

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR VILLAGE OFFICIALS

WHEREAS,

Wis. Stat. § 19.59 authorizes municipalities to adopt a Code of Ethics governing local elected officials, appointed officials, employees, and candidates; and

WHEREAS,

the Village of Kronenwetter desires to ensure public confidence, transparency, integrity, and compliance with state law and local ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Kronenwetter, Marathon County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the “Village of Kronenwetter Code of Ethics.”

SECTION 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to:

1. Promote public confidence in the integrity of Village government;
 2. Ensure compliance with state laws, including Wis. Stat. §§ 19.42–19.59, 946.13, and other applicable statutes;
 3. Establish standards of ethical conduct for Village officials, trustees, and candidates;
 4. Provide guidance on conflicts of interest, use of public resources, gifts, political activity, confidentiality, and disclosure.
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SECTION 3. Applicability

This Code applies to:

- All elected officials (Village President, Trustees),
- Appointed officials and members of boards, commissions, and committees,
- Contractors or vendors while performing duties under Village authority.

SECTION 4. Standards of Conduct

- 1. Compliance with Law**
 - All officials and representatives of VOK shall comply with applicable federal and state law, Village ordinances, and policies.
- 2. Conflicts of Interest**
 - Officials and representatives must avoid conflicts between private interests and public duties.
 - No official or representative may participate in decisions in which they, a family member, or business associate has a (substantial) financial interest (Wis. Stat. § 946.13).
 - Disclosure of potential conflicts must be made in writing to the Village Clerk and recusal from related decisions is required.
- 3. Use of Public Resources**
 - Village property, funds, or personnel shall be used solely for official purposes.
 - No official or representative may use public resources for personal gain, political campaigns, or private business activities.
- 4. Gifts and Gratuities**
 - Officials and VOK representatives shall not accept gifts, favors, or services that could reasonably influence official duties.
 - Exceptions as allowed under Wis. Stat. § 19.59(1)(b) are permitted (e.g., gifts of minimal value).
- 5. Confidentiality**
 - Officials and VOK representatives shall maintain confidentiality of information not subject to disclosure under the Wisconsin Public Records Law (Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31–19.39).
- 6. Political Activity**
 - Officials may engage in political activity in a personal capacity but shall not use Village resources or time to influence elections.
- 7. Financial Disclosure**
 - Officials shall file financial disclosure statements as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.43, if applicable.

SECTION 5. Reporting and Enforcement

- 1. Complaints**
 - Alleged violations may be reported in accordance with current Village policies
- 2. Investigation**
 - Complaints shall be reviewed promptly, fairly, and confidentially.

3. Enforcement

- Violations may result in disciplinary action, removal from office (if legally authorized), referral to the District Attorney, or other remedies consistent with state law.
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SECTION 6. Severability

If any section of this ordinance is found invalid, the remainder shall remain in effect.

SECTION 7. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication/posting as provided by law.
