



RECEIVED

2020 MAR 17 P 4:49

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

<b>Representative Town Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
<b>March 11, 2020 8:00 p.m.</b>

Moderator: Dennis T. Flanigan	Clerk: Donna Laich
Majority Leader: Ray Ingraham	Minority Leader: Tom Brockett

**1. Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Rep. Adelman, Rep. Alfone, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Austin, Rep. Black, Rep. Brockett, Rep. Conklin, Rep. Everson, Rep. Erlanger, Rep. Flanigan, Rep. Greenberg, Rep. Healy, Rep. Hentschel, Rep. Hynes, Rep. Ingraham, Rep. Laich, Rep. Lombardi, Rep. Sember, Rep. Sires, Rep. Stepanek, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Twohill

**Members Absent:** Rep. Hakun, Rep. Jackson, Rep. Kelly, Rep. Prete, Rep. Riccio, Rep. Soomro, Rep. Torelli, Rep. Wells

**Ex Officios Present:** 1st Selectman Cosgrove, 2nd Selectman Dunbar, Town Clerk: Arpin

**Ex Officios not present:** Treasurer: Schwanfelder, Town Attorney: Aniskovich, Selectman Higgins

**2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings:**

- a. Rep. Brockett made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12th RTM meeting. The motion was 2nd by Rep. Ingraham and unanimously approved.

**3. Reception of communications, reports of committees, and citizen petitions:**

Moderator Flannigan read the following communications:

- a. March Madness Food Collection for "Feed Branford Kids" (attached)
- b. Citizen Petition - Tabor Property (attached). Moderator Flannigan referred to Administrative Services Committee
- c. Citizen Petition - Parkside Housing (attached). Moderator Flannigan referred to the Rules and Ordinances Committee.

- e. Citizen Petition - Atlantic Wharf (attached). Moderator Flannigan referred to Administrative Services Committee
- f. Citizen Petition - Jarvis Creek (attached). Moderator Flannigan referred to the Administrative Services Committee.
- g. Resident Wayne Cook requested 6 letters dated March 10, 2020 be read into the record. The moderator declined Mr. Cook’s request as the letters were not submitted in a timely manner.

4. **To consider, and if appropriate, adopt a uniform procedure for Ordinance enforcement pursuant to Town Meeting rules (A236-4.19d)**
  - a. Rep. Black made a motion to re-refer this item. This motion was unanimously approved.
  
5. **To consider, and if appropriate, approve a agreement by and between the Town of Branford and the United Public Services Employees Union Local #010, Parks, Recreation and Custodians, through June 30, 2022.**
  - a. Rep. Black made a motion to approve this item. During discussion Rep. Sullivan objected to the new language of the Union Security Clause. The motion was approved in a Roll call vote (see attached roll call and vote tally).
  
6. **To consider, and if appropriate, approve a agreement by and between the Town of Branford and the United Public Services Employees Union, Local #405, Town Hall through June 30, 2022**
  - a. Rep. Alfone made a motion to approve this item. During discussion Rep. Sullivan objected to the new language of the Union Security Clause. The motion was approved in a Roll call vote (see attached roll call and vote tally).
  
7. **To consider, and if appropriate, create a Blight Ordinance for the Town of Branford.**
  - a. Rep. Black reported that this item was recommended for re-referral in the Rules and Ordinances committee. He made a motion to re-refer; the item was unanimously re-referred.
  
8. **To consider if appropriate, an appropriation from the general fund into the land acquisition fund to provide additional resources for the Crescent Bluff land purchase as per a required condition of the settlement, and to create an appropriation in the land acquisition fund for the total purchase amount; and act on the following resolution:**

**General Fund Transfer:**

<b>From:</b>	10149040-588802	Contingency	(\$25,000)
<b>To:</b>	10150000-599123	Transfer Out Land Acquisition	25,000

**Land Acquisition Fund:**

<b>Increase:</b>	73541020-490010-xxxx	Transfer In	\$25,000
<b>Increase:</b>	73590000-480296-xxxx	Fund Balance Transfer	\$175,000

<b>Increase:</b>	73541020-579610-xxxx	Land Acquisition	\$200,000

**RESOLVED: The RTM approves an appropriation of \$200,000 in the Land Acquisition Fund. This appropriation will be funded through an appropriation from fund balance and transfer from the general fund.**

- a. Rep. Black and Rep. Alfone reported the Ways and Means Committee and the Administrative Services Committee unanimously approved this item and made a joint motion to approve. Rep. Black and Rep. Alfone explained that a settlement involving Crescent Bluff Avenue and years of litigation was in the best interest of the Town. After a lengthy discussion, the RTM unanimously approved the motion. (see attached roll call and vote tally sheet).

**9. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a request from the Human Services Director for the following budget transfers:**

<b>From:</b>	21844010-533900	Other Purchased Services	(\$33,620)
<b>To:</b>	21844010-518250	Seasonal/Part-time Help	33,620

<b>From:</b>	21844010-533900	Other Purchased Services	(\$4,000)
<b>To:</b>	21844010-579300	Furniture & Fixtures	4,000

- a. Rep Alfone reported this item passed the Administrative Services Committee 6-0 and made a motion for approval of this item. The item carried unanimously.

**10. To consider a request from the First Selectman regarding an appropriation of \$14,000 for the creation of an emergency management stipend account.**

- a. Rep. Black reported this item passed Ways and Means Committee by a 4-1 vote. Rep. Alfone reported this item passed the Administrative Services Committee with a 4-2 vote. Rep. Black and Rep. Alfone made a joint motion to approve this item. Rep. Brockett offered a minority report from the Ways and Means Committee. After a lengthy discussion, the motion was approved with Reps. Brockett, Everson, Laich, Sember, Stepanek, and Sullivan dissenting.

**11. To consider, and if appropriate, approve an appropriation in the Coastal Resiliency Fund for the purchase of a property and structure located at 17 Creek Court and act on the resolution:**

**Coastal Resiliency Fund:**

<b>Increase:</b>	740-90000-480296-xxxx	Fund Balance Transfer	\$125,000
<b>Increase:</b>	740-41020-579610-xxxx	Land Acquisition	125,000

**RESOLVED: The RTM approves an appropriation of \$125,000 in the Coastal Resiliency Fund. This appropriation will be funded through an appropriation from fund balance.**

- a. Rep. Alfone reported this matter came before the Administrative Services Committee and after a lengthy discussion the matter was unanimously re-referred. Rep Black of the Ways and Means Committee also reported that committee agreed to re-refer. A joint motion to re-refer was offered and the item was re-referred.

**12. Any other business to come before RTM.**

- a. Rep. Sullivan brought up two items discussed at the Rules and Ordinances Committee ; the repeal of the Town Water Commission and an ordinance regarding piggeries. He asked that both be formally placed on the Rules and Ordinances agenda.
- b. Resident Wayne Cook handed out a booklet entitled “Fighting Small Town Corruption. Mr. Cook also spoke about the removal of his signs.

**13. Adjournment.**

- a. Rep. Brockett made a motion to adjourn, the motion was 2nd by Rep. Ingraham.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 8:59

Dated this 11th day of March 2020  
Respectfully submitted,

Donna Laich  
Clerk-Branford RTM

BRANFORD RTM RECORDED VOTES

**RTM Roll Call List ~ 3-11-2020**

	NAME	ATTENDANCE	ITEM 5	ITEM 6	ITEM 8	
1	ADELMAN	present	yes	yes	yes	
2	ALFONE	present	yes	yes	yes	
3	ANDERSON	present	yes	yes	yes	
4	AUSTIN	present	yes	yes	yes	
5	BLACK	present	yes	yes	yes	
6	BROCKETT	present	yes	yes	yes	
7	CONKLIN	present	yes	yes	yes	
8	EVERSON	present	yes	yes	yes	
9	ERLANGER	present	yes	yes	yes	
10	FLANIGAN	present	-	-	-	
11	GREENBERG	present	yes	yes	yes	
12	HAKUN	ABS	-	-	-	
13	HEALY	present	yes	yes	yes	
14	HENTSCHEL	present	yes	yes	yes	
15	HYNES	present	yes	yes	yes	
16	INGRAHAM	present	yes	yes	yes	
17	JACKSON	ABS	-	-	-	
18	KELLY	ABS	-	-	-	
19	LAICH	present	yes	yes	yes	
20	LOMBARDI	present	yes	yes	yes	
21	PRETE	ABS	-	-	-	
22	RICCIO	ABS	-	-	-	
23	SEMBER	present	yes	yes	yes	
24	SIRES	present	yes	yes	yes	
25	SOOMRO	ABS	-	-	-	
26	STEPANEK	present	yes	yes	yes	
27	SULLIVAN	present	no	no	yes	
28	TORELLI	ABS	-	-	-	
29	TWOHILL	present	yes	yes	yes	
30	WELLS	ABS	-	-	-	
	Total					
	Ex Officios					
	1st Selectman Cosgrove	present				
	2nd Selectman Dunbar	present				
	Town Clerk Arpin	present				
	Treasurer Schwanfelder					
	Town Attorney Aniskovich					
	Selectman Higgins					

RECEIVED  
 2020 MAR 17 P 11:49  
 TOWN OF BRANFORD

**CITIZEN'S PETITION  
BRANFORD, CT**

In accordance with the Branford Town Code, Part II, General Legislation, chapter A236, Section K, Subsection 4: Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifty (50) electors asking that an item of Town business be placed on the agenda of the RTM, the moderator shall place such item on the agenda for consideration by the RTM.

