

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04

VILLAGE OF RIDGEWAY, IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWAY MUNICIPAL CODE
OF ORDINANCES REMOVING REFERENCES TO THE OFFICE OF VILLAGE
MARSHAL AND RELATED POSITIONS**

RECITALS

- A. The Village of Ridgeway previously established the Office of Village Marshal to provide law enforcement services within the Village.
- B. The Village Board of the Village of Ridgeway has enacted a charter ordinance pursuant to Section 66.0101 of the Wisconsin Statutes to discontinue the Office of Village Marshal.
- C. The Village Board of the Village of Ridgeway desires to amend its Municipal Code of Ordinances to remove references to the Office of Village Marshal and related positions where such references are no longer applicable.

ORDINANCE

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Ridgeway, Iowa County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

1. Section 1.03(1) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The appointed officials, the method of selection and the terms of office shall be as follows:

Clerk/Treasurer	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite
Assessor	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite
Building Inspector	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite

Village Attorney	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite
Director of Public Works	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite
Streets/Parks Superintendent	Affirmative vote of majority of all members elect of the Village Board.	Indefinite

2. Section 2.04(1)(b) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (b) Committee on Public Works, Safety, and Health (including law enforcement, fire, streets, sewer, lighting, water, etc.).

3. Chapter 3 of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is repealed and replaced to read as follows:

CHAPTER 3 – LAW ENFORCEMENT, CIVIL DEFENSE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

3.01 – General powers of law enforcement officers.

The Village's designated law enforcement officers shall possess the powers, enjoy the privileges, and be subject to the liability conferred upon Marshals and Constables pursuant to Section 61.31(2), Wisconsin Statutes. Every designated law enforcement officer shall be a certified State of Wisconsin law enforcement officer and enjoy the same authority. It shall be their duty to:

- (1) Know and understand the ordinances of the Village and attend to the enforcement of such ordinances by all lawful means.
- (2) Obey all lawful written orders, directions, policies, and/or approved motions of the Village Board.

- (3) Cause the public peace to be preserved and see that all laws and ordinances of the Village and State are enforced, and upon any violation thereof shall cause the requisite complaint to be made and see that the evidence is procured for the successful prosecution of the offender or offenders.
- (4) Shall keep a record of all arrests made by members of the designated law enforcement agency. Additionally, traffic citations issued, offenses charged, actions taken, complaints filed, and all other law enforcement actions as otherwise required by law.
- (5) Shall have the authority to arrest or cite any persons of the Village found in the act of violating any law or ordinance of the Village, State, or Federal Statute upon their discretion.
- (6) Additionally, they may upon their discretion arrest or cite any citizen aiding or abetting in such violation, and they shall arrest without warrant all persons whom they have reasonable grounds to believe have violated any law or ordinance and who will not be apprehended unless immediately arrested, shall take all arrested persons in charge and confine them, and shall within a reasonable time bring such persons before the Court having jurisdiction thereof to be dealt with according to law.
- (7) Help prevent crimes, misdemeanors and violation of Village ordinances and protect the health, safety, public peace and order of the Village and its inhabitants.
- (8) Report all street and sidewalk obstructions, unlighted street lamps, unlawful street signs or signals and defective or dangerous streets and sidewalks to the Director of Public Works.
- (9) Assist the Fire Department/First Response in maintaining order at the scene of an emergency, fire, or other rescue operation.
- (10) See that the necessary permits and licenses issued by the proper authority of the State or Village are in the possession of and/or properly

displayed by any person engaged in an activity or business within the Village for which such a permit or license is required.

- (11) In situations or on subjects where no policy or direction has been set forth by the Village Board, the Village President may be the person to give directions. Or, in the President's absence, such direction may be given by the Chair of the Public Safety & Health Committee.

3.02 – Village president and trustees;

The Village President and Trustees shall have and exercise the powers to summarily suppress any riotous or disorderly conduct in the streets or public places of the Village.

