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**TOWN OF MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY NO. 2006-03**

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**TO :** ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

**FROM:** GUY SCAIFE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

**SUBJ :** POLICY ON DEDUCTIONS FROM SALARIES FOR EMPLOYEES  
EXEMPT FROM OVERTIME PAY REQUIREMENTS (SAFE HARBOR POLICY)

**DATE:** OCTOBER 9, 2006

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At a meeting of the Milford Board of Selectmen held on Monday, August 14, 2006, the Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the following Policy regarding Deductions From Salaries For Employees Exempt From Overtime Pay Requirements (Safe Harbor Policy):

**Introduction:**

The US Department of Labor regulations regarding payment of overtime require – as a preliminary threshold for exemption from overtime pay requirements – that an employee be paid on a salary basis.

The Regulations review the types of deductions which may be made from an employee's salary during any pay period and their effect on the employee's status as exempt or non-exempt from overtime pay requirements

The Department of Labor has provided some examples of permissible deductions in Fact Sheet 17G – a copy of which is attached to this Policy and made a part hereof. As with any sampling, caution must be exercised by noting that the specific requirements in any given case will be governed by application of the laws and rules in question. Here is how the US Department of Labor describes exemptions from salary:

Deductions from pay are permissible when an exempt employee: is absent from work for one or more full days for personal reasons other than sickness or disability; for absences of one or more full days due to sickness or disability if the deduction is made in accordance with a bona fide plan, policy or practice of providing compensation for salary lost due to illness; to offset amounts employees receive as jury or witness fees, or for military pay; for penalties imposed in good faith for infractions of safety rules of major significance; or for unpaid disciplinary suspensions of one or more full days imposed in good faith for workplace conduct rule infractions. Also, an employer is not required to pay the full salary in the initial or terminal week of employment, or for weeks in which an exempt employee takes unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

**Policy:**

The Town of Milford is committed to avoiding improper deductions and will act promptly to remedy any situation in which such a deduction may have been made by reimbursing the employee for any such improper deduction not later than the first pay day upon which the reimbursement reasonably may be made following a timely final determination that the deduction was improper.

Any employee who believes that a deduction from salary is improper should discuss the matter with his/her supervisor who will promptly (normally within twenty-four (24) hours) make an initial determination as to whether the deduction is proper, including a written explanation if it is found that the deduction was proper. The employee should ordinarily initiate this inquiry within forty-eight (48) hours after being paid or being notified of the deduction unless special circumstances justify later action. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision of the Supervisor, the employee may file a written appeal within forty-eight (48) hours to the Board of Selectmen which states the basis for disagreeing with the decision. The appeal shall be considered within seventy-two (72) hours with a final decision issued within ninety-six (96) hours whenever possible. Any final decision of the Board of Selectmen may be appealed in accordance with State or Federal requirements as applicable.

If any deduction was found to have been made improperly, the Town of Milford shall make a sincere and good faith effort to avoid any such improper deductions in the future for the employee and any similarly situated employees.