MEETING DATE:
AGENDA ITEM:
<p><b>"An examination of the 77-acre Tabor property, its current use, and the development of a master plan".</b></p> <p align="center" style="background-color: yellow;"><b>Referred to: Admin. Services 3/11/2020</b></p>

RECEIVED  
 2020 MAR -9 A 9:51

CIRCULATOR'S NAME	CIRCULATORS ADDRESS	CIRCULATOR'S SIGNATURE
<b>Paul Kenney</b>	<b>15 Ark Road</b>	

I, Lisa Arpin, Branford Town Clerk, acknowledge that the above circulator is an elector in the Town of Branford, CT.

Signature of Town Clerk

3/9/2020  
Date

We, the undersigned, being electors in the Town of Branford, do hereby petition the agenda item, aforementioned in this document, be included in the Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda.

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 1.	Todd Petrowski	12-31-78	S. Montrose 67
✓ 2.	Jennifer Ryan		104 South Montrose
✓ 3.	Brian Nichols		12 Greenfield Ave
✓ 4.	Grace Kosciuk		104 S. MONTROSE ST
✓ 5.	Michael Perricone	Perricone	21 Garden Street
✓ 6.	Nancy Petrowski		67 S. Montrose St
✓ 7.	Paul Kenney		15 Ark Rd
✓ 8.	Edward Shepard		27 Circle Dr.
✓ 9.	Rick Colburn	Norman R.	44 Marshall Rd
✓ 10.	Michael Roth	2-11-55	Marshall Pl.
✓ 11.	Tracy Roth		" "
✓ 12.	Dave Fitch	Fitch	54 Ark
✓ 13.	Sharon Farnsworth		18 Ark Rd Branford
✓ 14.	Eugene Carman		29 Woodside Dr
✓ 15.	Josephine Golia		54 Indian Neck Ave
✓ 16.	EDWARD E. LEIDEMAN		101-18 FLORENCE RD
✓ 17.	DAVID ALMEIDA		36 MONTROSE DR.
✓ 18.	Scott Nichols		5 Summer Island Pt
✓ 19.	SUSAN BRUCE		100 HEMLOCK DR
✓ 20.	Ernest Johnson		15 SUZAN ST

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 21. <i>Mark Sansone</i>	Mark Sansone		3 S. Montowese St
✓ 22. <i>Solario Viglione</i>	Solario Viglione	Viglione	85 CHOATE ST
✓ 23. <i>Greg Catania</i>	Greg Catania	Catania	20 Fernside
✓ 24. <i>Cindy Bloomquist</i>	Cindy Bloomquist		86 South Montowese St
✓ 25. <i>John P. Jambona</i>	John P. Jambona		36 26 Italia Neck Ave
✓ 26. <i>Salvatore Viglione</i>	SALVATORE VIGLIONE	Viglione	88 CHESTNUT ST. BRANFORD CT
✓ 27. <i>Joe Riga</i>	Joe Riga	Riga	69 Rorer Str
✓ 28. <i>Cina Suppa</i>	Cina Suppa	Suppa	25 Beechwood Rd
✓ 29. <i>Flario Suppa</i>	Flario Suppa	Flario Suppa	28 Beechwood Rd
✓ 30. <i>Wayne N. Coosie</i>	WAYNE N. COOSIE		612 EAST MAIN ST.
✓ 31. <i>James J. Medlyn</i>	JAMES J Medlyn		710 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 32. <i>James J. Medlyn</i>	James J Medlyn	? 710	598 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 33. <i>Debra Levi</i>	Debra Levi		131 North Main St
✓ 34. <i>Cara Hennessey</i>	Cara Hennessey		208 DAMASCUS RD.
✓ 35. <i>Donald Hennessey</i>	Donald Hennessey		208 DAMASCUS RD
✓ 36. <i>Laurel Medlyn</i>	Laurel Medlyn		70 Leetes Is Rd
✓ 37. <i>Philip Brencher</i>	PHILIP BRENCHE		1 Ridge Rd
✓ 38. <i>Robert Reilly</i>	ROBERT REILLY	? (9)	19 OLD NEW ENGLAND RD
✓ 39. <i>Robert Costanzo</i>	ROBERT COSTANZO		33 WILLOW AVENUE
✓ 40. <i>Rosemary Costanzo</i>	Rosemary Costanzo		33 Willow Ave
✓ 41. <i>Jeffrey Fisher</i>	Jeffrey Fisher		27 Litchford Ave
✓ 42. <i>Debbie Cassella</i>	DEBBIE CASSOLA		21 Indianwoods Rd
✓ 43. <i>Ron Cassella</i>	Ron Cassella		21 Ingham Neck Rd
✓ 44. <i>Tracy Masotta</i>	Tracy Masotta		40 Kelly Crest Rd
✓ 45. <i>Son Florio</i>	Son Florio	Florio	489 Shore Dr
✓ 46. <i>Gina Vastola</i>	Gina Vastola	Gina Vastola	36 26 Bay Path Way
✓ 47. <i>Edwam M Grant</i>	EDWARD M GRANT		93 Montowese St
✓ 48. <i>Donna McGuire</i>	Donna McGuire	McGuire	57 Peddler's Drive
✓ 49. <i>John Ream</i>	John Ream	Ream	26 Bay Path Way
✓ 50. <i>Landano</i>	Landano	Landano	19 Hendon Rd
* NO 51. <i>David Carpanelli</i>	David Carpanelli	36 Applewood?	154 Maple St. Bld.
✓ 52. <i>Debra Mancinelli</i>	Debra Mancinelli		130 Ingle St BFD
✓ 53. <i>John Graham</i>	John Graham	Graham	12 Kirkham Ct
✓ 54. <i>Mac Andree</i>	Mac Andree	Andree	107 S. Main St. BFD
✓ 55. <i>Alisa Dzedzic</i>	Alisa Dzedzic	Dzedzic	12 Pavilion Court
✓ 56. <i>Jacey Wyatt</i>	JACEY WYATT		84 East Main Street Bld
✓ 57. <i>Debra Danello</i>	Debra Danello		22 Pavilion Ct Bfd.
✓ 58. <i>Charlotte Danello</i>	CHARLOTTE DANIELLO		22 PAVILION CT
✓ 59. <i>Mike Zarrillo</i>	Mike Zarrillo	Zarrillo	22 PAVILION CT
✓ 60. <i>Gordon Wilkinson</i>	Gordon Wilkinson	(19)	19 Huntington Ridge Farm Rd

CERTIFICATION BY TOWN CLERK

I, the Town Clerk of Branford, CT, hereby certify, that the number of signers of this 'Citizen's Petition', being electors in the Town of Branford, totals 59.

The aforementioned agenda item is eligible  /is not eligible  to be placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda. (MEETING DATE)

*Wm Starpin*  
Signature of Town Clerk

3/9/2020  
Date

**CITIZEN'S PETITION  
BRANFORD, CT**

In accordance with the Branford Town Code, Part II, General Legislation, chapter A236, Section K, Subsection 4: Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifty (50) electors asking that an item of Town business be placed on the agenda of the RTM, the moderator shall place such item on the agenda for consideration by the RTM.

MEETING DATE:
AGENDA ITEM:
<p>“An examination of past and present living conditions at the Parkside Village housing complex and its oversight by the Branford Housing Authority.”</p> <p align="center"><b>Referred to: Rules &amp; Ord. 3/11/2020</b></p>

RECEIVED  
2020 MAR - 9 AM

CIRCULATOR'S NAME <b>Todd Petrowski</b>	CIRCULATORS ADDRESS <b>67 South Montowese St.</b>	CIRCULATOR'S SIGNATURE 
--	--	----------------------------

I, Lisa Arpin, Branford Town Clerk, acknowledge that the above circulator is an elector in the Town of Branford, CT.

*Lisa Arpin*

3/9/2020

Signature of Town Clerk

Date

We, the undersigned, being electors in the Town of Branford, do hereby petition the agenda item, aforementioned in this document, be included in the Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda.