3.03 – Civilians to assist.

It shall be the duty of any persons in the Village, when called upon by a law enforcement officer to promptly aid and assist them in the execution of their duties as reasonably practicable. Whoever shall neglect or refuse to give such aid or assistance without good reason shall be subject to a penalty as provided by this Code.

3.04 – Impersonating law enforcement officers.

Whoever impersonates a law enforcement officer with intent to mislead others into believing that the person is actually a law enforcement officer is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor under Sec. 946.70 Wis. Stat.

3.05 – Assisting escape of prisoner.

Whoever does assist in the escape of a prisoner, as defined under Sec. 946.44, Wis. Stats., is guilty of a Class D felony.

3.6 – Fire department.

- (1) The Village Board of the Village of Ridgeway officially recognizes the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department which serves the property owners

of both the Village of Ridgeway and the Town of Ridgeway and has reciprocal agreements with the adjoining city and village fire departments.

- (2) The Village of Ridgeway by action of the Village Board and the Town of Ridgeway by action of its Town Board share equally in providing a fire station for the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department and share equally in the costs of operating the Department by providing funds as they are billed by the Department.

3.07 – Fire department organization.

- (1) The Fire Department of the Village and Town of Ridgeway consists of residents of the Village and Town of Ridgeway.
- (2) The members of the Department adopt their own by-laws, elect their Fire Chief and elect any other officers as called for in their by-laws.
- (3) The Fire Department shall carry its own insurance, including fire and extended coverage, liability, property damage, workmen's compensation, etc.

3.08 – Fire chief.

- (1) The Fire Chief is elected by members of the Fire Department.
- (2) Duties and Powers. The Fire Chief shall enforce, or cause to be enforced, all fire prevention ordinances, laws and regulations of the Village, Town and State.
- (3) Fire Inspector. The Fire Chief may appoint a deputy Fire Inspector who shall perform all duties required of Fire Inspectors by the laws of the State and rules of the State Industrial Commission, particularly Sec. 101.14, Wis. Stat.

3.09 – Fire department members.

The members of the Fire Department may or may not be residents of the Village and Town of Ridgeway. Applications are voted upon by the members of the Department.

3.10 – Equipment and apparatus.

Use as requested by the Village or Town Board of Ridgeway.

3.11 – Police powers of the fire department.

- (1) Authority at Fires. The Fire Chief and his assistants or officers in command are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires and may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to the Fire Department responding to a fire call.
- (2) Removal of Property. The Fire Chief shall have the power to cause the removal of any property whenever it shall become necessary for the preservation of such property from fire or to prevent the spread of fire or protect adjoining property. During the progress of any fire, he shall have the power to order the destruction of any property necessary to prevent the further spread of the fire. He shall also have the power to cause the removal of all wires or other facilities and the turning off of all electricity or other services where the same impede the work of the Fire Department during the progress of a fire.
- (3) Members of the Fire Department May Enter Adjacent Property. It shall be lawful for any member of the Fire Department acting under the direction of the Fire Chief or any officer in command to enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of any building or other property then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire. No person shall hinder, resist or obstruct any member of the Fire Department in the discharge of his duty as herein-before provided.
- (4) Duty of Bystanders to Assist. Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of the Fire Chief or officer in command

and may be required to render assistance in fighting the fire or in removing or guarding property. Such officer shall have the power to cause the arrest of any person refusing to obey such orders.

3.12 – False fire alarms prohibited.

Whoever intentionally gives a false alarm to any public officer is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor as provided under Sec. 941.13, Wis. Stat.

3.13 – Penalties.

The penalty for violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a penalty as provided by this Code, under Chapter 12.

4. Section 4.05(2)a. of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- a. There shall be no parking of any trailers/semi-tractor trailers/or tow behind trailers on Main Street/County Hwy HHH in the Village for longer than 48 hours without special permission granted by the Village Board, designated law enforcement agency, or Director of Public Works for contractors or public service.

