

**TOWN OF OXFORD**  
**ORDINANCE # 44**  
**ETHICS ORDINANCE**

**SECTION 1: TITLE AND PURPOSE**

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Oxford Ethics Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate, limit and control certain administrative actions of town officials and employees in the town, including unethical actions of those officials and employees, as determined in this ordinance.

**SECTION 2: DECLARATION OF POLICY**

- A. It is declared that certain administrative actions of town officials and town employees are to be regulated, permitted, or limited to allow the official's and employee's actions to occur in an ethical, timely and efficient manner.
- B. It is declared that high moral and ethical standards among town officials and town employees are essential to the conduct of free government and that the town board believes that a code of ethics for the guidance of town officials and town employees will help them avoid conflicts between their personal interests and their public responsibilities, will improve standards of public service, and will promote and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the town in their town public officials and employees.
- C. It is the intent of the town board that the town officials and town employees in their administrative operations shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the rights of individuals affected and the town and its government from improper, dishonest, and inefficient conduct of its town officials and town employees.
- D. The town board reaffirms by this ordinance that a town official or employee holds his or her position as a public trust, and any effort to realize personal gain through official conduct is a violation of that trust.

This ordinance does not prevent any town official or employee from accepting other employment or following any pursuit that in no way interferes with the full and faithful discharge of his or her duties to this town. The town board recognizes all of the following:

- 1. That town officials and town employees are drawn from society and, therefore, cannot and should not be without all personal and economic interest in the decisions and policies of government.
- 2. That town officials and town employees retain their rights as citizens to interests of a personal or economic nature.
- 3. That standards of ethical conduct for town officials and town employees need to distinguish between minor and inconsequential conflicts that are unavoidable in a free society and conflicts that are substantial and material.

4. That town officials and town employees may need to engage in employment, professional, or business activities, other than official duties, in order to support themselves or their families and to maintain a continuity of professional or business activity, or may need to maintain investments, which activities or investments to not conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

### **SECTION 3: AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION**

This ordinance, adopted pursuant to s. 1959, Wis. Stats., by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the town to regulate, permit, or limit certain acts of certain town officials and town employees in the town.

### **SECTION 4: APPLICABILITY**

This ordinance applies to all town board officials and town employees.

### **SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

### **SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance is effective on posting to the Town Hall notice box and Town of Oxford website.

The town clerk shall properly post this ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022

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Keith Wohlfert, Chairman

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Mark Maier, Supervisor

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Stephen Klump, Supervisor

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Mary P Walters, Clerk