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
	Todd Petrowski	12-31-78	67 S. Montowese
	Jennifer Ryan		104 South Montowese
	Brian Nichols		12 Bramfield Ave
	GRACE KOSCIUK		104 S. MONTOWESE ST
	Michael Perriery	4/25/69	21 Cardan Street
	Peter Murphy		25 Milo Dr.
	Nancy Petrowski		67 S. Montowese St
	Paul Kenney		15 Ark Rd
	Edward Shepard		27 Circle Dr.
	Rick Callahan	Norman R.	44 Warwick Rd
	Michael Roth	2-11-55	1 Marshall Pl.
	Tracy Roth		" "
	Dave Fitch	Fitch	54 Ark
	Sharon Farnsworth		18 Ark Rd Branford
	EUGENE CASANOVA		29 Woodside Dr
	Josephine Galia		54 Indian Neck Ave.
	Kahn Pernone	1/22/72	21 Cardan Street
	EDWARD E. LEUERMAN		101-1B FLORENCE RD
	DAVID ALMEIDA		36 MORRIS DR
	Scott Nichols		5 Summer Street Pt



MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
<i>[Signature]</i>	SUBAN BRUCE		100 HEMLOCK RD #10-1
<i>[Signature]</i>	ERNEST JOHNSON		15 SWIFT ST
<i>[Signature]</i>	MARK SANSONE		3 S. MONTOWESE ST.
<i>[Signature]</i>	JOHANN VIGLIONE	Viglione	85 CHESTNUT ST
<i>[Signature]</i>	GRAN MARI	Catarina	26 PLUM RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	CINDY BLOOMFELD		86 South Montowese St
<i>[Signature]</i>	JOHN P. DEWANTA		36 TADDAH NAKA RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	SAIVATARE VIGLIONE	Viglione	88 CHESTNUT ST Branford, CT
<i>[Signature]</i>	JOE RIVA	Riva	09 Roach Street
<i>[Signature]</i>	CINDY SUPPA		26 Beechwood Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	FRANK SUPPA		26 Beechwood Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	WATNE N. COOKE		612 EAST MAIN ST
<i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES J. MEDLYN		710 Leetes Island Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES J. MEDLYN		598 Leetes Island Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	DELORA LEVI	Levi	131 North Main St
<i>[Signature]</i>	CASA HENNESSY		208 DANASCUS RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	DONALD HENNESSY		208 DANASCUS RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	LAUREL MEDLYN		710 Leetes Island Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	PHILIP BREWSTER		1 PIPER RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	ROBERT KELLY	9?	19 OLD NEW ENGLAND RD
<i>[Signature]</i>	ROSEMARY COSTANZO		33 WILFORD AVE
<i>[Signature]</i>	ROBERT COSTANZO		33 WILFORD AVENUE
<i>[Signature]</i>	EMISE CASSELLA	Cassella	21 Polignac Ave
<i>[Signature]</i>	BON CASSELLA		21 Indian Wood Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	TRACEY MASOTTI		44 Kelly Crest Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	JIM FLORIO	Florio	495 WINDY PT
<i>[Signature]</i>	EDWARD M. GRANT	Vastola	26 BONDANWAY
<i>[Signature]</i>	EDWARD M. GRANT		93 MONTOWESE ST.
<i>[Signature]</i>	DONALD MCGUIRE	McGuire	57 Peckers Drive
<i>[Signature]</i>	SONA REAM	Ream	21 Bay Farm Way
<i>[Signature]</i>	DAVID COMPARELLI	36 Applewood?	154 Maple St Branford
<i>[Signature]</i>	DEB COMPARELLI		130 MAPLE ST BRAN
<i>[Signature]</i>	JOSH GRAHAM		12 Pavilion Ct
<i>[Signature]</i>	MARCELA ANDREE	Andree	107 Main St. Branford
<i>[Signature]</i>	ALISA DZIEDZIC	Dziedzic	12 Pavilion Court
<i>[Signature]</i>	STEPHANIE DIANNI		22 Pavilion Ct Bran
<i>[Signature]</i>	CHARLOTTE DIANNI		22 PAVILION CT
<i>[Signature]</i>	WHE ZARRILLO	Zarrillo	22 PAVILION CT
<i>[Signature]</i>	JACQUELYNNE		81 East Main St Branford
<i>[Signature]</i>	GILLON WILKINSON		19 Hunting Ridge Farm Rd

CERTIFICATION BY TOWN CLERK

I, the Town Clerk of Branford, CT, hereby certify, that the number of signers of this 'Citizen's Petition', being electors in the Town of Branford, totals 59.

The aforementioned agenda item is eligible  / is not eligible  to be placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda. (MEETING DATE)

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Town Clerk

3/9/2020  
Date

CITIZEN'S PETITION  
BRANFORD, CT

In accordance with the Branford Town Code, Part II, General Legislation, chapter A236, Section K, Subsection 4: Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifty (50) electors asking that an item of Town business be placed on the agenda of the RTM, the moderator shall place such item on the agenda for consideration by the RTM.

MEETING DATE:  
 AGENDA ITEM:  
 "An examination of potential improprieties occurring during Costco's Inland Wetlands application and independent peer review process, along with an examination of the investigation into the matter promised by the first selectman."  
 Referred to:  
 Rules & Ord. 3/11/2020

CIRCULATOR'S NAME WAYNE N. COOKE	CIRCULATORS ADDRESS 612 EAST MAIN ST.	CIRCULATOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Wayne N. Cooke</i>
-------------------------------------	--	---

I, Lisa Arpin, Branford Town Clerk, acknowledge that the above circulator is an elector in the Town of Branford, CT.

*Lisa Arpin*  
Signature of Town Clerk

*3/9/2020*  
Date

We, the undersigned, being electors in the Town of Branford, do hereby petition the agenda item, aforementioned in this document, be included in the Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda.

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
<i>Theresa N. Goclowski</i>	Theresa N. Goclowski	<i>10/18/63</i>	<i>1 Damberg Pl</i>
<i>Elissa Goclowski</i>	Elissa Goclowski	<i>12-25-81</i>	<i>168 Montowese St REAR</i>
<i>David Goclowski</i>	David Goclowski	<i>6-28-55</i>	<i>1 Jamburg Pl, Bldg.</i>
<i>T. del Petrowski</i>	T. del Petrowski	<i>12-31-78</i>	<i>67 S. Montowese</i>
<i>Kennifer Ryan</i>	Kennifer Ryan		<i>104 South Montowese</i>
<i>Brian Nichols</i>	Brian Nichols		<i>72 Broadfield Ave</i>
<i>Grace Kosciuk</i>	Grace Kosciuk		<i>104 S. Montowese St</i>
<i>Muhuel Perriere</i>	Muhuel Perriere	<i>4/25/69</i>	<i>21 Garden Street</i>
<i>Peter Murphy</i>	Peter Murphy		<i>25 Milo Dr</i>
<i>Nancy Petrowski</i>	Nancy Petrowski		<i>67 S. Montowese St</i>
<i>Paul Kenney</i>	Paul Kenney		<i>15 Ark Rd</i>
<i>Josephine Golia</i>	Josephine Golia		<i>54 Indian Neck Ave</i>
<i>Karn Perniere</i>	Karn Perniere	<i>1/22/72</i>	<i>21 Garden St</i>
<i>Edward E. Leu Edman</i>	EDWARD E. LEU EDMAN		<i>101-1B FLORENCE RD</i>
<i>David Almeida</i>	DAVID ALMEIDA		<i>36 MONTWA DR</i>
<i>Scott Nichols</i>	Scott Nichols		<i>5 Summer Island Pl</i>
<i>Susan Bruce</i>	SUSAN BRUCE		<i>100 HEMLOCK RD #10-1</i>
<i>Ernst Johnson</i>	ERNEST JOHNSON		<i>15 Swift St</i>
<i>Mick Sarsore</i>	Mick Sarsore		<i>3 So. Montowese St.</i>
<i>John Dighton</i>	JOHN DIGHTON		<i>88 Chestnut St</i>

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 21. <i>Sharon Farnsworth</i>	Sharon Farnsworth		18 Ark Rd
✓ 22. <i>Gregory M. Catania</i>	Gregory M. Catania	Catania	26 Fenwick Rd
✓ 23. <i>Cindy Bloomquist</i>	Cindy Bloomquist		86 South Main St
✓ 24. <i>John F. Donovan</i>	John F. Donovan	Donovan	36 Tallich Meck Ave
✓ 25. <i>Vigilione</i>	Vigilione	Vigilione	85 Chesnut St. Branford
✓ 26. <i>Sara Riga</i>	Sara Riga	Riga	69 Roger Street
✓ 27. <i>Anna Suppa</i>	Anna Suppa	Suppa	28 Beachwood Rd
✓ 28. <i>James J. Cook</i>	JAMES J. COOKE		28 Beachwood Rd
✓ 29. <i>James J. Cook</i>	JAMES J. COOKE		612 EAST MAIN ST.
✓ 30. <i>James J. Cook</i>	JAMES J. COOKE		710 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 31. <i>Levi</i>	Levi	710?	698 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 32. <i>Levi</i>	Levi	Levi	131 North Main St
✓ 33. <i>Cara Hennessy</i>	Cara Hennessy		205 Pampa Scuf Rd
✓ 34. <i>Donald Hennessy</i>	Donald Hennessy		205 Pampa Scuf Rd
✓ 35. <i>James J. Cook</i>	JAMES J. COOKE		710 Leetes Isl Rd
✓ 36. <i>Robert Kelly</i>	ROBERT KELLY	①?	1 Ridge Rd.
✓ 37. <i>Robert Kelly</i>	ROBERT KELLY		19 OLD NEW ENGLAND RD
✓ 38. <i>Robert Kelly</i>	ROBERT KELLY		33 WILFORD AVE
✓ 39. <i>Rosemary Costanzo</i>	Rosemary Costanzo		33 Wilford Ave
✓ 40. <i>Robert Kelly</i>	ROBERT KELLY		27 Wilford Ave
✓ 41. <i>Donna McKeown</i>	Donna McKeown		21 Indian Wood Ln
✓ 42. <i>Ron Cassella</i>	RON CASSELLA		21 Indian Wood Ln
✓ 43. <i>Tracey Macotta</i>	Tracey Macotta		44 Kelly Crest Rd
✓ 44. <i>Florio</i>	Florio	Florio	419 Shore Dr
✓ 45. <i>Vastola</i>	Vastola	Vastola	26 Bay St
✓ 46. <i>Edward M. Grant</i>	EDWARD M. GRANT		93 Montowese St
✓ 47. <i>Donna McKeown</i>	Donna McKeown	McGuire	47 Middlefield Drive
✓ 48. <i>Ream</i>	Ream	Ream	36 Bay St
✓ 49. <i>Laudano</i>	Laudano	Laudano	17 Montowese St
* 50. <i>36 Applewood?</i>	36 Applewood?	36 Applewood?	144 Napel St
✓ 51. <i>Debra Mancinelli</i>	Debra Mancinelli		150 McKeown St BFD
✓ 52. <i>John Graham</i>	John Graham	Graham	12 Pavilion Ct
✓ 53. <i>Alison Dziedzic</i>	Alison Dziedzic	Dziedzic	12 Pavilion Court
✓ 54. <i>Mark Andree</i>	Mark Andree	Mark Andree	107 S. Main St BFD
✓ 55. <i>Stephanie D'Amello</i>	Stephanie D'Amello		22 Pavilion Ct. Bfd
✓ 56. <i>Charlotta D'Amello</i>	Charlotta D'Amello		22 PAVILLION CT
✓ 57. <i>Mike Zarrillo</i>	Mike Zarrillo		22 Pavilion Ct
✓ 58. <i>Carolyn Light</i>	Carolyn Light		84 Eastman St Branford
✓ 59. <i>Carolyn Light</i>	Carolyn Light		84 Eastman St Branford
✓ 60. <i>Talitha Tramuta</i>	Talitha Tramuta		27 WILFORD AVE