5. Section 4.05(3)c. of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- c. A snow emergency may be declared by the Director of Public Works or Streets & Parks Superintendent when circumstances require and there shall be no parking on Village streets or lots, with the exception of emergency vehicles.

6. Section 4.05(5)(a) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (a) Any motor vehicle found parked in violation of this section may be towed away by or at the direction of the designated law enforcement agency-or the Director of Public Works at the owner's expense and may be held by the Village of Ridgeway or a private towing service until the fee for such towing has been paid together with a minimum sum of \$1.00 per day as a storage charge, or actual cost if higher. The removal of a vehicle under this provision shall not bar the prosecution of the owner thereof from a violation of this section.

7. Section 7.03(10) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (10) Report of Violation. It should be the duty of all designated law enforcement officers and other Municipal employees to report at once to the Building Inspector any building work which is being carried on without a permit as required by this chapter.

8. Section 8.02(14) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (14) Consent to Inspection. An applicant for a license under this chapter thereby consents to the entry of designated law enforcement officers or authorized representatives of the Village upon licensed premises at all reasonable hours for the purposes of inspection and search, and consents to removal from the premises and introduction into evidence in prosecutions for violations of this chapter all things found therein in violation of this chapter or State law.

9. Section 8.02(15) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (15) Revocation of Licenses. Except as otherwise provided within this chapter, any license issued under this chapter may be revoked for cause by the Village President or Board. Any licensee whose license is so revoked may

apply within ten days of the revocation for a public hearing before the Village Board. At such hearing the licensee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel. After hearing the evidence, the Board may confirm or reverse the revocation or modify the revocation by imposing a limited period of suspension. The determination of the Board shall be final. The Village shall repossess any license revoked hereunder.

10. Section 8.04(9) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

(9) Inspection and Investigation.

- (a) Prior to Issuance of License. The Village Clerk shall notify the designated law enforcement agency and the Village Board of such application for license, and these officials may inspect or cause to be inspected each application and the premises covered thereby to determine whether the applicant and the premises sought to be licensed comply with the regulations, ordinances and laws applicable thereto. These officials shall furnish to the Village Board in writing the information derived from such investigation accompanied by a recommendation as to whether a license should be granted or refused.
- (b) Search of Licensed-Premises. It shall be a condition of any license issued hereunder that the licensed premises may be entered and inspected by any designated law enforcement officer, his/her deputies or assistants and any Trustee and the President of the Village of Ridgeway, without a search warrant, and application for a license hereunder shall be deemed a consent to this provision. Any refusal to permit such inspection and search shall automatically operate as revocation of any license issued hereunder and shall be deemed a violation of this section.

11. Section 8.04(12) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

(12) Revocation and Suspension of Licenses.

- (a) Procedure. Whenever the holder of any license under this section violates any portion of this section, proceedings for the revocation or suspension of such license may be instituted in the manner and under the procedure established by Wis. Stat. § 125.12, and the provisions therein relating to granting a new license shall likewise be applicable.
- (b) Suspension of Licenses. The Village President or Village Board, upon obtaining reasonable information that any licensee has violated any provision of this section or any State or Federal liquor or fermented beverage law, or committed any felony, may suspend the license or permit of such person not to exceed ten days pending hearing by the Board, pursuant to par. (a).
- (c) Repossession of License or Permit. Whenever any license or permit under this section shall be revoked or suspended by the Board, the Village Clerk shall notify the licensee or permittee of such suspension or revocation and shall notify the designated law enforcement agency, who shall take physical possession of the license or permit where ever it may be found and file it in the Village Clerk's office.
- (d) Effect of Revocation. See sub. (5)(i) of this section.

12. Section 8.05(2)(g) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

(g) Impoundment and Disposition. Animals are impounded humanely and securely in the following manners:

1. Any designated law enforcement officer or maintenance worker may apprehend any animal which is at large within the Village.
2. The law enforcement officer or maintenance worker will make a reasonable effort to notify the owner of the apprehension of the animal if the identity of the owner can be readily determined from the information shown on the animal's license tag. If the identity of the owner cannot be readily determined, the law enforcement officer or maintenance worker may take the stray animal to the Iowa County Humane Society.

