



APC Meeting

Agenda Item: Revision to the employee handbook

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026

Referring Body:

Committee Contact: Trustee Sorensen

Staff Contact: Pete Wegner

Report Prepared by: Ken Charneski

AGENDA ITEM: Revision to the employee handbook

OBJECTIVE(S): This change to the handbook would support the staff in the event that there was no administrator, or for any other time when employees felt that trustees need to be made aware important information.

This proposed change provides an alternative route for transparency, confidence, and more of a team atmosphere between the staff and Village Board.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

PROPOSAL:

This item was discussed at the February 17, and March 17, 2026 APC meeting and tabled pending the submission of a cover report explaining the purpose regarding this item.

This simple change is intended to grant open communication between staff or other employees and the Kronenwetter Village Board. The current handbook makes such communication punishable.

This change is intended to improve efficiency, productivity, morale, and to reduce the potential for information bottlenecks or information falling through the cracks somehow.

While this may not happen too often, when it does, it can lead to serious detrimental consequences; the erroneous sale of the yard waste site is a good example.

In any event, it seems that the current prohibition of open communication does not serve the interests of efficient village operations, nor does it fully unleash the performance potential of our employees.

Proposed changes to the Employee Handbook are attached. Pink highlight removed, yellow text added.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: As the committee decides.

FINANCIAL

Financial Consideration/Action: No direct financial impact.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

Account Number/Title:	#
Current Adopted Budget:	\$
Spent to Date:	\$
Remaining Budget:	\$

Employee Conduct Guidelines**5.20**

We expect our employees to follow rules of conduct that will protect the interests and safety of all employees and the Village and to present a professional image to all customers and guests. It is not possible to list all the forms of behavior that are considered unacceptable in the workplace, but the following are examples of infractions of rules of conduct that may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

- Failure to follow and/or adhere to Village of Kronenwetter policies and procedures as described in written documentation or as described and directed by employee's supervisor.
- Discourteous conduct or poor service to customers.
- Falsification of Village records in any form, embezzlement, or failure to follow internal control or security procedures.
- Theft or inappropriate, unauthorized removal or possession of Village or coworker's property; use of Village equipment or supplies for personal projects.
- Falsification of timekeeping records.
- Possession, distribution, sale, transfer, or use of alcohol or illegal drugs in the workplace while on duty. The only exception to this policy is the possession of drugs or alcohol by a Police Officer as required in the conduct of his/her official duties.
- Fighting or threatening violence in the workplace.
- Boisterous or disruptive activity in the workplace.
- Improper, careless, negligent, destructive, or unsafe use or operation of Village equipment. Insubordination or other disrespectful conduct.
- Deliberate statements or actions detrimental to the Village; knowingly spreading false or malicious reports intended to disrupt relationships among employees, elected or appointed officials, customers, and/or residents. Sexual or other forms of harassment.
- Unprofessional conduct at outside events where the employee is representing the Village, such as courses, seminars, and community events.
- Possession of dangerous or unauthorized materials, such as explosives, weapons including properly licensed concealed carry weapons, or firearms, in the workplace or on the premises unless as required in the conduct of your job or as specifically allowed by State law.
- Excessive or unauthorized absenteeism or tardiness; giving false reasons for absences from work.
- Unauthorized overtime, failure to record overtime worked, or consistent refusal to work overtime.
- Unauthorized or unacceptable use of the telephone, cell phones, PDA's, etc.
- Smoking within Village owned facilities, in a Village vehicle, or when conducting Village business off-site.
- Unauthorized disclosure of business secrets or confidential business or customer's information. Unauthorized entrance to the Village properties other than to report to work or to conduct business. Violation of personnel policies. Unsatisfactory work performance or conduct; deliberate or excessive waste of materials; poor workmanship or low productivity.
- Using abusive or offensive language with customers or coworkers.
- Improper political activities during work hours.

- Taking any fee, reward, gift, gratuity, or other form of remuneration in addition to regular Village compensation from any source for the performance of duties in the case of an employee of the Village.
- Inducing or attempting to induce an Officer or employee of the Village to commit an unlawful act or to act in violation of any lawful regulation or order.
- Gambling on Village property.
- Lying to or misleading supervisors, elected officials, or appointed officials, and/or contacting elected or appointed officials regarding issues that should be directed to Department Heads or to the Village Administrator. See Policy HR-002 Problem Resolution which can be found in Appendix 1.
- Employees may confide in elected officials regarding any issues that they feel interfere with efficient operations of the Village, and/or that they feel the administrator or department head is unable or unwilling to address objectively.
- Department Heads may bring concerns or complaints about the Village Administrator to elected officials.
- Employee knowledge and experience is valued. Open communication between employees and elected officials is essential to employee wellbeing and operational efficiency. Retaliation against employee candor will not be tolerated, and is grounds for discipline or termination.

Depending on the circumstances involved, disciplinary action may include an oral warning, a written warning, suspension without pay, or discharge. Progressive discipline may not be followed in all cases. Depending on the nature of the violation and other circumstances, including, but not limited to, the employee's past conduct, one or more "steps" may be repeated or skipped. In some circumstances, immediate discharge may result.