

ORDINANCE NO. 62

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CODE OF ETHICS

The Town Board of the Town of Oakland, Jefferson County, Wisconsin DO ORDAIN as follows:

Ordinance No. 62 shall be created to read as follows:

Section 1: Responsibility of Public Office.

Public officials and employees are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State and carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state and municipality, to observe in their official acts the highest standards of morality and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be their prime concern. Their conduct in both their official and private affairs should be above reproach so as to foster respect for government.

Section 2: Required Actions

- a) A board or committee member shall be motivated primarily by an earnest desire to serve his/her municipality and the people of the community in the best way.
- b) A board or committee member shall endeavor to attend all board or committee meetings.
- c) A board or committee member shall recognize that the expenditure of municipal funds is a public trust, and will endeavor to see that all such funds shall be expended efficiently, economically, and for the best interest of the municipality.
- d) A board or committee member shall do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of a board or committee member.
- e) A board or committee member shall listen to what other members of the board or committee and other individuals or groups may have to say before making final decisions.
- f) A board or committee member shall endeavor to avoid rancor and bitterness, to observe proper decorum and behavior, to encourage full and open discussions in all matters with his/her fellow members of the board or committee, to treat them with respect and consideration and not withhold or conceal from them any information or matter in which they should be concerned.
- g) A board or committee member shall recognize that authority rests with the board or committee in legal session and not with individual members of the board or committee.
- h) A board or committee member shall abide by majority decisions of board or committee once they are made and will accept and support them as long as he/she remains a member of the board or committee.
- i) A board or committee member shall endeavor to keep informed on all local, provincial, and national developments of municipal significance.
- j) A board or committee member shall consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a fellow board or committee member, a member of the municipal staff, or another local government body.
- k) A board or committee member shall associate with members of other boards or committees, both personally and in conferences, for the purpose of discussing municipal problems and cooperating in the solution of them.
- l) A board or committee member shall try to know and understand other people who serve on the board or committee with him/her. Team building begins by knowing your teammates.
- m) A board or committee member shall take an interest in being educated on how to be a good board or committee representative.

Section 3: Prohibited Actions

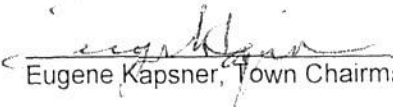
- a) A board or committee member shall not use the municipality or any part of a municipal program for his/her own personal advantage or for the advantage of his/her friends and family.
- b) A board or committee member shall make no derogatory remarks, in or out of board or committee meetings, about members of the board or committee or their opinions, but may reserve the right to make honest and respectful criticism.

- c) A board or committee member shall not discuss confidential business of the board or committee in his/her home, on the street, or in his/her office; the place for such discussions being the board or committee meeting thereof.
- d) A board or committee member shall not talk too much or listen too little.
- e) A board or committee member shall not publicly criticize a board or committee decision that was voted on and passed by the majority of the board or committee, but that he/she did not specifically support.
- f) A board or committee member shall not demonstrate to fellow board or committee members that he/she has all the answers for every issue.
- g) A board or committee member shall not refuse to change his/her mind on any issue regardless of the evidence presented.
- h) A board or committee member shall not fail to read board or committee packets and prepare for the board or committee meetings.
- i) A board or committee member shall not divulge information from an executive or closed-session meeting.
- j) A board or committee member shall not refuse to compromise when decisions have stalemated.
- k) A board or committee member shall not ridicule past board or committee members and the decisions made by the board or committee before he/she became a member.
- l) A board or committee member shall not hold grudges about fellow board or committee members when they do not agree with him/her.
- m) A board or committee member shall not try to dominate conversation at every board or committee meeting.
- n) A board or committee member shall not resent the salary of the chief executive or staff because it is more than he/she or their spouse makes.
- o) A board or committee member shall not arrive late and leave early.
- p) A board or committee member shall not remind fellow board or committee members that "it has always been this way in the past."
- q) A board or committee member shall not appear at park sites or facilities to give orders to employees.
- r) A board or committee member shall not expect the agency to be a haven for hiring friends and the politically deserving.
- s) A board or committee member shall not constantly criticize and question board or committee policies and the executive decisions or compulsively dissent on almost every issue.

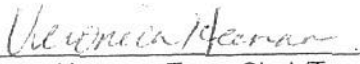
Section 3: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication or posted as required by law.

Dated this 20th day of October, 2015.

Town of Oakland, BY:


Eugene Kapsner, Town Chairman

Attest:


Veronica Heenan, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Passed: _____

Vote: Ayes: 4 Noes: 0

Published: 10-21-15

Posted: October 21, 2015