13. Section 8.05(2)(m)2. of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

2. Destruction or Death of Vicious Animals. If a vicious animal [defined in this section, in paragraph (f)] is euthanized, the owner thereof shall provide to the designated law enforcement agency within ten days of the date of death of the animal a certificate or other written proof of euthanasia from a licensed veterinarian. If a vicious animal is killed, destroyed or dies from any other cause or means, the owner shall within ten days of the date of death of the animal provide in writing to the designated law enforcement agency verification of the death of the animal.

14. Section 8.06(6)(b) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (b) Display of License. Persons licensed under this section shall carry their license and identification with them while engaged in licensed activities and shall display such license to any designated law enforcement officer or citizen upon request.

15. Section 8.07(6) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (6) Special Event Coordinator. The Village Clerk shall act as the special events coordinator unless or until changed by resolution of the Village Board.

16. Section 8.07(11)(c) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (c) Security Fee. It shall be the permit holder's responsibility to provide the special event coordinator with the approximate number of attendees for any proposed public entertainment event. The special event coordinator will arrange for the security at the event. The permit holder will be charged for any security needed for the event. The security charge will be based on the approximate number of attendees at a ratio of one law enforcement officer for every 50 anticipated guests present. The special event coordinator will provide a written estimate of the cost to the permit holder prior to the public entertainment event. The permit holder may provide their own security but this may not be substituted for any law enforcement officers required to be present. All security fees must be paid prior to the event. Failure to pay such security fees in advance or providing any false or misleading information may result in the Public Entertainment Permit or Temporary "Class B" License being revoked and having the event shut down by the special event coordinator.

17. Section 8.08(6) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (6) License Investigation. The Village Clerk shall refer any application hereunder to the designated law enforcement agency, the Fire Chief, or the Building Inspector who shall cause to be inspected the applicant and the proposed premises. No application shall be issued hereunder unless the building or buildings proposed to be used in connection with the business are of fireproof construction. The officers shall report the results of their investigation to the Village Board for review and action upon the application.

18. Section 8.09(3)(e) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances

is amended to read as follows:

- (e) Inspections of Parks. No park license shall be issued under this section until the Village Clerk has notified the designated law enforcement agency, Health Officer, Fire Chief and Building Inspector, or their authorized agents of such application, and these officials shall inspect each application on the premises described therein to determine whether the applicant and the premises on which the mobile homes will be located comply with the provisions of this section. These officials shall furnish to the Village Board in writing the information derived from such investigation and a statement as to whether the applicant and the premises meet all department requirements. No license shall be renewed without a re-inspection of the premises. For the purpose of making inspections, such officials or their authorized agents shall enter on any premises on which a mobile home is located or about to be located and to inspect the same and all accommodations connected therewith at any reasonable time.

19. Section 9.09(3) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (3) If the designated law enforcement agency finds any inoperable or abandoned motor vehicle which does not bear a valid license plate placed or stored in the open upon public property within the Village, the agency may tow at owner's expense.

20. Section 9.10(2) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to be repealed:

21. Section 9.10(3) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

(2) Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles.

(a) Vehicle Value Exceeds \$100.00.

1. If the designated law enforcement agency or a duly authorized representative determines that the value of the abandoned vehicle exceeds \$100.00, it may notify the owner and lien holders of record by certified mail that the vehicle has been deemed abandoned and impounded by the Village and may be reclaimed within 15 days upon payment of accrued towing, storage, and notice charges, and if not so reclaimed, shall be sold.
2. If an abandoned vehicle determined to exceed \$100.00 in value is not reclaimed within the period and under the conditions as provided above, it may be sold at private sale.
3. After deducting the expense of impoundment and sale, the balance of the proceeds, if any, shall be paid to the Village Treasury.

