C O D E

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E T H I C S

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, and after Public Hearing upon due notice given, it is hereby enacted and ordained by the Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York, as follows:

Section 19-1. Pursuant to the provisions of §806 of the General Municipal Law, the Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. It is the purpose of this ordinance to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York. These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of the officers and employees of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York. The rules of ethical conduct of this ordinance as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to any prohibition of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts of municipal officers and employees.

§19-2. Definition

(a) "Municipal officer or employee" means an officer or employee of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York, whether

paid or unpaid, including members of any administrative board, commission or other agency thereof. No person shall be deemed to be a municipal officer or employee solely by reason of being a volunteer fireman or civil defense volunteer, except a Chief Engineer or Asstant Chief Engineer.

(b) "Interest" means a pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer or employee unless the context otherwise requires.

§19-3. Standard of Conduct. Every officer or employee of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

(a) Gifts. He shall not directly, or indirectly, solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift having a value of Twenty-five and no/100 ($25.00) Dollars or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him, or could reasonably be expected to influence him, in the performance of his official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his part.

(b) Confidential Information. He shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him in the course of his official duties or use such information to further his personal interest.

(c) Representation before one's own agency. He shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any municipal agency of which he is an officer, member or employee, or of any municipal agency over which he has jurisdiction or in which he has the power to appoint any member, officer or employee.

(d) Representation before any agency for a contingent fee. He shall not receive, or enter into any agreement express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any agency of his municipality, whereby his compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing, at any time, of fees based upon reasonable value of services rendered.

(e) Disclosure of interests in legislation. To the extent that he knows thereof, a member of the Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York and any officer or employee of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in discussion or gives official opinion to the Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York on any legislation before the said Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York shall publicly disclose on the official

record the nature and extent of any direct, or indirect, financial or other private interest he has in such legislation.

(f) Investments in conflict with official duties. He shall not invest or hold any investment, directly or indirectly in any financial, business, commercial or other private transaction, which creates a conflict with his official duties.

(g) Private employment. He shall not engage in, solicit, negotiate for or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service creates a conflict with, or impairs the proper discharge of official duties.

(h) Future employment. He shall not after the termination of services or employment with such municipality, appear before any board or agency of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he personally participated during the period of his service or employment which was under his active consideration.

(i) Political party position. He shall not, while serving as an elected or appointed Town Officer, member of the Town Board or of any other Board of agency of the Town of Ridgeway, or Town employee, be a committeeman, chairman, vice-chairman or other officer of any Town, County, State or National political party

§19-4. Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former municipal officer or employee of any claim, account, demand or suit against the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York, or any agency thereof on behalf of himself or any member of his family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

§19-5. Distribution of Code of Ethics. The Supervisor of the Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York shall cause a copy of this Code of Ethics to be distributed to every officer and employee of the said Town of Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this ordinance. Each officer and employee elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering the duties of his office or employment.

§19-6. Penalties. In addition to any penalty contained in any other provisions of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this Code may be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment, as the case may be, in the manner provided by law.

§19-7. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

The original Code of Ethics was enacted as an Ordinance on Octover 29, 1970.

§19-3.(i) was added by ordinance on March 13, 1972.

Town Clerk

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE TOWN OF RIDGEWAY

1. The Code of Ethics of the Town of Ridgeway enacted as an Ordinance on October 29, 1970 and amended by Ordinance March 13, 1972 and is hereby further amended by adding thereto the following section; to wit;

Section 19 - 4a - Nepotism.

No person who is related by blood or marriage to any elected official of the Town of Ridgeway shall be employed by the Town except upon the approving vote of four (4) of the five (5) members of the Town Board at a meeting of such Board.

2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the publication and filing thereof as required by law.

Above amendment was voted upon on February 12, 1986 and carried by all.

1. The Code of Ethics of the Town of Ridgeway, enacted as an Ordinance on October 29, 1970 and thereafter from time to time amended, is hereby further amended by changing the dollar amount mentioned in

§19-3(a) from Twenty-five and 00/100 ($25.00) Dollars to Seventy five and 00/100 ($75.00) Dollars so that said Section 19-3 (a) shall read as follows:

(a) Gifts. He shall not directly, or indirectly, solicit any gifts or accept or receive any gift having a value of Seventy-five and 00/100 ($75.00) Dollars or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him, or could reasonably be expected to influence him in the performance of his official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his part.

2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the publication and filing thereof as required by law.

Above amendment was voted upon on May 1, 1990 and carried by all present.