

TOWN OF GEDDES
Resolution of the Town Board

*In the matter of amending the Solvay Fire
Department Service Award Program
Point System for periods when Special
Response Rules are in effect during the
COVID 19 pandemic of 2020.*

WHEREAS; As authorized by Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law the Town Board of the Town of Geddes established a Service Award Program for active volunteer firefighter members of the Solvay Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS; Active volunteer firefighters earn Service Award Program service credit under the Service Award Program Point System adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Geddes; and,

WHEREAS, In response to the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY and issued EXECUTIVE ORDER 202 OF 2020. In response to the STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY New York State fire districts, towns, villages, cities and/or their volunteer fire department/company officials adopted Special Response Rules restricting volunteer firefighter responses to emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned during the STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY; and,

WHEREAS, The adoption of the Special Response Rules has affected the ability of active volunteer firefighters to earn points in service award programs; and

WHEREAS; In recognition of the negative effect these Special Response Rules has on the ability of active volunteer firefighters to earn service credit during 2020 under service award program point systems, New York State legislators and Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted legislation intended to prevent active volunteer firefighters who would have earned service award program service credit during 2020 from failing to earn a year of service award program service credit during 2020 due to the adoption of Special Response Rules; and,

WHEREAS, This legislation, Chapter 113 of the laws of 2020 of the Laws of the State of New York, authorizes the Town Board of the Town of Geddes to adopt a resolution to amend the Solvay Fire Department Service Award Program point system by adding a new category to the point system under which up to five (5) points per month (prorated for periods of less than one month) may be awarded to active volunteer firefighter members of the Solvay Fire Department during the period when the Special Response Rules are in in effect; and

WHEREAS, Should the Town Board elect to adopt such a resolution, Chapter 113 of the Laws of 2020 of the State of New York provides that the adoption of such resolution does not require approval of Town of Solvay residents at a Town election.

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Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That:

By adopting this resolution, the Town Board of the Town of Geddes adds the following new category to the Town of Geddes Service Award Program Point System:

COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020, the governing board of the Solvay Fire Department adopted Special Response Rules under which the activities for which active volunteer firefighter members of the Solvay Fire Department could earn points under the Solvay Fire Department Service Award Program point system were reduced effective as of April 1, 2020. Such reduction in activities will continue until the effective date the Special Response Rules are rescinded and all volunteer firefighter activities restored and restrictions on such activities removed by the governing board of the Solvay Fire Department. From the effective date of the adoption of the Special Response Rules to the effective date that such Rules are rescinded, all active volunteer firefighter members of the Solvay Fire Department shall be awarded (select one: 1,2,3,4 or 5) points per month with such number of points prorated for periods of less than a complete month. In no event shall points be awarded to active volunteer firefighters in accordance with Chapter 113, after January 29, 2021, unless NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo once again extends Executive Order 202 of 2020.

As soon as administratively feasible after the adoption of this resolution by the Town Board, active volunteer firefighter members of the Solvay Fire Department shall be given a written Notice of Amendment announcing the adoption of, and including an explanation of, this additional category to the point system. As soon as administratively feasible, after the governing board of the Solvay Fire Department rescinds the Special Response Rules, a second Notice of Amendment shall be given to active volunteer firefighters stating the effective date that the Special Response Rules have been rescinded, and indicating the number of points to be awarded to each active volunteer firefighter during the period when the Special Response Rules were in effect.

Since this amendment to the Solvay Fire Department Service Award Program points system is intended to prevent active volunteer firefighters who would otherwise have earned service award program credit under the point system during 2020 from failing to earn credit during 2020, the adoption of this resolution is expected to have little if any effect on the annual cost of the Solvay Fire Department Service Award Program.

All other provisions of the Solvay Fire Department Service Award Program shall not change as a result of the adoption of this resolution and the program shall continue to be administered by the Town of Geddes and the Solvay Fire Department in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law as such law is amended from time to time.

Date Adopted by the Town of Geddes Town Board:

Town Board Member _____ moved,

Town Board Member _____ seconded, and the Town of Geddes Town Board voted as follows:

YES

NO

Enter Date Here

Town Board Member _____

Town Board Member _____

Town Board Member _____

Town Board Member _____

Town Board Member _____

Town Board Member _____

Town Supervisor _____