

VILLAGE OF CLEVES

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN HOURLY STIPEND FOR WATER WORKS TECHNICIANS WHO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN AN OHIO EPA WATER SUPPLY OPERATOR CLASS I LICENSE OR HIGHER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE NO. 5 - 2026

WHEREAS the Village of Cleves operates and maintains a public water utility and distribution system for the benefit of its residents and customers; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Village to encourage Water Works Technicians to obtain and maintain professional licensure through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council further finds that having multiple employees licensed as Ohio EPA Water Supply Operators creates operational redundancy, improves continuity of operations, enhances monitoring and system checks, strengthens institutional knowledge, supports better maintenance of the water distribution system and related facilities, and provides additional benefit to the utility as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to establish an hourly stipend for Water Works Technicians who obtain and maintain an Ohio EPA Water Supply Operator Class I license or higher, when the Village determines such licensure remains beneficial to utility operations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Cleves, Ohio:

SECTION I: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote professional development, strengthen utility operations, and improve redundancy and resilience within the water system by providing additional compensation to qualifying Water Works Technicians who obtain and maintain certain Ohio EPA licensure.

SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY

Any employee serving in the position of Water Works Technician, or any substantially similar position designated by the Village Administrator, who obtains and maintains a valid **Ohio EPA Water Supply Operator Class I license or higher classification**, shall be eligible to receive an hourly stipend as provided herein, except for employees whose position, as determined by the Village, already requires such licensure as a condition of employment.

SECTION III: COMPENSATION

Eligible employees shall receive an additional **Three Dollars (\$3.00) per hour** above their otherwise applicable hourly rate of pay.

SECTION IV: COMMENCEMENT OF STIPEND

Upon passage of this Ordinance, any then-current Water Works Technician employee holding a qualifying license and otherwise eligible under this Ordinance shall begin receiving the stipend effective at the start of the pay period immediately following passage of this Ordinance.

Any employee who becomes eligible after passage of this Ordinance shall begin receiving the stipend effective at the start of the first pay period following verification of licensure and approval of eligibility by the Village Administrator or designee.

SECTION V: CONDITIONS

The stipend authorized herein shall be paid only for so long as:

- (a) the employee maintains the qualifying Ohio EPA Water Supply Operator Class I license or higher in good standing; and
- (b) the Village Administrator, or the Administrator's designee, determines that the employee's possession of such licensure continues to be needed by, beneficial to, or improve the operations of the utility.

SECTION VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION AND ELIMINATION OF STIPEND

The Village Administrator, or the Administrator's designee, retains the right to eliminate the stipend at any time upon determining that the employee's licensure is no longer needed, beneficial to, or improving the operations of the water utility, regardless of whether the employee continues to maintain the license.

The stipend shall cease immediately upon any of the following:

- (a) expiration, suspension, revocation, or other loss of the qualifying license;
- (b) failure of the employee to maintain the license in good standing;
- (c) determination by the Village Administrator, or designee, that the licensure is no longer needed, beneficial to, or improving utility operations; or
- (d) separation from employment in the qualifying position.

*MOTION TO SUSPEND: EMERGENCY: BOLTON, BURNS
MOTION TO ADOPT: BOLTON, ANGELINE*

Approved: _____

6-0 PASSED

Geri Meister

Geri Meister, Mayor

Penny Williams

Penny Williams, Clerk

Approved As to Form:

Rob Merkle

Rob Merkle, Village Solicitor