CERTIFICATION BY TOWN CLERK

I, the Town Clerk of Branford, CT, hereby certify, that the number of signers of this 'Citizen's Petition', being electors in the Town of Branford, totals 59.

The aforementioned agenda item is eligible  / is not eligible  to be placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda. (MEETING DATE)

*W. E. Anpin*  
Signature of Town Clerk

3/9/2020  
Date



MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 21. <i>[Signature]</i>	Paul Kenney		10 Ark Rd
✓ 22. <i>[Signature]</i>	Josephine Golla		29 Woodside Dr
✓ 23. <i>[Signature]</i>	Josephine Golla		54 Indian Neck Ave
✓ 24. <i>[Signature]</i>	EDWARD E. LEIDERMAN		101-18 FLORENCE RD
✓ 25. <i>[Signature]</i>	DAVID ALMEIDA		36 MONTOMA DR
✓ 26. <i>[Signature]</i>	Scott Nichols		5 Summer Island Pt
✓ 27. <i>[Signature]</i>	STEAD BRUCE		100 HEMLOCK RD
✓ 28. <i>[Signature]</i>	Ernest Johnson		15 SWIFT ST
✓ 29. <i>[Signature]</i>	Mark Sansone		556 Montowese St.
✓ 30. <i>[Signature]</i>	SOPHIA DIAGONO		88 Chestnut St
✓ 31. <i>[Signature]</i>	Sharon Fagan Smith		18 Ark Rd
✓ 32. <i>[Signature]</i>	Gayla Miller	989 Catania	26 Fenway Rd
✓ 33. <i>[Signature]</i>	Cindy Bloomquist		86 South Montowese St
✓ 34. <i>[Signature]</i>	WAYNE N. COOKE		612 EAST MAIN ST.
✓ 35. <i>[Signature]</i>	John F. Donohue		36 Tudor Neck Ave.
✓ 36. <i>[Signature]</i>	SAVITRI VIKTOR		Gratesford V. Branford Ct.
✓ 37. <i>[Signature]</i>	See Riga	Riga	89 Rancor Street
✓ 38. <i>[Signature]</i>	Gina Suppa		25 Beechwood Rd
✓ 39. <i>[Signature]</i>	Franco Suppa		28 Beechwood Rd
✓ 40. <i>[Signature]</i>	James J. Medlyn		710 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 41. <i>[Signature]</i>	James J. Medlyn		698 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 42. <i>[Signature]</i>	Debra Kay Lind		131 North Main St
✓ 43. <i>[Signature]</i>	Carol Medlyn		70 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 44. <i>[Signature]</i>	Donald Hennessey		208 Damascus Rd
✓ 45. <i>[Signature]</i>	Cara Hennessey		208 DAMASCUS RD
✓ 46. <i>[Signature]</i>	PHILIP BRENCHEK		1 RIDGE Rd
✓ 47. <i>[Signature]</i>	ROBERT Reilly		19 Old New England Rd
✓ 48. <i>[Signature]</i>	Catherine Seibyl		14 Wilford Ave
✓ 49. <i>[Signature]</i>	John Seibyl MD		14 Wilford Ave
✓ 50. <i>[Signature]</i>	Harvey M Goldstein		26 Goodsell Pt. Road
✓ 51. <i>[Signature]</i>	JANET E. FISCHER		28 WILFORD AVE
✓ 52. <i>[Signature]</i>	Tracey Masott		44 Kelly Crest Rd
✓ 53. <i>[Signature]</i>	Jon Fluro	Florio	419 Stone Dr
✓ 54. <i>[Signature]</i>	Gina Vastola	Gina Vastola	26 Ripon Way
✓ 55. <i>[Signature]</i>	EDWARD M. GRANT		93 MONTOWESE ST
✓ 56. <i>[Signature]</i>	Donnamcquire		57 Paddlers Drive
✓ 57. <i>[Signature]</i>	Ream	Ream	36 Ripon Way
✓ 58. <i>[Signature]</i>	Landano	Landano	17 Herdley Pt
* 59. <i>[Signature]</i>	David Cannanelli	36 Applewood ?	184 Maple St. Bran
NO 60. <i>[Signature]</i>	Debra Manuelli		130 Maple Street

CERTIFICATION BY TOWN CLERK

I, the Town Clerk of Branford, CT, hereby certify, that the number of signers of this 'Citizen's Petition', being electors in the Town of Branford, totals 59.

The aforementioned agenda item is eligible  / is not eligible  to be placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda. (MEETING DATE)

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Town Clerk

3/9/2020  
Date

**CITIZEN'S PETITION  
BRANFORD, CT**

In accordance with the Branford Town Code, Part II, General Legislation, chapter A236, Section K, Subsection 4: Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifty (50) electors asking that an item of Town business be placed on the agenda of the RTM, the moderator shall place such item on the agenda for consideration by the RTM.

MEETING DATE:  
AGENDA ITEM:

**“An examination of the role of the Town of Branford in the removal of an earthen berm by the Branford Land Trust at Jarvis Creek and the potential for public safety hazards from the resulting flooding of Route 146.”**

**Referred to:  
Admin. Services 3/11/2020**

CIRCULATOR'S NAME <b>Debra Levi</b>	CIRCULATORS ADDRESS <b>131 North Main St. #10</b>	CIRCULATOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Debra Levi</i>
--	--	---

I, Lisa Arpin, Branford Town Clerk, acknowledge that the above circulator is an elector in the Town of Branford, CT.

*Lisa Arpin*

3/9/2020

Signature of Town Clerk

Date

We, the undersigned, being electors in the Town of Branford, do hereby petition the agenda item, aforementioned in this document, be included in the Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda.

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 1. <i>Valerie Wiel Wilkins</i>	Valerie Wiel Wilkins		697 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 2. <i>Gregory Wilkins</i>	Gregory Wilkins	Wilkins	697 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 3. <i>Philip Brecher</i>	PHILIP BRECHER	8/6/55	1 RIDGERD, BRANFORD
✓ 4. <i>William Lazise</i>	William Lazise	(11/25/19)?	69 Stony Creek Rd Branford.
✓ 5. <i>Bob Reilly</i>	Bob Reilly	8/22/40	919 Old New England Rd
✓ 6. <i>Bryan Dougherty</i>	BRYAN DOUGHERTY		676 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 7. <i>Wayne N. Cooke</i>	WAYNE N. COOKE	4/5/1955	612 EAST MAIN STREET
✓ 8. <i>Mark Richter</i>	MARK RICHTER		1 MIMBLE ISLAND RD
✓ 9. <i>Laura Richter</i>	Laura Richter		1 MIMBLE ISLAND RD
✓ 10. <i>Jill Ray</i>	Jill Ray		34 Old Hickory Lane
NO 11. <i>Sean Marston W. Haven</i>	Sean Marston W. Haven	1/15/1979	280 West Main St Apt 4
✓ 12. <i>Gregory Masotta</i>	Gregory Masotta	Masotta	44 Kelly Crest Rd
✓ 13. <i>John Roche</i>	John Roche		14 Springack Rd
NO 14. <i>Erin Infantino</i>	Erin Infantino	Guilford	4 Judson Point Rd
✓ 15. <i>Erin Infantino</i>	Erin Infantino		20 Collins Dr Bfd
✓ 16. <i>James N. Robinson</i>	James N. Robinson	2-7-57	26 Court St. Bfd
✓ 17. <i>Gregory Baker</i>	Gregory Baker	3/5/1971	3 School Street
✓ 18. <i>Todd Retnowski</i>	Todd Retnowski	12-31-78	69 S. Montrose
✓ 19. <i>Grace Kosciuk</i>	Grace Kosciuk		104 J. Montrose St.
✓ 20. <i>James Medlyn Jr</i>	James Medlyn Jr	8/29/96	1598 Leetes Island Rd

