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1.0 Purpose

The Town of Oulu adopts the State of Wisconsin Ethics policy outlined in the State Statute as stated below. The entire statute can be viewed [here](#).

Subchapter III of chapter 19: Ethics ordinance

The following statutes affect this form: subch. III of ch. 19 and ss. 82.11 (2) (a), 125.51 (1) (b), 175.10, 946.10, 946.11, 946.12, 946.13, and 946.14, Wis. stats.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Town of Oulu

Bayfield County

SECTION I - TITLE AND PURPOSE

The title of this policy is the Town of Oulu Ethics Policy. The purpose of this policy is to regulate, limit, and control certain administrative actions of town officials and employees in the town, including unethical actions of those officials and employees, as determined under this policy.

2.0 Policy Details

SECTION II - DECLARATION OF POLICY

A. It is declared that certain administrative actions of town officials and town employees are to be regulated, permitted, or limited to allow the official's and employee's actions to occur in an ethical, timely, and efficient manner.

B. It is declared that high moral and ethical standards among town officials and town employees are essential to the conduct of free government and that the town board believes that a code of ethics for the guidance of town officials and town employees will help them avoid conflicts between their personal interests and their public responsibilities, will improve standards of public service, and will promote and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the town in their town public officials and employees.

C. (Optional) It is the intent of the town board that any elected town official, any person appointed to elective office, any candidate for town elective office, all heads of departments, and all other designated town officials and town employees, including but not limited to those whose responsibilities involve the following, shall be required to file a Statement of Economic Interests as provided for in this policy:

1. Sale or lease of real estate.

2. Receipt of monies.
3. Purchasing of supplies.
4. Issuing of permits or licenses.
5. Assessment of property.
6. Inspection of property.
7. Construction of public works.
8. Settlement of claims.
9. Preparation or awarding of contracts.
10. Retention of outside service.
11. Performance of professional legal services for the town.

D. It is the intent of the town board that the town ethics board, town officials, and town employees in their administrative operations shall protect to the fullest extent possible the rights of individuals affected and the town and its government from improper, dishonest, and inefficient conduct of its town officials and town employees.

E. The town board reaffirms by this ordinance that a town official or employee holds his or her position as a public trust, and any effort to realize personal gain through official conduct is a violation of that trust. This ordinance does not prevent any town official or employee from accepting other employment or following any pursuit that in no way interferes with the full and faithful discharge of his or her duties to this town. The town board recognizes all of the following:

1. That town officials and town employees are drawn from society and, therefore, cannot and should not be without all personal and economic interest in the decisions and policies of government.
2. That town officials and town employees retain their rights as citizens to interests of a personal or economic nature.
3. That standards of ethical conduct for town officials and town employees need to distinguish between minor and inconsequential conflicts that are unavoidable in a free society and conflicts that are substantial and material.
4. That town officials and town employees may need to engage in employment, professional, or business activities, other than official duties, in order to support themselves or their families and to maintain a continuity of professional or business activity, or may need to maintain investments, which activities or investments do not conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION III - AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION

This ordinance, adopted pursuant to s. [19.59](#), Wis. stats., by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the town to regulate, permit, or limit certain acts of certain town officials and town employees in the town.

3.0 Policy Scope

4.0 SECTION II - DECLARATION OF POLICY

- 5.0A. It is declared that certain administrative actions of town officials and town employees are to be regulated, permitted, or limited to allow the official's and employee's actions to occur in an ethical, timely, and efficient manner.
- 6.0B. It is declared that high moral and ethical standards among town officials and town employees are essential to the conduct of free government and that the town board believes that a code of ethics for the guidance of town officials and town employees will help them avoid conflicts between their personal interests and their public responsibilities, will improve standards of public service, and will promote and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the town in their town public officials and employees.
- 7.0C. (Optional) It is the intent of the town board that any elected town official, any person appointed to elective office, any candidate for town elective office, all heads of departments, and all other designated town officials and town employees, including but not limited to those whose responsibilities involve the following, shall be required to file a Statement of Economic Interests as provided for in this ordinance:
- 8.0 1. Sale or lease of real estate.
 - 9.0 2. Receipt of monies.
 - 10.0 3. Purchasing of supplies.
 - 11.0 4. Issuing of permits or licenses.
 - 12.0 5. Assessment of property.
 - 13.0 6. Inspection of property.
 - 14.0 7. Construction of public works.
 - 15.0 8. Settlement of claims.
 - 16.0 9. Preparation or awarding of contracts.
 - 17.0 10. Retention of outside service.
 - 18.0 11. Performance of professional legal services for the town.
- 19.0 D. It is the intent of the town board that the town ethics board, town officials, and town employees in their administrative operations shall protect to the fullest extent possible the rights of individuals affected and the town and its government from improper, dishonest, and inefficient conduct of its town officials and town employees.
- 20.0 E. The town board reaffirms by this ordinance that a town official or employee holds his or her position as a public trust, and any effort to realize personal gain through official conduct is a violation of that trust. This ordinance does not prevent any town official or employee from accepting other employment or following any pursuit that in no way interferes with the full and faithful discharge of his or her duties to this town. The town board recognizes all of the following:
- 21.0 1. That town officials and town employees are drawn from society and, therefore, cannot and should not be without all personal and economic interest in the decisions and policies of government.
 - 22.0 2. That town officials and town employees retain their rights as citizens to interests of a personal or economic nature.
 - 23.0 3. That standards of ethical conduct for town officials and town employees need to

distinguish between minor and inconsequential conflicts that are unavoidable in a free society and conflicts that are substantial and material.

- 24.0** 4. That town officials and town employees may need to engage in employment, professional, or business activities, other than official duties, in order to support themselves or their families and to maintain a continuity of professional or business activity, or may need to maintain investments, which activities or investments do not conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

25.0 SECTION III - AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION

- 26.0** This ordinance, adopted pursuant to s. [19.59](#), Wis. stats., by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the town to regulate, permit, or limit certain acts of certain town officials and town employees in the town.

27.0 Policy Owner

The policy is approved and implemented by the Oulu Town Board of Supervisors and Town employees.

All Policies are reviewed every odd year to maintain relevance and make changes, if needed

28.0 Exhibits / Appendices / Forms

The ethics policy was adopted on this date by the Town of Oulu Board of Supervisors

29.0 Supporting Information

The State Ethics statute can be viewed here in its entirety

30.0 Document History

Formalizing existing policy implemented over many years