

RESOLUTION 26-07

A resolution adopting a Code of Conduct applicable to all Murray Elected or Appointed Trustees and all Appointed Commissioners of the Planning Commission establishing standards of conduct for such members in the application and administration of their duties and powers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MURRAY, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. That the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Murray hereby adopt the Code of Conduct establishing standards of conduct for all Murray Elected or Appointed Trustees and all Appointed Commissioners of the Planning Commission in the application and administration of their duties and powers. A copy of the said Code of Conduct, marked as Exhibit "A", is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

SECTION 2. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th day of August, 2026.


Jeff Anderson, Chairman

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of AUGUST, 2026.

ATTEST:


Shelli S. Hayes, Clerk

(SEAL)

Village of Murray, Nebraska

PO Box 79, 106 W Main

Murray NE 68409

402-235-2119



Jeff Anderson

Chairman

VILLAGE OF MURRAY CODE OF CONDUCT

ELECTED OR APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND APPOINTED COMMISSIONER MEMBERS

ACT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Recognizing that stewardship of the public interest must be their primary concern, **Members (Trustees, Planning Commissioners)** shall work for the common good of the people of the Village of Murray and not for any private or personal interest. Members shall assure fair and equal treatment of all persons, claims, and transactions coming before the Village Board or Planning Commission.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, use of inappropriate language or profanity, personal charges or verbal attacks upon other members of the Board or Commission, or members of the public. Members shall exhibit respect for all people and shall be sensitive to different cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

Members acknowledge that they act collectively as a governing body during public meetings. Members acknowledge that they do not have authority to make decisions or take individual actions on behalf of the Village of Murray unless expressly directed to do so by the Board of Trustees or Planning Commission.

RESPECT FOR PROCESS

Members shall perform their duties in accordance with the processes and rules of order established by the Village of Murray Code of Ordinances regarding deliberation of public policy issues (agenda items). Members shall respect the confidentiality of information concerning property, Village personnel, and affairs of the Village. They shall not disclose confidential information without proper legal authorization, and they may not use such information to advance their personal, financial, or other private interests.

When Members or staff engage in conversations with residents, applicants, developers, and officials of other governmental agencies, they shall be cautious not to make representations or promises about future actions of the Board of Trustees or the Planning Commission. Members acknowledge that future actions of the Board of Trustees or Planning Commissioner cannot be promised or predicted with certainty.

CONDUCT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Members shall prepare themselves for public issues (agenda items), listen courteously and attentively to all public discussion brought before the Board of Trustees or Planning Commission, and focus on the business at hand. They shall refrain from interrupting other speakers and avoid making personal comments not germane to the business being discussed. Members shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of public meetings and

shall assist the Chairman in facilitating a meeting that is efficient and respectful of everyone's time. For the purposes of establishing a public record and informing members of the public, Members shall articulate reasons for policy decisions.

Members acknowledge that within the public setting, surprises are counterproductive, and members agree not to spring a surprise on each other or staff during a public meeting. If in doubt, members shall meet with staff or another Member prior to the meeting. Members should refrain from asking staff sensitive questions in a public meeting.

Members acknowledge the importance of their attendance at meetings of their respective governing body. Members shall make it a priority to be in attendance at all meetings, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, and in order to assure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, Members shall not use their official positions to influence government decisions in which they have a material financial interest, or where they have an organizational responsibility or personal relationship, which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

GIFTS AND FAVORS

Members shall not take any special advantage of services or opportunities for personal gain, by virtue of their public office that are not available to the general public. They shall refrain from accepting any gifts, favors, or promises of future benefits, which might compromise their independence of judgment or action or give the appearance of being compromised.

USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Members shall not use public resources not available to the general public, such as Village staff time, equipment, supplies, or facilities, for private gain or personal purposes. Members individually shall not direct, order, or make demands on any Village employee, other than inquiries that can be answered routinely and without research.

REPRESENTATION OF PRIVATE INTERESTS

In keeping with their role as stewards of the public interest, Members shall not appear on behalf of the private interests of third parties before the Board of Trustees or Planning Commission regarding any public policy matter that is before the Board.

ADVOCACY

Members shall represent the official policies of the Village of Murray to the best of their ability when designated as delegates for such purpose. When presenting their personal and individual opinions or positions, members shall explicitly state that they do not represent their governing body of the Village of Murray, and they shall not allow the implication to stand that they do represent the body for which they are an elected or appointed Member.

SOCIAL AND PUBLIC MEDIA

In order to avoid legal liability, it is important that Members refrain from making personal comments regarding Village business or Village matters to members of the public by any verbal comment or written communication on any form of social media or other public forum. All written forms of communication by a Member regarding Village business become public record.

In the event of a natural disaster, catastrophic event, or community incident of any size, the Chairperson and/or Emergency Management Coordinator shall be solely tasked with speaking with any and all news media outlets or granting any interview on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, and Staff. Members and staff may speak to the media and/or grant interviews, but only in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the Village of Murray without the express consent of the Chairperson or Emergency Management Coordinator.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

Members shall not interfere with the administrative functions of the Village or the professional duties of Village staff. Members shall not impair or impede the ability of staff to implement decisions by the Board of Trustees or Planning Commission.

INDEPENDENCE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Because of the value of the public decision-making process utilizing the independent advice of the Planning Commission or other appointed boards or positions, Members shall refrain from using their position to unduly influence the deliberations or potential outcomes of the proceedings of the Planning Commission or other appointed boards or positions.

POSITIVE WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT

Members shall support the maintenance of a positive and constructive workplace environment for Village employees and for citizens and businesses dealing with the Village. Members shall recognize their special role in dealings with Village employees in order to avoid creating the perception of inappropriate direction to staff.

IMPLEMENTATION

As an expression of the standard of conduct for members expected by the Village, the Village of Murray Code of Conduct is intended to be self-enforcing. It therefore becomes most effective when members are thoroughly familiar with it and embrace its provisions.

For this reason, standards of conduct shall be included in the regulation orientations of newly-elected Trustees or newly-appointed Planning Commissioners. Members entering office shall acknowledge receipt and affirm they have read the Village of Murray Code of Conduct.