- (b) Any abandoned vehicle which is determined by the designated law enforcement agency or a duly authorized representative to have a value of less than \$100.00 may be disposed of by direct sale to a licensed salvage dealer upon determination that the vehicle is not reported stolen.

22. Section 9.10(5) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (5) Notice of Sale or Disposition. Within five days after the sale or disposal of a vehicle as provided in sub. (3) (a) or (b), the designated law enforcement agency or an authorized representative shall advise the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, of such sale or disposition on a form supplied by the Division. A copy of such form shall also be given to the purchaser of the vehicle. A copy shall also be retained on file in the Village.

23. Section 9.11(1) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Enforcement. The designated law enforcement agency or the Building Inspector shall enforce those provisions of this chapter that come within the jurisdiction of their offices, and they shall make periodic inspections upon complaint to ensure that such provisions are not violated. No action shall be taken under this section to abate a public nuisance unless the officer shall have inspected or caused to be inspected the premises where the nuisance is alleged to exist and have satisfied themselves that a nuisance does in fact exist.

24. Section 10.06 of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

10.06 – Loitering prohibited.

- (1) Loitering or Prowling. No person shall loiter or prowls in a place, at a time or in a manner not usual for law-abiding individuals under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity. Among the circumstances which may be considered in determining whether such alarm is warranted is the fact that the person takes flight upon appearance of a law enforcement officer, refuses to identify himself/herself or manifestly endeavors to conceal himself/herself or any object. Unless flight by the person or other circumstances makes it impracticable, a law enforcement or peace officer shall prior to any arrest for an offense under this section afford the person an opportunity to dispel any alarm which would otherwise be warranted, by requesting him to identify himself and explain his presence and conduct. No person shall be convicted of an offense under this subsection if the law enforcement or peace officer did not comply with the preceding sentence, or if it appears at trial that the explanation given by the person was true and, if believed by the law enforcement or peace officer at the time, would have dispelled the alarm.
- (2) Obstruction of Traffic Loitering. No person shall loaf or loiter in groups or crowds upon the public streets, alleys, sidewalks, street crossings or bridges or in any other public places within the Village in such manner as to prevent, interfere with or obstruct the ordinary free use of such public streets, sidewalks, street crossings and bridges or other public places by persons passing along and over the same.
- (3) Loitering After Being Requested to Move. No person shall loaf or loiter in groups or crowds upon the public streets, sidewalks or adjacent doorways or entrances, street crossings or bridges or in any other public place or on any private premises without invitation from the owner or occupant, after being requested to move by a law enforcement officer or by a person in authority at such places.
- (4) Loitering in Public Places. No person shall loiter in or about any depot, theater, dancehall, restaurant, store, public sidewalk, public parking lot or other place of assembly or public use after being requested to move by any law enforcement officer. Upon being requested to move, a

person shall immediately comply with such request by leaving the premises or area thereof at the time of the request.

25. Section 10.13(2) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (5) Coasting. Coasting, sliding with hand sleighs, or skating on any street in the Village is prohibited, except in areas designated by law enforcement.

26. Section 10.28(4)(a) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- (a) Enforcement. This ordinance shall be enforced by any officer employed by the designated law enforcement agency or any other law enforcement official as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 23.33(12).

27. Section 12.02(3)(b) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows (NOTE: Deleted text is ~~struck through~~; Added text is double underlined):

- (b) Village Officials. The following village officials may issue citations with respect to those specified ordinances which are directly related to their official responsibilities:
 - 1. Designated law enforcement officers.
 - 2. Building Inspector.
 - 3. Director of Public Works.

28. Section 15.4 3.d.1) of the Village of Ridgeway Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

- 1) The municipality has written assurance from law enforcement, fire and emergency services that rescue and relief will be provided to the structure(s) by wheeled vehicles during a regional flood event; or

29. This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication in accordance with Wisconsin law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

Bradley Butler, Village President

ATTEST:

Lori Phelan, Village Clerk