

Village of Arpin, Wood County, Wisconsin

Ordinance #56

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE VILLAGE OF ARPIN, WOOD COUNTY WISCONSIN

The Village Board of the Village of Arpin, Wood County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1

- (1) **Declaration of Policy.** The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policy be made in proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals, there is hereby established a code of ethics for all Village of Arpin officials and employees, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid, including members of boards, committees and commissions of the Village as well as any individuals who are candidates for elective office as soon as such individuals file nomination papers with the Village. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all such officials and employees by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of the Village of Arpin and by directing disclosure by such officials and employees of private financial or other interests in matters affecting the Village. The provisions and purpose of this code and such rules and regulations as may be established are hereby declared to be in the best interests of the Village of Arpin.
- (2) **Standards of Conduct.** There are certain provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes which should, while not set forth herein, be considered an integral part of any Code of Ethics.

Accordingly, the provisions of the following sections of the Wisconsin Statutes are made a part of this Code of Ethics and shall apply to public officials and employees whenever applicable, to-wit:

- Section 946.10 – Bribery of Public Officers and Employees
- Section 946.11 – Special Privileges from Public Utilities
- Section 946.12 – Misconduct in Public Office

Standards of Conduct (cont.)

Section 946.13 – Private Interest in Public Contract Prohibited

- (3) **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 and 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.
- (4) **Dedicated Service.** All officials and employees of the Village of Arpin should be loyal to the objectives expressed by the electorate and the programs developed to attain these objectives. Appointive officials and employees should adhere to the rules of work and performance established as the standard for their positions by the appropriate authority.

Officials and employees should not exceed their authority or breach the law or ask others to do so, and they should work in full cooperation with other public officials and employees unless prohibited from so doing by law or by officially recognized confidentiality of their work.

(5) **Fair and Equal Treatment.**

- a. *Use of Public Property.* No official or employee shall request or permit the unauthorized use of Village-owned vehicles, equipment, materials or property for personal convenience or profit.
- b. *Obligations to Citizens.* No official or employee shall grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

(6) **Conflict of Interest.**

- a. *Financial and Personal Interest Prohibited.* No official or employee, whether paid or unpaid, shall engage in any business or transaction or shall act in regard to financial or other personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties in the public interest contrary to the provisions of this ordinance or which would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.

Conflict of Interest (cont.)

b. Definitions.

- i. Financial Interest. Any interest which shall yield, directly or indirectly, a monetary or other material benefit to the officer or employee or to any person employing or retaining the services of the officer or employee.
- ii. Personal Interest. Any interest arising from blood or marriage relationships or from close business or political associations, whether or not any financial interest is involved.
- iii. Person. Any person, corporation, partnership or joint venture.

c. Specific Conflicts Enumerated.

- i. Incompatible Employment. No official or employee shall engage in or accept private employment or render service, for private interest, when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties, unless otherwise permitted by law and unless disclosure is made as hereinafter provided.
- ii. Disclosure of Confidential Information. No official or employee shall, without proper legal authorization, disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the city, nor shall such information be used to advance the financial or other private interest of the official or employee or others.
- iii. Gifts and Favors. No official or employee shall accept any gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing or promise, from any person which may tend to impair his or her independence of judgment or action in the performance of his or her duties or grand in the discharge of his or her duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. Any official who receives, directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts having an aggregate value of more than \$50 within any calendar year from any person who is known by said official or employee to be interested directly or indirectly in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the Village of Arpin.
- iv. Representing Private Interests before Village Agencies or Courts. No officer or employee shall appear on behalf of any private person (other than him or herself, his or her spouse or minor children) before any city

Representing Private Interests before Village Agencies or Courts (cont.)
agency or municipal court. However, members of the Village Board may appear before Village agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of their duties as representatives of the electorate or in the performance of public or civic obligations.

Section 2

All ordinances or parts of ordinances contravening the terms and provisions of this ordinance are hereby to that extent repealed.

Section 3

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

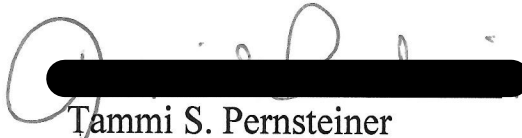
Passed and adopted this 14th day of April, 2009.

Posted 4/24/09


[Redacted Signature]

John Esser
Village President

4-14-09
Date Signed


[Redacted Signature]

Tammi S. Pernsteiner
Clerk/Treasurer

4/14/09
Date Signed