**TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD**

**ORDINANCE 856**

**AMENDING CHAPTER 28 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE DESIGNATING FIRE COMPANIES 31 AND 33 AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE FIREFIGHTING SERVICES IN UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:14-68, AND TERMINATING THE AUTHORIZATION AND CONTRACT PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO SEABROOK VOLUNTEER FIRE AKA/SEABROOK VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE NOW KNOWN AS COMPANY 32.**

 **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:14- 68 provides that municipalities not having a paid or part-paid fire department may designate and contract with volunteer fire companies for the purposes of extinguishing fires within the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Upper Deerfield Township does not have a paid or part-paid fire department; and

 **WHEREAS,** Upper Deerfield Township has heretofore designated three volunteer fire companies to wit: Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 1 now known as Company 31, Seabrook Volunteer Fire AKA/Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue now known as Company 32, and Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 3 now known as Company 33; and

**WHEREAS**, escalating costs of maintaining the three companies including but not limited to increased costs of equipment maintenance, the cost of replacing obsolete equipment, and the obsolescence of facilities caused the Township to undertake an evaluation of the need for three volunteer companies; and

 **WHEREAS**, the evaluation of maintaining the three companies has been ongoing for several years culminating in the rendering of a sub-committee report submitted on June 15, 2023 recommending the designation of Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 1 now known as Company 31 and Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 3 now known as Company 33 as the sole authorized volunteer fire companies to provide firefighting and emergency rescue extraction services in Upper Deerfield Township and further recommending the termination the previously granted authorization and contract with Seabrook Volunteer Fire AKA/Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue now known as Company 32; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has accepted the recommendation as set forth in the report submitted on June 15, 2023, and adopts this Ordinance to effectuate the recommendation contained therein.

 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield that effective January 1, 2024, Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, also known as Company 32 shall no longer be designated as a volunteer fire company authorized to provide firefighting and/or rescue services to Upper Deerfield Township and any contract heretofore made with Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, also known as Company 32 be and the same is hereby terminated effective December 31, 2023; and

 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield that effective January 1, 2024, Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 1 now known as Company 31, and Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 3 now known as Company 33 shall be the sole volunteer fire companies authorized to provide firefighting and emergency rescue extraction services to Upper Deerfield Township.

 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield that on January 1, 2024, Seabrook Volunteer Fire AKA/Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue now known as Company 32 shall surrender and return to the Township all firefighting and rescue equipment including but not limited to all vehicles including all pumpers, tankers, rescue vehicles and ladder trucks, all boats, turnout gear and related personal protection equipment, communication equipment and any and all other accessory firefighting and emergency rescue extraction equipment except for the Pierce Dash Telesquirt 50’ Ladder Truck bearing Vin #1P9CT01H1JA040422 and carried as Unit 3216 on the Township records, which such unit may be retained by Seabrook Volunteer Fire AKA/Seabrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue now known as Company 32 as its sole and separate property; and

 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that any reference to “three” designated companies in Chapter 28 is hereby deleted and replaced with “two” companies as set forth herein; and

 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the designation of and contract with Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 1 now known as Company 31, and Upper Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company Number 3 now known as Company 33 shall continue until such time when Upper Deerfield Township may adopt a further ordinance amending the designation provided herein.

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing proposed Ordinance was introduced and passed by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, at a meeting thereof held on August 3, 2023, and will be further considered for final adoption at a public hearing to be held by said Township Committee on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., then prevailing time, at the Municipal Building, Seabrook, New Jersey. Copies of the ordinance are available in the Clerk’s office.

 Township Clerk

 Roy Spoltore