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ENROLLED ELECTOR	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTOR	BIRTH DATE	STREET ADDRESS
✓ 21. <i>[Signature]</i>	Jennifer Ryan		104 South Montwese
✓ 22. <i>[Signature]</i>	Brian Nichols		12 Greenland Ave
✓ 23. <i>[Signature]</i>	Michael Perricone		21 Garden Street
✓ 24. <i>[Signature]</i>	Peter Murphy		25 M. 6 Dr
✓ 25. <i>[Signature]</i>	Nancy Petrowski		67 S. Montwese St
✓ 26. <i>[Signature]</i>	Paul Kenney		15 Ark Rd
✓ 27. <i>[Signature]</i>	Josephine Golia		54 Indian Neck Ave.
✓ 28. <i>[Signature]</i>	Edward E. LEIDERMAN		401-18 FLORENCE RD
✓ 29. <i>[Signature]</i>	Dana Almeida		30 Montoya Dr
✓ 30. <i>[Signature]</i>	Scott Nichols		5 Summer Island Pt.
✓ 31. <i>[Signature]</i>	SUBAN BRUCE		100 HENLOCK #10-1
✓ 32. <i>[Signature]</i>	Ernest Johnson		15 SWIFT ST
✓ 33. <i>[Signature]</i>	Mark Sansone		3 So. Montwese St.
✓ 34. <i>[Signature]</i>	JO ANN DIAGIONE		88 Chestnut St
✓ 35. <i>[Signature]</i>	Chara Fagnano		18 Ave Rd
✓ 36. <i>[Signature]</i>	Gina Vastola	Gina Vastola	26 FAUNE
✓ 37. <i>[Signature]</i>	Cindy Blomqvist		86 South Montwese St.
✓ 38. <i>[Signature]</i>	John F. Donovan		36 Indian Neck Ave
✓ 39. <i>[Signature]</i>	Sal Viglione	Sal Viglione	89 Chestnut St. Branford Ct.
✓ 40. <i>[Signature]</i>	Jac Riga	Riga	89 Rorer Street
✓ 41. <i>[Signature]</i>	Gina Suppa		24 Beechwood Rd
✓ 42. <i>[Signature]</i>	Dano Suppa		28 Beechwood Rd
✓ 43. <i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES J MEDLYN		710 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 44. <i>[Signature]</i>	Cara Hennessey		208 Damascus Rd
✓ 45. <i>[Signature]</i>	Laurel Medlyn		710 Leetes Island Rd
✓ 46. <i>[Signature]</i>	Donald Hennessey		208 Damascus Rd
✓ 47. <i>[Signature]</i>	Debra Kay Levi		131 North Main St
✓ 48. <i>[Signature]</i>	ROBERT CASTANZO		33 WILKINSON AVENUE
✓ 49. <i>[Signature]</i>	Rosemary Costanzo		33 Wilkin Ave
✓ 50. <i>[Signature]</i>	Harvey M. Goldstein		26 Goodsell Pt. Road
✓ 51. <i>[Signature]</i>	Denise Cassella	Cassella	21 Indian Neck Ln
✓ 52. <i>[Signature]</i>	KARL CASSELL	" "	21 Indian Neck Ln
✓ 53. <i>[Signature]</i>	JOHN FLORIO	Florio	49A Shore Dr
✓ 54. <i>[Signature]</i>	EDWARD M. DRAWT		93 MONTWESSE ST.
✓ 55. <i>[Signature]</i>	Donna McGuire	McGuire	57 Peddlers Drive
✓ 56. <i>[Signature]</i>	John Ream	REAM	36 S. MONTWESSE ST.
✓ 57. <i>[Signature]</i>	Joanne Landano	Joanne Landano	17 Hatched RE Hatched
* 58. <i>[Signature]</i>	David Concomelli	36 Applewood?	124 Maple St. Branford
✓ 59. <i>[Signature]</i>	Deb Mancinelli		130 Montwese Dr
✓ 60. <i>[Signature]</i>	John Graham	Graham	12 Pavilion ET

CERTIFICATION BY TOWN CLERK

I, the Town Clerk of Branford, CT, hereby certify, that the number of signers of this 'Citizen's Petition', being electors in the Town of Branford, totals 57.

The aforementioned agenda item is eligible  /is not eligible  to be placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ Branford Representative Town Meeting agenda. (MEETING DATE)

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Town Clerk

3/10/2020  
Date

**Wayne N. Cooke**  
612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796

March 10, 2020

Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford RTM  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

It is asked that the following item be placed on the RTM agenda and sent to the appropriate committee:

“An examination of Connecticut General Statute 8-30g, the history of its use in Branford, and possible strategies for preventing its misuse now and in the future.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke

REC'D  
2020 MAR 11 A 9:11  
TOWN HALL



3g.(2)

## Wayne N. Cooke

612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796

March 10, 2020

Branford RTM  
c/o Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

Enclosed is a copy of an article "Fighting 'Small Town' Corruption: How to Obtain Accountability, Oversight, and Transparency" published by the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity.

In light of what an increasing number of citizens consider to be the occurrence of fraud, corruption, and cover-up in Branford Town Hall, it is asked that this article be referred to the RTM Rules & Ordinance Committee for thorough consideration and the subsequent establishment of an improved Code of Ethics.

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke

PHOTO COPY  
2020 MAR 11 A 9:11  
BRANFORD TOWN HALL

CENTER FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
PUBLIC  
INTEGRITY

# Fighting “Small Town” Corruption

How to Obtain Accountability, Oversight, and Transparency

RECEIVED

2023 MAR 11 AM 11:21

LIBRARY OF THE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

## About:

### Author:

This toolkit was prepared by the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity (CAPI) at Columbia Law School. CAPI would like to thank Columbia Law School J.D. Candidate Shyam Shanker for his assistance in researching and drafting this publication, Rancho Palos Verdes City Manager Douglas Willmore for sharing his expertise and former Executive Director and Counsel of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board Mark Davies for the use of his model ethics code.

### What is CAPI?

CAPI is a nonprofit resource center dedicated to improving the capacity of public offices, practitioners, policymakers, and engaged citizens to deter and combat corruption. Established as partnership between the New York City Department of Investigation and Columbia Law School in 2013, CAPI is unique in its city-level focus and emphasis on *practical* lessons and tools.

**Published:** August, 2016 by the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity at Columbia Law School.  
Available at [www.law.columbia.edu/CAPI](http://www.law.columbia.edu/CAPI).

---

## Practitioner Toolkit Series



This publication is part of an ongoing series of contributions from practitioners, policymakers, and civil society leaders in the public integrity community. If you have expertise you would like to share, please contact us at [CAPI@law.columbia.edu](mailto:CAPI@law.columbia.edu).

The series is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The views expressed here are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the author's organization or affiliations, the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity, Columbia Law School, or the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

© 2016. This publication is covered by the Creative Commons "Attribution-No Derivs-NonCommercial" license (see <http://creativecommons.org>). It may be reproduced in its entirety as long as the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity at Columbia Law School is credited, a link to the Center's web page is provided, and no charge is imposed. The paper may not be reproduced in part or in altered form, or if a fee is charged, without the Center's permission. Please let the Center know if you reprint.

Cover Design by Freepik.

# Fighting “Small Town” Corruption

## How to Obtain Accountability, Oversight, and Transparency

Small municipalities have been the subject of numerous corruption scandals. Events such as those in Bell, California and Crystal City, Texas are just two of many small cities to have made their way into the national spotlight after suffering at the hands of seriously corrupt leadership.<sup>1</sup> While news headlines often focus on issues of corruption within state or federal governments, the effects of corruption within local municipalities is equally problematic. First, there are many thousands of small cities and towns in the United States, depending on one’s definition. And these governments receive and spend billions of dollars in public funds. For obvious reasons, however, small cities and towns typically operate with few employees, and have limited resources to expend on non-essential personnel and programs.

This means that the very nature of small municipalities makes them susceptible to corruption, because their small size and workforce do not allow for the kind of oversight and enforcement mechanisms that larger cities, state governments, and the federal government can employ. Nor can small towns usually count on oversight from county-level or state oversight mechanisms, at least absent a specific complaint about egregious conduct that is deemed important enough for higher-level officials to pursue.

Given these limitations, what can small towns and smaller cities do to ensure that their public officials are operating with integrity? In this Practitioner Toolkit, CAPI explores ways in which small governments can work towards the three pillars of governmental integrity: accountability, oversight, and transparency, even with their inherent budget constraints.

### Instituting Accountability at the Local Level

Public servants within local government – like officials at all levels of government -- must be accountable for their actions to their constituents. The keys to instituting accountability are: (1) establishing a culture of integrity; (2) setting rules and regulations to ensure that public officials are held to high standards, and (3) enforcing those rules. In some ways, ensuring accountability is not appreciably more difficult for small governments than it is for bigger ones, because any government is capable of emphasizing a culture of integrity and setting strong rules. The challenge for smaller governments, as discussed further below, is in backing up these steps with an appropriately robust enforcement mechanism.

