

#### Re-Hire Packet - Part-Time ESeasonamployee

Welcome to the Town of West Seneca! As part of your onboarding process, we will need you to complete ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS in the new hire packet. Below is a list of the documents included in the new hire packet. ALL ARE REQUIRED unless otherwise noted as optional. Please complete all required documents before submitting them to Human Resources. Use the Document List below to confirm you have completed all the required documents. Please be aware that incomplete paperwork may delay your expected start date.

Please note that your appointment is pending successful completion of the employment contingencies and approval from the West Seneca Town Board. Failure to meet the contingency requirements may impact your employment with the Town of West Seneca.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Scibetta, HR Director at lscibetta@twsny.org or by phone at (716) 558-3267.

DOCUMENT NAME	CHECK WHEN COMPLETED
ECO CHANGE FORM	
EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM	
W4	
IT2104	
PHYSICAL	
BACKGROUND CHECK AUTHORIZATION	
DRUG TEST AUTHORIZATION	
DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM	<del></del>
NYSLRS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	<del></del>
NYSLRS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION (OPTION	IAL)
CODE OF ETHICS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	<del></del>

\*\* Be sure to review page 2 - a list of acceptable documents - and bring with you when you submit your completed paperwork.

HEALTHWORKS EMPLOYER'S AUTHORIZATION – Bring to your drug screening with a photo ID

## Employee Change Form Information

For Supplementary Payroll Certification Report of Personnel Change to Erie County

## Effective Date:

Employee Data				
Social Security Number:		Retirement Number:		
Name (Last, First):		Veteran Exemption (Y/N	1):	
Street Address:		Dates of Service:	From: To:	
City/Town:		Volunteer Firemen: (Y/N	1)	
Zip Code:		Dates of Service:	From: To:	

Title – Classification – Salary Information				
Are you currently	emp	loyed by the Town of West Se	eneca? (Y/N)	
If "yes", complete	belo	ow. If "no", leave blank:	Must be completed:	
Current Title:			New Title:	
Current Salary:			New Salary:	
Type (Check One)	:	Meeting	Type (Check One):	Meeting
		Daily		Daily
		Hourly		Hourly
		Weekly		Weekly
		BiWeekly		BiWeekly
		Quarterly		Quarterly
		Annually		Annually
Classification:		Competitive	Classification:	Competitive
(Check One)		Non-Competitive	(Check One)	Non-Competitive
		Labor		Labor
		Exempt		Exempt
		Unclassified		Unclassified

Employee Type – For Temporary Appointment, WRITE IN END DATE			
Full Time Permanent	Part Time Temporary Seasonal		
Full Time Provisional	Regular Part Time Permanent		
Full Time Temporary	Regular Part Time Temporary		
Part Time Regular Permanent	Full Time Contingent Permanent		
Part Time Temporary	Part Time Provisional		
Part Time Permanent	Regular Part Time Provisional		



## **Emergency Contact Sheet**

Name:			
In the event of an emerge	ncy situation, please o	contact the follo	owing individual(s):
	Primary Contact:		Secondary Contact:
Contact Name:			
Relationship:			
Daytime Phone Number:			· <del></del>
Home Phone Number:			
Cellular Phone Number:			·
***D	ON'T FORGET HEALTH	I INSURANCE & I	RETIREMENT SYSTEM***
If you have health insurance	with the Town and/or a	re a member of th	ne NYS Retirement System, please call the
following numbers for a char	nge of address.		
Blue	Cross Blue Shield:	1-800-544-258	83
NYS	Retirement System:	1-866-805-099	90
In the event of an emergence	y, each employee's emer	rgency contact info	ormation may be accessed confidentially by
Department Heads. If you do	not wish to have your e	emergency contact	t information shared with the Department Heads,
please initial here:			
Employee Signature:		_ Date:	
Should any of the above informati	on change, please submit rev	visions to a member o	of the Human Resources Department.
Payroll	Bene	efits	HR

## Form W-4

## **Employee's Withholding Certificate**

Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay.

Give Form W-4 to your employer.

