

## 407 Code of Ethics

**Policy Statement** – The Town Board of the Town of Oswegatchie recognizes that there are state statutory provisions mandating Towns to establish rules and standards of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which, if observed, can enhance public confidence in local government. In the light of a tendency today on the part of some people to downgrade our local governments and to discredit our public servants and our free institutions generally, it appears necessary that every effort be made to assure the highest caliber of public administration of this Town as part of our State's important system of local government. It is the purpose of this code to implement this objective through the establishment of standards of conduct, to provide for punishment of violation of such standards, and to create a Board of Ethics to render advisory opinions to the Town's officers and employees as provided for herein.

**Provisions In addition to State Law** – The standards, prohibited acts and procedures established herein are in addition to any prohibited acts, conflicts of interest provisions or procedures prescribed by statutes of the State of New York and also in addition to common law rules and judicial decisions relating to the conduct of town officers and employees to the extent that the same are more severe in their application than this code.

**Definitions** – As used in this Code of Ethics, the term "Town" shall mean any board, commission, district, council or other agency, department or unit of the government of the Town of Oswegatchie. The term "Town Employee" shall mean any officer or employee of the Town of Oswegatchie, whether paid or unpaid, whether serving under full-time, part-time or advisory capacity.

**Rule with Respect to Conflict 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 or her duties in the public interest.

### Standards-

- A. No Town employee shall accept other employment which will impair his or her independence of judgment in the exercise of his or her 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 or she as gained by reason of his or her official position or authority.
- C. No Town employee shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or herself or others.
- D. No Town employee shall engage in any transaction as representative or agent of the town with any business entity in which he or she has a direct or indirect financial interest that might reasonably tend to conflict with the proper discharge of his or her official duties.
- E. No Town employee shall by his or her conduct give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence him or her or that he or she 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 or she has reason to believe may be directly involved in decisions to be made by him or her or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between his or her duty in the public interest and his or her private interest.
- G. Each Town employee shall endeavor to pursue a course of conduct which will not raise suspicion among the public that he or she is likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of his or her trust.
- H. No Town employee employed on a full-time basis, nor any firm or association of which such employee is a member, nor corporation, a substantial portion of the stock of which is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such employee, shall sell goods or services to any person, firm, corporation or association which is licensed or whose rates are fixed by the town in which such employee serves or is employed.

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