The first step towards establishing accountability is the enactment of a comprehensive and easily understood ethics code. Ethics codes are vital because, when well drafted, they provide clear guidance to public servants, the majority of whom are honest people who want to behave with integrity. Mark Davies, the former Executive Director and Counsel of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board and a leading expert in this field, has created a model ethics code well worth emulating. It can be found in a book, *Municipal Ethics in New York: A Primer for Attorneys and Public Officials*, which was published in 2016 by the New York State Bar Association. The book is an excellent

#### Appendices:

##### Appendix 1:

*City Ethics* Manual for Local Government Ethics Programs

##### Appendix 2:

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention Anti-Corruption Tool Kit

##### Appendix 3:

New York City Local Law No. 33 – Whistleblower Protections

##### Appendix 4:

CAPI Issue Brief – Ingredients for an Effective Public Ethics Training Program

resource for municipalities around the country grappling with how to enforce integrity. Other resources, which discuss ethics codes as well as many other topics related to local government ethics, can be found in Appendices 1-4.

### **Ethics Code: Mandatory Principles and Provisions**

While ethics codes may slightly vary to take into account a city's unique structure of government and other individualized factors, there are certain important principles and provisions that should be present in all codes. Again, please see the sample ethics code in *Municipal Ethics in New York: A Primer for Attorneys and Public Officials* for examples of mandatory provisions.

An ethics code should:

- Avoid legalistic language and be easily digestible by the public.
- Uniformly apply to all public officials – this includes elected officials, all city employees, appointed officials, and any other government held position. This should also include citizens serving on any commissions or boards, when they are acting in their official capacities.
- Be readily available to the public.
- Include comprehensive conflict of interest provisions which prohibits certain relationships while mandating disclosure.
- Cover corruption, abuse, fraud, bribery, other violations of the law, and non-criminal conduct which violates the code's conflict of interest provisions.
- Include an affirmative obligation to report suspected violations which affirmative obligation has its own enforcement mechanism.
- Have an independent enforcement mechanism for any violation.
- Contain adequate whistleblower protection for those who report violations.
- Cover the inducement of violations by private citizens.

### **Avoiding Legalistic Language and Making the Code Easily Digestible**

An ethics code should be easily understood by all readers, so that the code's requirements can be more easily adhered to. CAPI also recommends creating a short synopsis of the code's most important provisions (on one page if at all possible). This will help members of the public, who might not have the time or inclination to read the full ethics code, as well as serve as a reminder for public officials of the code's most important provisions. CAPI recommends that the synopsis be distributed and posted in high-traffic areas such as on the city's website and in places like city hall.

### **Uniformity in Application**

Local governments should strive to create one code for all public officials and employees, as well as citizens serving as commissioners or board members for the city, to the extent they are acting in their official capacities. Creating too many different sources of laws and regulations will make it difficult to determine what provisions exist and which ones apply to which groups.

### **Comprehensive Conflict of Interest Provisions**

Having adequate conflict of interest provisions is essential to a successful ethics code. While there are many obviously criminal actions which should be prohibited by the ethics code, there are also non-criminal actions which are ethically suspect and should be included. Conflict of interest provisions often fall into this category. Conflict of interest provisions should include prohibitions on taking actions that benefit the official's household or family members, business clients, debtors, or political donors. The code should contain a recusal provision, a ban on gifts

from people seeking a benefit from the government, a ban on gratuities, and a nondisclosure provision with respect to confidential government information.

### **Affirmative Obligation to Report Suspected Violations**

The code should include an affirmative obligation to report suspected violations of the ethics code and the law.

### **Penalties for Violation of the Code**

The code should include penalties for violating the code's provisions, and must have some sort of enforcement mechanism, to be described further below. Penalties for violation of the code should vary, depending on the violation, but should be clearly and publicly defined.

### **Adequate Whistleblower Protections**

An ethics program will be ineffective if officials and employees do not feel they can report ethical conduct because they are concerned about retaliation or harassment. Whistleblowers should be protected by law. The City of New York's whistleblower protection statute can be found [here](#) and is reproduced in Appendix 3.

### **Inducement of Violations of the Code**

Private actors such as contractors, firms, and citizens can play a large part in ethical violations, because they are often the ones offering bribes, improper gifts, gratuities, and the like. Accordingly, the code should include a provision prohibiting individuals from inducing a violation of the ethics code, so that this unethical conduct does not go unpunished.

### **Ethics Code: Optional Provisions**

What follows are some optional provisions that can be considered when assembling an ethics code. These provisions may be desirable depending on your circumstances, but are not as important as those above. Some of the factors that may inform whether such provisions would be helpful are the municipality's size, and past history of ethical problems. The sample ethics code in *Municipal Ethics in New York: A Primer for Attorneys and Public Officials* contains numerous optional provisions of the sort described below. Examples of these provisions include the following:

#### **Prohibited Positions and Ownership**

Sometimes a municipality will want to prevent its officials and employees from occupying certain positions other than their government positions. This may be particularly relevant where a government official is part-time. Prohibiting officials from taking certain jobs may avoid actual conflicts of interest, as well as an appearance of impropriety. The sorts of outside employment that a city should consider prohibiting is any sort of job for an entity that is doing or seeking business with the city.

#### **Lawyers and Experts**

A municipality may wish to prohibit officials and employees from being lawyers or experts in any lawsuit against the municipality's interest.

#### **Political Party Positions**

A city may wish to prohibit certain officials and employees from asking for political contributions, and to prohibit certain officials from holding a political party office.

### **Definitions and Exclusions**

For purposes of clarity, definitions and exclusions should appear in their own section, separate from the body of the code of ethics.

### **Ethics Code: Training**

Formulating an appropriate ethics code is only the first step in instituting appropriate accountability measures. To be successful, thorough and regular employee training on the code must occur. City attorneys or other relevant officials should work to create a training program designed to cover the ethics code and any other necessary materials to inform officials and employees of the key provisions. For tips on how to develop an excellent municipal ethics training program, please see CAPI's Ingredients for an Effective Public Ethics Program, also reproduced as Appendix 4.

### **Oversight**

---

The biggest challenge for smaller cities and towns looking to instill effective corruption control is oversight. A dedicated government of any size can create a strong ethics code, and, particularly with the tools now available, meaningful transparency is also becoming much more attainable. Oversight, on the other hand, requires resources.

Notwithstanding this challenge, there are a number of options available for localities which are serious about anti-corruption oversight. Each has its own benefits and costs, and each city or town will have to consider what option will work best for its particular circumstances. One common feature of these methods is that oversight is generally independent from the government officials with spending power. A system with this feature can both ensure effective oversight and can help to gain the public's trust in governmental integrity.

### **Ethics Officer**

Some municipalities have appointed an ethics officer. Ideally, the ethics officer would report to an independent ethics commission (see below). The ethics officer should be independent, and ideally will hold no other city position, even if the employment is only part-time. Conflicts of interest may arise when one city official is charged with overseeing another on ethics issues, so this should be avoided if possible. At a minimum, if the city must appoint someone who already has a city position, the ethics officer should have no other city position that involves program administration or the collection or distribution of money. The ethics officer oversees city officials, management, and staff with respect to any ethical issues that arise, and is responsible for encouraging compliance and coordinating ethics training.

Ethics officers also will investigate reports of ethics violations. If there is an ethics board or commission, the ethics officer would refer the matter to the board or commission after making his/her findings, either with or without a recommendation for future action.

One city that utilizes an ethics officer is Tallahassee, Florida. Tallahassee also posts reports of complaints made to its ethics hotline, as well as the outcomes of any investigations and the results of referrals to the ethics commission. Another entity is DeKalb County, Georgia.

Some jurisdictions have an independent ethics officer report to a city manager or other city official or officials, rather than a commission or board. The benefits of utilizing a board or commission are discussed below, but smaller cities might utilize this approach if budgetary concerns prevent the establishment of an independent

commission. In such a case, it is paramount that the ethics officer's findings and any recommendations are ultimately publicly reported to ensure that the findings were independent from any influence from city officials.

### **Ethics Commission**

An ethics commission or board is an independent body which is designed to enforce a government's ethics programs, including violations of the ethics code and other applicable regulations. A commission can work with or without an ethics officer.

There are different varieties of ethics commissions. For example, see Tallahassee, Anchorage, Minneapolis, Jacksonville, and Philadelphia. Ethics commissions are currently more common in larger cities, but some smaller cities and counties are going down this path. See, for example, Kent County, Queen Ann's County, and Calvert County, all in Maryland, Reading, Pennsylvania, and numerous small cities and counties in Washington State (see Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Edmonds, Fircrest, Grandview, Chelan County, Clallam County, Cowlitz County, and Douglas County).

Ethics commissions or boards can advise and make recommendations to city employees, officials, and the public regarding conflicts of interests, acceptance of gifts, and the use of city resources. A commission enforces the ethics law by imposing fines and recommending other discipline for violations. It also plays a role in educating city officers and employees on performing their duties in an ethical manner. A commission can also administer and enforce the city's lobbying laws and the financial disclosure requirements for city officials, although the more administrative and training duties the commission has, the more likely it is that the commission will need at least one staff member.

Ethics commissions are typically made up of appointed officials who are in office for a predetermined term. Often commissioners are chosen by the mayor, the city manager, the city council, or some combination thereof. Some cities have the mayor or city manager nominate members and have the city council confirm the appointments.

