Chapter 24

ETHICS, CODE OF

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Benton 12-28-1970. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 24-1. Legislative intent.

The Town Board of the Town of Benton, New York, recognizing 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 town government, hereby establishes a Code of Ethics to promulgate rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the Town of Benton to serve as a guide for official conduct of the officers and employees of the Town of Benton, as follows.

§ 24-2. Conflict with other provisions.

These rules of ethical conduct 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.

§ 24-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

INTEREST — A pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer or employee unless the context otherwise requires.

MUNICIPAL OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE — An officer or employee of the Town of Benton, 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 assistant chief engineer.

§ 24-4. Standards of conduct.

Every officer or employee of the Town of Benton shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

§ 24-6. Distribution of code.

The Supervisor of the Town of Benton shall cause a copy of this Code of Ethics to be distributed to every officer and employee of the Town of Benton within 60 days after the effective date of this chapter. Each officer and employee elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.

§ 24-7. Penalties for offenses.

In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision 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 in § 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

A. He shall not directly or indirectly solicit any gift; or accept or receive any gift having a value of $25 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. 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. 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 any officer, member or employee or of any municipal agency over which he has jurisdiction or to which he has the power to appoint any member, officer or employee.

D. 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 subsection shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.

E. To the extent that he knows thereof, a member of the Town Board, any officer or employee of the Town of Benton, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in the discussion or gives official opinion to the Town Board on any legislation before the Town Board 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. 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. 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 his official duties.

H. He shall not, after the termination of service or employment with such municipality, appear before any board or agency of the Town of Benton in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he personally participated during the period of his service or employment or which was under his active consideration.

§ 24-5. Filing of claims.

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 Benton 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.