

CODE OF ETHICS

TOWN OF KNOX

LOCAL LAW

A local law relating to a code of ethics and a board of ethics for the Town of Knox.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Knox as follows:

ARTICLE I

Intent of Town Board

Section 1. Statement of Legislative Intent. The Town Board of the Town of Knox recognizes that the proper ethical conduct of its public officers and employees is essential to the enhancement and maintenance of public confidence in local government and in our free institutions generally. It is the purpose of this local law to supplement and implement the provisions of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York by establishing standards of conduct for the town's officers and employees and to establish a board of ethics to render advisory opinions to the town's officers and employees with respect to these matters.

Section 2. The standards, prohibited acts and procedures established herein are in addition to any prohibited acts, conflicts of interest provisions or procedures prescribed by statute of the State of New York and also in addition to common law rules and judicial decisions relating to the conduct of town officers to the extent that the same are more severe in their application than this local law.

ARTICLE II

Code of Ethics

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this local law the term "town" shall mean any board, commission, district, council or other agency, department, or unit of the government of the town of Knox.

The term "town employee" shall mean any officer or employee of the Town of Knox, whether paid or unpaid, whether serving in a full-time, part-time or advisory capacity.

Section 2. Rule with respect to conflicts of interest. No town employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity or incur any obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest.

Section 3. Standards.

a. No town employee shall accept other employment which will impair his independence of judgment in the exercise of his official duties.

b. No town employee shall accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which will require him to disclose confidential information which he has gained by reason of his official position or authority.

c. No town employee shall engage in any transaction as representative or agent of the town with any business entity in which he has a direct or indirect financial interest that might reasonably tend to conflict with the proper discharge of his official duties.

d. No town employee shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others.

e. A town employee shall not by his conduct give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence him or unduly enjoy his favor in the performance of his official duties, or that he is affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person.

f. Each town employee shall abstain from making personal investments in enterprises which he has reason to believe may be directly involved in decisions to be made by him or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between his duty in the public interest and his private interest.

g. Each town employee shall, to the extent that he is cognizant thereof, disclose any interest he may have in legislation before the town board.

h. No town employee shall knowingly accept employment to commence on or after termination of his town employment which will require disclosure of confidential information gained by reason of his official position or authority.

Section 4. Violations. In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any such town employee who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this local law may be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment in the manner provided by law.

ARTICLE III

Board of Ethics

Section 1. There is hereby established a board of ethics consisting of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members to be appointed by the town board, all of whom reside in the town of Knox and who shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the town board of the Town of Knox. A majority of such members shall be persons other than town employees but shall include at least one member who is an elected or appointed town employee of the Town of Knox.

Section 2. The board of ethics established hereunder shall render advisory opinions to town employees on written request and upon request of the town board make recommendations to such town board as to any amendments of this local law. The opinions of the board of ethics shall be advisory and confidential and in no event shall the identity of the town employee be disclosed except to authorized persons and

agencies. Such opinions shall be on the advice of counsel employed by the board of ethics, or if none, of the town attorney.

Section 3. Such board of ethics upon its formation shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as to its form and procedures and shall maintain appropriate records of its opinions and proceedings.

ARTICLE IV

Administration

Section 1. Upon the adoption of this local law, the town supervisor shall cause a copy thereof to be distributed to every town employee of this town. Failure to distribute any such copy or failure of any town employee to receive such copy shall have no effect on the duty of compliance with this code, nor the enforcement of provisions hereof. The town supervisor shall further cause a copy of this local law to be kept posted conspicuously in each public building under the jurisdiction of the town. Failure to so post this local law shall have no effect on the duty of compliance herewith, nor the enforcement provisions hereof.

Section 2. Within thirty days of the adoption of this local law, the town clerk shall file a copy thereof in the office of the state comptroller.

Section 3. The town board may appropriate moneys from the general town funds for the maintenance of and for personnel services to the board of ethics established hereunder, but such board of ethics may not commit the expenditure of town moneys except within the appropriations provided herein.

ARTICLE V

Severability Clause

Section 1. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such

judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

ARTICLE VI

Effective Date

Section 1. This local law shall take effect immediately.

JOHN P. LOMENZO
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
162 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12225

JOHN J. GHEZZI
DEPUTY SECRETARY
DANIEL J. MEAGHER, JR.
DEPUTY SECRETARY
EDWARD L. WARREN
DEPUTY SECRETARY
JACK R. MURATORI
DEPUTY SECRETARY - COUNSEL
MAURICE FLASTERSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

January 5, 1971

Town of Knox
Altamont, R.D. 1, N.Y. 12009

Attention: Alva E. Ostrander, Supervisor

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Local Law No. 1
of 1970 of the Town of Knox
was received and filed on January 5, 1971.

We enclose herewith additional forms for the filing of
local laws for your future use.

Very truly yours,

JOHN P. LOMENZO
Secretary of State

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Wallace".

Thomas W. Wallace
Deputy Secretary of State
Election and Law Bureau

cc: State Comptroller
Division of Municipal Affairs

WD:ps