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CLINTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MOVE FOR COMPREHENSIVE ETHIC POLICY

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI – Trustees Michael Keys, Joie West and Treasurer Paul Gielegghem issued the call for a comprehensive Ethics Policy for township elected officials and all township employees. In the letter that placed the motion on the August 20, 2018, Board of Trustees agenda, the three township-wide elected officials provide the general provisions that must be addressed and then call on the Township Attorney and the Human Resources Director to draft the policy for presentation to the board.

“With this comprehensive ethics policy, we are saying to the public that everyone, from the elected officials to our lowest paid employees are going to uphold the highest standards of accountability, transparency and personal responsibility in the delivery of service and the expenditure of public funds,” said Trustee Joie West. “With this policy, we are giving our employees the tools they need to meet these rigorous standards.”

The wide-ranging provisions designated for drafting in the policy are:

1. Gift Ban—to prohibit elected officials and employees from soliciting or accepting a gift from any entity or employee of any entity contracting with the Township.
2. Financial Disclosure--require Township elected officials complete a financial disclosure form that list all sources of income, property interests and assets for themselves and their spouse.

3. Private Business Disclosure—require township elected officials and employees disclose any interest in a private business held by themselves, or a member of their immediate family, seeking to business with Clinton Township.
4. Nepotism--require township elected officials and employees disclose any relatives that may be employed by the Township.
5. Ethic Training—direct the Human Resources Department develop an online ethics training program to be administered to all Township employees.
6. Political Donation Ban—prohibit elected official from soliciting political donations from township employees or township contractors.
7. Document Disclosures--Require anything printed, designed, produced, or distributed using Township resources that includes the name, photo or image of an elected official include "PROVIDED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE."
8. Ethics Webpage—require the Township's homepage include a link to the Ethics webpage that features a copy of the Ethics Policy, the Purchasing and Bid Policy, an updated list of Township Vendors, an archive of documented financial disclosure forms, blank and blank disclosure forms.

"The provisions of this policy send a clear message to everyone within our organization that the opportunity to serve our residents is a privilege," said Treasurer Paul Gielegthem. "It is our responsibility to go out every day with that mindset and strive to earn and maintain their trust."

The conviction of former Trustee Dean Reynolds and the surprising revelation by the Township Planning Director of his participation in the fraud conspiracy, sent shockwaves through the community and prompted both internal and external investigations.

"As elected representatives on this board, we need to do all that we can to restore the faith and trust that our residents have in the way their local government is being run," said Trustee Michael Keys, "A real ethic policy combined with an education component will go a long way towards preventing these activities in the future."

"We are blessed to have great, dedicated Township employees who make it their personal mission to serve honorably," said West. "This policy, actually honors their commitment by ensuring everyone upholds the high standards of ethical conduct."

"The Ethics Webpage complete with the personal disclosures, is the way we ensure the public that their interest is being served, rather than self-interest at the expense of our taxpayers," added Keys.

The Clinton Township Board of Trustees will begin deliberations on the Ethics Policy at the next regularly schedule, Board Meeting on Monday August 20, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., at the Township Civic Center located at 40700 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038.

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