

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date/Time: Monday February 11th 2019

Location: Village Office, 2990 South Pine Tree Road

ROUTINE ITEMS TO BE ACTED UPON:

1. Call to order/Roll Call – Jerlinga called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. PRESENT: Greg Jerlinga (Chairperson), Fran Junio (Vice-Chairperson), Jim Goral ABSENT: Bob Zemple, Jeff Johnson
2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda – ACTION: To certify the meeting and approve the agenda MOTION: Junio SECOND: Jerlinga VOTE: 3-0
3. Approval of Minutes – January 14th 2019 – ACTION: To approve the minutes MOTION: Jerlinga SECOND: Junio VOTE: 3-0
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – John Rather (697 Mapleview Court) addressed the Committee, with the following statement being entered into the record:

“Given the recent arrest of our Village President on suspicion of a 3rd OWI (Operating while Intoxicated), we ask that the Ethics committee carefully consider the implications of this arrest. We understand that there are far reaching impacts of alcoholism, and also responsibilities that fall within the elected Village President’s role to our community. Given this is the 3rd arrest, and the 2nd while serving in elected office, focusing on treatment and recovery should be the top priority, while someone else serves the community as Village President during this time.

A democratic government requires that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. The Village of Hobart Code of Ethics indicates that part of the responsibility of public office is that an official’s conduct must be above reproach so as to foster respect for all government. Ethics Committee Board members have the power, by majority vote, to dismiss a member who has become ineffectual or negligent. We appreciate the delicacy of this situation and thank you in advance for your genuine assessment of this matter.”

Village Administrator Kramer reminded the Board that no action could be taken on Rather’s request, as (1) this was not an agenda item for tonight’s meeting, and (2) the proper procedure is in the Ethics Code, which requires that “(a)ll complaints regarding a violation of the Hobart Ethics Code shall be in writing, signed by the complaining party, notarized, and delivered to the Village Clerk.”

ACTION ITEMS

5. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW – Policy 2019-02 (VILLAGE OF HOBART ETHICS CODE) - The purpose of this policy is to amend the current Code of Ethics for Village employees and elected officials. The changes proposed by the Committee at its January 14th meeting, which were added to the proposed amended code were (1) revising the definition of “anything of substantial value”, (2) incorporating the state law which states that “(a) state public official or a local public official may for receive and retain from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation anything of value which the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation is authorized to provide and may receive and retain from the department of tourism anything of value which the department of tourism is authorized to provide”, and (3) allowing members of the Ethics Committee to be appointed to other boards and commissions of the Village. ACTION: To recommend the Village Board approve the amended Ethics Code at its February 20th meeting MOTION: Junio SECOND: Jerlinga VOTE: 3-0

6. ADJOURN (5:45 PM) – MOTION: Jerlinga SECOND: Goral VOTE: 3-0

Submitted by Aaron Kramer, Village Administrator