Sometimes the ethics commission will directly receive complaints and conduct investigations, but usually the commission's purpose is to hear the findings of an investigation and determine whether there is a violation and what the appropriate punishment should be. Cities should make all ethics commission decisions public and post them on the city website.

For example, reports from [Atlanta's board of ethics](#) can be found online. Some cities, such as [Minneapolis](#), also provide annual reports.

In some larger cities, ethics commissioners draw a salary, but in most smaller cities and counties ethics commissioners do not receive a fixed salary and are considered to be volunteers. As mentioned above, though, if there is no ethics officer and the commission is expected to take complaints and investigate, the commission will likely need at least one staff person. In addition, commissioners may require some funding for travel and other reimbursements.

### **Compliance Officer**

Compliance officers are responsible for ensuring that the city meets specific regulatory objectives – like those regarding food safety, or the environment -- rather than trying to ensure ethical behavior overall. They are akin to a compliance officer within a corporation. While similar to ethics officers in some respects, both the structure and substance of oversight differ under this scenario. A compliance officer typically works for a city manager or other relevant city officials; he or she thus lacks the independence of an ethics officer. And typically compliance officers do not advise an independent board. This means that while they do not accept all ethical complaints and work towards ethical government in a broad sense, compliance officers can audit the functions relevant to their focus and



carry out certain recommendations themselves, or in collaboration with the city manager, city council, or mayor. Compliance officers also typically do not conduct ethics training or advise officials on ethical issues apart from their regulatory focus.

Rather than creating a single compliance officer position, cities sometimes create the position to enforce particular regulations that are deemed important. For example, Middletown, Connecticut has a compliance officer position specifically to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

However, some cities have gone beyond this narrow focus and have recently created compliance officer positions with a focus on ensuring compliance with a city's ethics code. In these cases, the position includes some of the duties of an ethics officer, but with the reporting structure of a compliance officer (lacking the independence typically given an ethics officer). Gresham, Oregon, a suburb of Portland, adopted this approach after it was determined there had been an electoral error made in creating an independent city auditor position. Sarasota County, Florida is an example of a county that has a compliance officer whose job includes ethics compliance.

### **Anti-Corruption Committee**

Another approach is to provide oversight through current employees, but in a committee structure to minimize the likelihood that corruption will occur in the oversight process. Because the members of the committee would not be independent of the municipality, it is not an ideal solution, but it does permit oversight without hiring any additional employees, so is helpful in terms of saving resources. One possible structure would be to create a committee of three of the following: the city manager or head city administrator, the chief of police, the city attorney, and the head of human resources. The committee would take complaints concerning violations of the ethics code and other ethical violations, would investigate the matter itself (unless the matter was likely criminal, in which case the matter would be turned over to the police immediately), and would report the result of the investigation to the city council, the city attorney, and the city manager, along with any other relevant agency head. This approach would work only for affirmative complaints, however, and would not be a way to ensure proactive corruption control, or the prevention of waste of city resources.

### **Regional Ethics Bodies**

Regional ethics bodies can be a cost effective way to ensure appropriate oversight, whether at the county level or by grouping cities or counties together. They operate like an ethics commission in a single city, except that a regional ethics body will have to oversee multiple cities or counties and its costs would be shared among the governments it oversees.

At least one area has adopted this approach. The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission was founded in 2005 in Northwest Indiana. It consists of 7 cities, 13 towns, and 3 counties. There is a uniform code of ethics and values that governs each municipality, and the Commission itself consists of one volunteer member from each of the member governments. Each member government is expected to make a contribution to a shared ethics initiative fund for the purposes of acquiring supplies and services including the training that the commission provides to its member municipalities.

### **Local Inspectors General**

Inspectors General are independent officials employed by the city or county whose job it is to identify waste, fraud, and governmental wrongdoing by conducting and supervising investigations relating to programs and operations of the government. While auditors are typically accountants, inspectors general often come from law enforcement. They receive complaints from officials, employees, and residents, and refer any cases dealing with criminal conduct to the proper law enforcement authorities. They typically refer violations of city regulations to the City Council or other appropriate body for appropriate action. Typically, Inspectors General can be found in larger cities and urban

counties because an Inspector General will need at least a small staff, so setting up that office tends to be more resource intensive.

Some academic literature suggests that instituting inspectors general at a municipal level would not only further a commitment to ethical government but also would be cost-effective. However, cost savings would not be apparent until the Inspector General's work got underway and had time to develop, and there are municipalities so small that the initial costs are prohibitive in and of themselves. That said, some localities have avoided some of the pain of an up-front investment by creating a funding mechanism, like Miami-Dade County's allocation of a percentage of a fee on construction contracts to the IG office.

Some small localities have successfully established Inspector General offices. Mount Vernon, a small city in NY, has established its own inspector general position, although it is unclear how active the office is. Yonkers, another New York city, and counties, such as Mercer County in New Jersey have formed inspector general positions.

Perhaps the Inspector General position has the most in common with that of an Ombudsman, although Ombudsmen are much more prevalent. The difference is that Ombudsmen typically accept citizen complaints about a wide range of governmental matters, not just fraud, corruption, and waste, and they tend to work as mediators as much as investigators to resolve complaints in a manner acceptable to all parties.

### **City Auditor**

An auditor is often a non-government employee contracted to audit a city's finances pursuant to generally accepted professional standards. They provide assessments as to whether public resources are managed responsibly and effectively, but tend not to accept and investigate complaints, and do not deal with alleged violations of an ethics code that are not related to financial issues. Thus, a city auditor's scope of work is narrower. For cities which are primarily concerned with their expenses and finances, this may be a cost-effective way to oversee the integrity of public resources, as long as two conditions are met. First, ideally the audits should encompass not just financial audits but performance audits (i.e. the auditor should look at the city's "books" and also delve into the operations of the agencies to see whether improvements can be made), in which case the auditor also serves a sort of consultant function. Second, the auditor should be carefully chosen through a competitive process and should be changed periodically on a set schedule (i.e. every 3 years).

Cities can also choose to hire an in-house city auditor. This may be more expensive, but there are some benefits to that course. Specifically, a city-employed auditor may be more likely to conduct competent performance audits with inside knowledge of the government. Scottsdale, Arizona and New Bedford, Massachusetts are examples of smaller cities that have adopted a city auditor position in-house.

### **Less Formal Control Measures**

In addition to the above, there are other measures that very small cities and towns can take to improve their ability to identify and prevent fraud. One of these is the cross-training of city employees. Often in a very small municipality, there is only one person who performs a particular function. For example, there may be one person who handles the city's accounts payable. This is a fraud risk in and of itself, if no one else is routinely overseeing this work and the city does not publish its accounts payable for public consumption. Moreover, when one person is responsible for a specific function, it is frequently the case that when that person is away on vacation for a week or two, no one else steps in to do that job during that time. This is another problem, because even if bills do not need to be paid while the person is gone, this is a missed opportunity to have a pair of fresh eyes on accounts payable, to make sure that this job is being done competently and honestly.

To fix these problems, Doug Willmore, the current City Manager of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, and the former City Manager of Bell, California who got Bell back on track after its major corruption scandal, recommends

cross-training employees. Cross-training employees on different jobs means that there will always be more than one person who can perform a particular task, and allows the second person to step in when the first employee is on vacation or leave to provide a check on the competence and honesty of the way the first employee is doing that job. With respect to accounts payable, having a second person check over the books will minimize a city's embezzlement risk. Having more than one person open and log in the mail is another inexpensive common sense measure to add oversight to city processes.

## **Transparency**

---

The final component of a meaningful integrity system is transparency. Generally speaking, corruption is less likely when citizens are informed about government activities. Transparency in government spending creates more watchdogs to help cities root out corruption, waste, and mismanagement. Transparency initiatives also tend to increase citizen involvement with government, as the public can see how government is trying to work for their benefit.

In terms of transparency of government processes, cities should strive to make as much information as possible available over the internet. Traditionally, city council meetings that are open to the public provided an opportunity for citizens to get involved with and to stay informed about government matters. With the technological advances available today, however, cities should attempt to provide online streaming of meetings, and should make all non-confidential documents available on the city's website, so that even very busy citizens can easily keep track of what the government is doing.

Recently, mobile internet use has surpassed internet use on desktops and laptops. It is important to post and update relevant documents on the city website, but cities should also make sure that such information is accessible on smartphones as well as traditional computers.

### **Information to be Included**

Sunshine Review (recently acquired by Ballotpedia) created a 10-point transparency checklist for items that should be included in a city's website.<sup>2</sup> They are:

- Budgets
- Open meetings; minutes of past meetings; meeting agendas
- List of elected officials and their contact information
- List of administrative officials and their contact information
- Information about building permits, licenses, and zoning, and applications for permits
- Audit reports
- Contracts with the city, and rules governing such contracts
- Lobbying regulations
- Public records
- Tax information

### **Budgets**

The website should include the current budget, and ideally some previous budgets so that citizens can understand trends in local government spending over time. Credit card receipts and the checkbook register should also be posted to allow citizens to follow the spending habits of their government.

### **Open Meeting Information**

The website should include minutes of all past meetings and information detailing when and where future public meetings will take place so citizens can attend them. Attending these meetings is one method for citizens to engage their representatives so it is important this information is available in advance. Governments also should post minutes and agendas after each meeting to ensure that everyone is adequately informed about what took place; ideally the meetings should be streamed and/or recorded and posted later so that citizens can watch the meetings even if they were unable to attend.

