



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3810 • Fax (704)282-0121

Home Trust Bank
P.O. Box 10
Asheville, NC 28802-0010

RE: Lease and Option Agreement between HomeTrust Bank and New Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

I am Chair of the Union County Board of Commissioners. This letter is to advise you that as of the date of this letter, the following information is accurate regarding New Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (the "Department").

The Department is a qualified Volunteer Fire Department assigned to protect a specific fire response district within Union County.

In addition, a special fire service tax is assessed on the real property owners of the associated fire service tax district in accordance with applicable law. Said tax is to be used by the Department exclusively to provide fire protection services in the district, which includes equipment, facilities, and training as is necessary to provide fire protection for said district. Said funds may also be used to upgrade equipment as the need arises in accordance with applicable law and the Department's fire service contract. This tax is collected by the County and disbursed by the County's Finance Office to the Department on a regular basis by the County Finance Officer or a deputy finance officer in accordance with the Department's fire service contract. The Department is operated and managed by the Board of Directors of the Department and the Officers of said Department. The Department is currently meeting the requirements of their fire service contract.

The Department has made us aware of its intention to acquire new capital assets through a Lease Purchase transaction with your firm. Please Be advised that the County has no objection to this transaction.

Sincerely,

Brian Helms
Chair, Union County Board of Commissioners