# The Town of Farmington and The Farmington Public Schools Employee Health Self-Insurance Fund Reserve Policy

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a standard for the appropriate level of reserves that should be maintained in the employee health self insurance fund and for defining the processes: (a) to maintain their adequacy, and (b) cover plan expenses in the event of a reserve inadequacy.

### **II. Policy Statement**

It is the intention of both the Town Council and Board of Education of Farmington to adequately fund the liabilities of their respective health insurance plans and provide sufficient financial resources to fund any unexpected increase in claims over the budgeted claim level. Accordingly, the Town and Board of Education will fund an Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) reserve and an Excess Claim Reserve.

#### **IBNR** Reserve

The IBNR reserve shall be established as of June 30 of each fiscal year at a level deemed appropriate by the Town Council and Board of Education, after consultations with Town and School insurance consultants and insurance vendors and after testing and verification by the Town's independent auditors. The IBNR reserve shall be fully funded. Any insufficiency in the IBNR reserve will be funded from the Excess Claim Reserve.

Should the IBNR reserve fall below the established level and the excess claim reserve have insufficient resources to restore the IBNR reserve to its established level, then the Town and Board will take steps to restore the IBNR reserve to its fully funded status by budgeting for the shortfall in the next budget cycle. This will be done on a proportional basis, the proportion to be determined based on each entity's expected claims for the next fiscal year. However, no entity shall contribute an amount greater than 80% of the amount required to be contributed.

### **Excess Claim Reserve**

In addition to the IBNR reserve, the Town and Schools will establish an Excess Claim Reserve to fund claims in excess of the expected claim level. The desired reserve level shall be in a range between 7% - 11% of annual expected claims.

#### Claim Reserve Maximums

Considering that a plan year following a poor claim year in which all or most of the claim reserve was expended would result in a substantial health care budget increase, the Town and Schools recognize that an Excess Claim Reserve of between 7% - 11% would be desirable and thus there is no formal maximum to the Excess Claim Reserve. Moreover, money cannot be withdrawn from the Excess Claim Reserve for self-insurance purposes until the combined IBNR and Excess Claims reserves exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of annual expected claims.

Should the combined reserves exceed 25% then each entity will be credited with a proportional amount of the excess above 25% to put towards the funding of their subsequent year's expected claims. The proportion to be determined will be based upon the proportion that each entity contributed to the excess reserve in the preceding 24-month plan period. However no entity will receive less than an amount equal to 20% of the amount to be distributed.

### III. Budget Requests

During the annual budget preparation process the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools will include in their respective budget requests sufficient budget amounts to cover expected claims for the upcoming year plus additional funds to fully fund the estimated IBNR level and such additional amounts as may be necessary to fully fund the excess claim reserve pursuant to this agreement. It is recognized that achieving these targets in one year would be difficult. Therefore, the Town Council and Board of Education would meet the IBNR standard and at least the 7% excess claim reserve standard within three years after adoption of this policy.

## IV. Procedure for Covering Claims When Reserves Are Not Sufficient

#### Shortfall

If at any time during the Plan Year either the Town Manager or the Superintendent or both determine that there are insufficient revenues and accumulated reserves to meet the immediate claim expense obligations of their respective plans they will immediately report such findings to their respective policy bodies.

The Town shall make available sufficient cash to either the Town self insurance plan or Schools' self insurance plan to permit each employer to meet its obligations to fund the

self-insured cash account for claims incurred on behalf of its employees for the balance of that fiscal year.

If at any time during the Plan Year, either Town staff or the school staff or both determine that it is likely that there will be insufficient revenues and accumulated reserves to meet claim expenses, they will report such to their respective policy bodies at their next regular meeting. The report shall include the following information:

- 1. Provide a projection of the fiscal year end shortfall in expected paid claims;
- 2. Utilization information indicating current and/or projected paid claims;
- 3. Identify any self-insurance revenue variances from what was originally budgeted.

Following the Board of Education's review of the school projection, the information will be transmitted to the Town Council. The Town Council after reviewing the self-insurance financial report(s) provided by the Town and/or Board of Education, will determine the amount of, if any, additional appropriation to be made to the Town or Board or both to meet claims payments during the remainder of the Plan Year. In making their determination, the Town Council will consider all of the information provided by the Town Manager and Board of Education.

Any supplemental appropriation approved by the Town Council will be made in three equal payments directly to the Employee Health Self-Insurance Fund over the balance of the Plan Year. If at anytime after an additional appropriation is made, it is determined that the full appropriation will not be needed, then the amount not needed will not be paid to the Fund or if already paid, the amount will be withdrawn from the Fund and returned to the General Fund.

This policy shall be reviewed on a biennial basis during the month of January in each even numbered year or at any time in between, if requested by either the Town Council or Farmington Board of Education.

Approved by the Town Council:

Approved by the Farmington Board of Education:

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January 12, 2016

January 9, 2018