### **Elected and Administrative Officials**

The website should include the names and contact information — including email addresses — of elected and administrative officials to try to encourage citizen engagement and responsive government.

### **Permits, Licensing, and Zoning**

All permit, license, and zoning applications should be made available for downloading online, to streamline the process. Citizens who submit applications should be able to track the progress of their application online.

### **Audits**

The website should also include information from audits. This should include: report results, audit schedules, and performance audits for government programs. This will allow citizens to examine how specific agencies and programs are functioning. While a budget provides the big picture, audit reports provide information on specific aspects of government performance.

### **Contracts**

The website should include all of the rules which governs government contracts. Ideally, the website will also provide information about bids for all city projects and procurement, so that the bidding and implementation processes are fair and transparent.

### **Public Records**

The website should ensure that citizens can easily submit open records requests. It should include the contact information for those who are in charge of fulfilling those requests. The website should also disclose tax information where possible.

### **Examples of Internet Success**

Comprehensive websites of the kind described above are not out of reach, even for small municipalities. For example, in Bell, the Sunlight Foundation worked with the local government after their corruption scandal to enhance its website.<sup>3</sup> Governments can proactively seek out and achieve reforms by collaborating with such organizations to achieve online transparency.

Other examples include Providence, R.I., which utilized a software program to allow the city to upload digital audio recordings of their council meetings, which are accessible from both computers and mobile devices.<sup>4</sup> In Atlas Township, Mich., they have been using a legislative management solution that assembles and emails information packets to members of the board of trustees before meetings and post minutes. Citizens can view those packets, resolutions, contracts, and other documents through the website. According to Township Clerk Tere Onica, citizens often use this information to contact elected officials about agenda items before meetings begin.

The city of San Carlos, California is using a “listserv” service called “e-Notify.”<sup>5</sup> This allows residents to sign up for emails providing information about city events, council meetings, and other relevant happenings.

### Additional Internet Measures

While creating a website is a must for effective transparency, there are other tools available for municipalities that either help cities go above and beyond, or help them implement their transparency measures more easily. Various companies exist to enable online engagement between citizens and municipalities.<sup>6</sup> Doug Willmore, the City Manager of Rancho Palos Verdes in California, reports that many smaller municipalities use [opengov.com](http://opengov.com), a platform to help cities organize their governmental information and provide it to citizens in a streamlined fashion. Opengov allows the public to make comments and suggestions, which provides feedback to the city to make improvements in the way it governs and communicates with its citizens. Open Town Hall from Peak Democracy is another website which provides services to municipalities. It provides a platform for citizens to engage elected officials. Some cities have developed an app in addition to having a mobile platform. Seattle has a My Neighborhood Map, which allows citizens to find various services and look at 911 incident reports.

Another free tool available to any government is social media. Governments can easily create Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts to keep citizens informed and to advertise events. There are also various apps, like Buffer and HootSuite, to help local governments send tweets.

### Conclusion

---

Those interested in instituting ethics reform in their municipality will need to make convincing arguments that reform is worth the resources. Luckily, instituting a strong ethics code and setting up transparency measures and a user-friendly website do not require big expenditures. But proper oversight costs money. This is why meaningful reform is often seen only after a major scandal has hit a city.

The best argument probably is that oversight saves a city money in the long run. As David Eichenenthal, Managing Director of PFM's Management and Budget Consulting practice and former Director of Performance Review for Chattanooga, put it, "The most successful argument typically is an economic or fiscal case. That tends to carry the day."

Corruption can result in severe economic losses for local governments. In Bell, the city lost over 5.5 million dollars in its corruption scandal, and barely escaped bankruptcy.<sup>7</sup> Bell isn't alone. Studies have shown that crimes committed by elected officials cost taxpayers significant sums of money. One study, in particular, determined that if states with higher than normal corruption had only the average amount of corruption, they would have spent 5.2% less over the course of 10 years.<sup>8</sup> This came to an average of \$1,308 per person.

While economic arguments may be the most convincing, efficacy of government is another reason to institute proper oversight. Moreover, corruption or the perception of a corrupt government will undermine its legitimacy with constituents, leading to less citizen involvement. While the political will to address reforms often is highest after a scandal emerges, cities can and should try to avoid the costly effects of such scandals by addressing reforms ahead of time.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> *Bell Scandal: A Times Investigation*, Los Angeles Times (February 11, 2016), <http://www.latimes.com/local/bell/la-me-bell-scandal-a-times-investigation-20160211-storygallery.html> (last visited August 22, 2016); Matt Zapposky, *This might be the most corrupt little town in America*, Washington Post, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/this-might-be-the-most-corrupt-little-town-in-america/2016/03/05/341c21d2-dcac-11e5-81ae-7491b9b9e7df\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/this-might-be-the-most-corrupt-little-town-in-america/2016/03/05/341c21d2-dcac-11e5-81ae-7491b9b9e7df_story.html) (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>2</sup> *Transparency Checklist*, [https://ballotpedia.org/Transparency\\_checklist](https://ballotpedia.org/Transparency_checklist) (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>3</sup> Alisha Green, *Bell, California: Moving From Secrecy to Sunshine*, Sunlight Foundation, <http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/03/21/bell-california-moving-from-secrecy-to-sunshine/> (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>4</sup> *Improving Citizen Trust in Local Government – How online tools spur communication, improve transparency and boost accountability*, Governing Institute (2014), <http://www.ncacc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1135> (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>5</sup> *E-Notify*, City of San Carlos, <http://cityofsancarlos.org/mysc/default.asp> (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>6</sup> Catherine Yochum, *8 Ways Technology Can Improve Local Government Transparency*, ClearPoint Strategy (November 10, 2015), <https://www.clearpointstrategy.com/technology-local-government-transparency/> (last visited August 22, 2016).
- <sup>7</sup> Jennifer Medina, *As Official Face Corruption Charges, California City Struggle to Move On*, New York Times (November 21, 2010), <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/22/us/politics/22bell.html>
- <sup>8</sup> Alexandria Fisher, *Study: Corruption Costs Taxpayers More than \$1,300 Per Person*, NBC Chicago (July 15, 2015), <http://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/Study-Determines-Cost-of-Corruption-in-Illinois-267165861.html> (last visited August 22, 2016).

**Wayne N. Cooke**

612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796  
wncooke@yahoo.com

March 10, 2020

Branford RTM  
c/o Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

In light of increasing citizen concern that in excess of \$45 million dollars--generated by over taxation--is being retained by the Town in the fund balance and health insurance accounts, a detailed explanation of the rationale behind this is requested.

While it is understood that it is advisable to hold some amount in the fund balance, it is our further understanding that this need not exceed ten per cent of the town's budget, or about \$11 million dollars. In addition, the reasoning behind approximately \$20 million dollars sitting in the health insurance account is also unclear.

It is asked that this matter be placed on the RTM agenda and sent to the appropriate committee for a full examination of why taxpayer money is being handled in this manner.

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke

RECEIVED  
2020 MAR 11 A 9 11  
BRANFORD TOWN HALL

**Wayne N. Cooke**

612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796  
wncooke@yahoo.com

March 10, 2020

Branford RTM  
c/o Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

At a prior meeting of the RTM Ways and Means Committee, in which an additional \$150,000 was requested for legal fees, no committee member in attendance knew-- nor were any inquiries made--as to what services constituted the amount. In fact, if not for citizen input, the entire \$150,000 would have been approved by the committee with no questions asked and with no member knowing what legal services they had just approved funding for.

Furthermore, in direct violation of RTM rules and the town charter that funding must first be appropriated for any expense, the \$150,000 requested had already been spent and was being submitted for payment after the fact.

In light of this lack of due diligence and violations of the charter--and the additional revelation at the meeting that only the first selectman reviews and approves the town's legal invoices--it is asked that the RTM send this mater to committee and establish a procedure by which all legal fees are examined and understood by your body before they are approved for payment.

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke

RECEIVED  
2020 MAR 11 A 9 11  
COMMUNICATIONS



**Wayne N. Cooke**

612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796  
wncooke@yahoo.com

RECEIVED  
2020 MAR 11 AM 11:15  
TOWN HALL

March 10, 2020

Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford RTM  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

It is asked that the following item be placed on the agenda for consideration by the appropriate committee:

“An examination of the backroom manipulation of Branford’s Plan of Conservation and Development, the steering of development by Town Hall, and the preferential creation of an all-inclusive “Superzone” for selected properties at Exit 53.”

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke

**Wayne N. Cooke**

612 East Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203-815-5796  
wncooke@yahoo.com

RECEIVED  
2020 MAR 11 11 09 10  
TOWN OF BRANFORD

March 10, 2020

Branford RTM  
c/o Dennis Flanigan, Moderator  
Branford Town Hall 1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Branford RTM,

It is asked that the following item be placed on the RTM agenda and sent to the appropriate committee:

“An examination of the targeted and unauthorized removal of “TOWN HALL CORRUPT”, TOWN HALL FRAUD” and “FIGHTING FOR A FAIR PROCESS” signs from state highways by the Public Works Department.”

Sincerely,

*Wayne N. Cooke*

Wayne N. Cooke