for the preservation of the public health, safety and general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Maple Shade Township Code Section 16-1, the Maple Shade Fire Department consisting of Independent Fire Company No. 1 of Maple Shade was established; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Maple Shade Township Code Section 16-2 all vehicles, apparatus and equipment utilized by of Independent Fire Company No. 1 are owned by Maple Shade Township and that a portion of the Fire Station 101 located at 53 S. Maple Avenue, used for firematic purposes are under the control and supervision of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, The Maple Shade Fire Department and Independent Fire Company No. 1 are named insureds on the insurance policies obtained and paid for by the Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has deemed that it in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare to suspend the operations of Independent Fire Company No. 1 as the Maple Shade Fire Department for a period of 90 days for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to communicate with the Township Manager and to respond to inquiries from Township Council; Independent Fire Company No. 1 has not communicated with the Township since a meeting held on March 2, 2021 regarding misconduct within the membership.
- B. Failure to maintain training records and to produce documentation regarding qualifications of the members to the Township.
- C. Misrepresentation of the number of active and qualified members.
- D. Misuse of Township vehicles
- E. Misrepresentation of number of responding members to call
- F. Failure to respond to calls in a timely manner with sufficient qualified staff thus endangering the firefighters, public safety and property.
- G. Failure to inform the Township and other Public Safety Departments after removing neighboring mutual aid career departments for overnight calls.
- H. Failure to maintain complete and accurate call logs.
- I. Failure to comply with required purchasing procedures.
- J. Failure to protect the township assets (thermal imaging camera, vehicles).
- K. Failure to properly report Worker's Compensation injuries.

- L. Overall dereliction of duties to the point where Independent Fire Company No. 1 is no longer contacted for mutual aid.

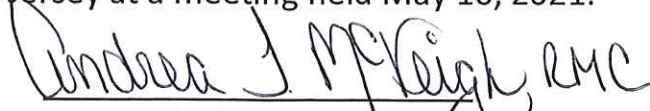
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington that all operations of Independent Fire Company Number One, shall be suspended for a period of 90 days, effective from the date of passage of this resolution.

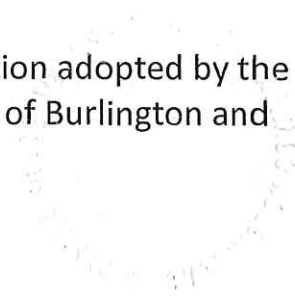
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the 90-day period of suspension, the following shall continue to be done:

1. All fire services for the Township during the 90-day period of suspension but for Fire Inspection shall be performed by neighboring agencies under the direction of the Burlington County Chief Fire Coordinator.
2. All members of Independent Fire Company No. 1, must return all operational equipment to Station 101, 53 South Maple Avenue, and all such equipment, including but not limited to, vehicles, turnout gear, air packs, air bottles, portable radios, pagers and tools must be moved to the Apparatus Room and the building secured.
3. No member of the Independent Fire Company No. 1 shall respond to Station 101 or to the scene of any emergency call in any capacity during the 90-day period of suspension of operations.
4. No operational training or drills that require safety equipment shall be conducted during the 90-day period of suspension of operations.
5. No member of the Independent Fire Company No. 1 shall utilize, take out, loan or extend any equipment or apparatus at any time during the 90- day period of suspension, for any reason.
6. All purchasing on behalf of the Fire Department and Independent Fire Company No. 1 shall be suspended. Any purchases made or invoices submitted to the Township shall not be approved. authorized by the Township nor will invoices be paid. Any purchases required for the restructuring of Fire Department must be approved and authorized by the Township CFO or Township Manager prior to taking receipt of any goods or services.
7. Lease payments from the Township to Independent Fire Company No. 1 shall be deposited in an escrow account during the suspension period.
8. Any shared service agreement necessary for the provision of fire services by neighboring agencies during the 90-day period is hereby authorized by the Township Council subject to review and approval of the Township Manager, certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer and approval of Township Attorney.
9. The restructuring of the Township Fire Department shall commence under the direction of the Township Manager and fire services consultant and shall include, to the extent its membership elects to participate, Independent Fire Company No. 1.
10. At the end of the 90-day suspension, Council will determine if further suspension and/or further action is required.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey at a meeting held May 10, 2021.

  
Andrea T. McVeigh, Township Clerk



DATE: May 10, 2021

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman			x			
Nunes	x		x			
Schmidt		x	x			
Volpe			x			
Wiest			x			