2025

OMB No. 1545-0074

Department of the Treasury Your withholding is subject to review by the IRS. Internal Revenue Service Last name (a) First name and middle initial (b) Social security number Step 1: **Enter** Does your name match the Address Personal name on your social security card? If not, to ensure you get Information City or town, state, and ZIP code credit for your earnings. contact SSA at 800-772-1213 or go to www.ssa.gov. Single or Married filing separately Married filing jointly or Qualifying surviving spouse Head of household (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.) TIP: Consider using the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App to determine the most accurate withholding for the rest of the year if: you are completing this form after the beginning of the year; expect to work only part of the year; or have changes during the year in your marital status, number of jobs for you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly), dependents, other income (not from jobs), deductions, or credits. Have your most recent pay stub(s) from this year available when using the estimator. At the beginning of next year, use the estimator again to recheck your withholding. Complete Steps 2-4 ONLY if they apply to you; otherwise, skip to Step 5. See page 2 for more information on each step, who can claim exemption from withholding, and when to use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App. Step 2: Complete this step if you (1) hold more than one job at a time, or (2) are married filing jointly and your spouse also works. The correct amount of withholding depends on income earned from all of these jobs. **Multiple Jobs** or Spouse Do only one of the following. Works (a) Use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App for the most accurate withholding for this step (and Steps 3-4). If you or your spouse have self-employment income, use this option; or (b) Use the Multiple Jobs Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result in Step 4(c) below; or (c) If there are only two jobs total, you may check this box. Do the same on Form W-4 for the other job. This option is generally more accurate than (b) if pay at the lower paying job is more than half of the pay at the Complete Steps 3-4(b) on Form W-4 for only ONE of these jobs. Leave those steps blank for the other jobs. (Your withholding will be most accurate if you complete Steps 3-4(b) on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.) Step 3: If your total income will be \$200,000 or less (\$400,000 or less if married filing jointly): Claim Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,000 \$ **Dependent** Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500 . . . . . . \$ and Other **Credits** Add the amounts above for qualifying children and other dependents. You may add to \$ this the amount of any other credits. Enter the total here 3 Step 4 (a) Other income (not from jobs). If you want tax withheld for other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. (optional): This may include interest, dividends, and retirement income . . . . . . . . . . . 4(a) |\$ Other **Adjustments** (b) Deductions. If you expect to claim deductions other than the standard deduction and want to reduce your withholding, use the Deductions Worksheet on page 3 and enter 4(b) |\$ (c) Extra withholding. Enter any additional tax you want withheld each pay period . . . 4(c) |\$ Step 5: Under penalties of perjury, I declare that this certificate, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete. Sign Here **Employee's signature** (This form is not valid unless you sign it.) Date **Employers** Employer's name and address First date of Employer identification employment number (EIN) Only

Cat. No. 10220Q



Department of Taxation and Finance

IT-2104

# Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate New York State • New York City • Yonkers

First name and middle initial	Last name		Your Social Securi	ty number
Permanent home address (number and street or rural route)		Apartment number	Single or Head of hou	
City, village, or post office	State	ZIP code		d at higher single rate all gally separated, mark an <b>X</b> in ousehold box.
Are you a resident of New York City (this include Are you a resident of Yonkers?	_		•	
Before making any entries, see the <i>Note</i> below 1 Total number of allowances you are claiming for N	New York State and Yon	kers, if applicable (from line 19	9, if using worksheet)	1
2 Total number of allowances for New York City	y (from line 31, if using w	vorksheet)		2
Use lines 3, 4, and 5 below to have additiona	ıl withholding per pa	y period under special a	greement with yo	ur employer.
3 New York State amount				3
4 New York City amount				4
5 Yonkers amount				5
I certify that I am entitled to the number of withhou	olding allowances clai	med on this certificate.		
<b>Penalty</b> – A penalty of \$500 may be imposed for from your wages. You may also be subject to crit		you make that decreases t	the amount of mone	ey you have withheld
Employee's signature			Date	
<b>Employee:</b> Give this form to your employer and if needed.	keep a copy for your	records. Remember to rev	riew this form once	a year and update it
<b>Note:</b> Single taxpayers with one job and zero de dependents, heads of household or taxpayers the instructions. Visit www.tax.ny.gov (search: IT	at expect to itemize d	eductions or claim tax cre		
Employer: Keep this certificate with your record any of the following apply, mark an <b>X</b> in each cord copy of this form to New York State. See <b>Employer</b>	responding box, comp	lete the additional informati sit www.tax.ny.gov (search	on requested, and s : <i>IT-2104-I)</i> or scan	end an additional he QR code below.
A Employee claimed more than 14 exemption a	llowances for New Yo	rk State A		
B Employee is a new hire or a rehire B First of	date employee performed	services for pay (mm-dd-yyyy) (	(see Box B instructions):	
You may report new hire information onli	ne instead of mailing t	he form to New York State	e. Visit <i>www.nynewi</i>	nire.com.
<b>Note:</b> Employers <b>must</b> report individuals using the online reporting website above			ent with contracts in	excess of \$2,500
Are dependent health insurance benefits av	vailable for this employ	yee?Yes	No 🗌	
If Yes, enter the date the employee qual	ifies (mm-dd-yyyy):			
Employer's name and address (Employer: complete this section o	nly if you are sending a copy of t	his form to the New York State Tax Dep	partment.) Employer ide	entification number





**Employee's Information** 

#### TOWN OF WEST SENECA PROOF OF PHYSICAL FORM

This form is to be completed by the (prospective) employee's physician and must be presented to Human Resources on the employee's first day of employment. Please be aware that incomplete paperwork may delay employee's start date.

\*\*As an alternative to this Physical Form, the Town will accept a record of a physical (documented and signed by a medical provider) that has been performed within the last 12-months, prior to the employee's date of hire.

	(Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	
Address				
	(Number and Street)		(Town, State)	
Date of Birth				
	(MM/DD/YYYY)			
Department			Job Title	
mployee Ack	nowledgement:			
Лу employme	nt is also contingent upon p	providing the Towr	with required proof of a reco	ent medical physical.
		•	hire candidates whose proof	of physical form
ndicates they	are physically unable to per	form the work for	which they were hired.	
	mployee		 Date	

Job Information (Highway, Buildings & Grounds, Sanitation, Sewers, Electrical)

Employees in these departments may be required to perform tasks that involve motions such as:

- Lifting, Pulling or Pushing up to 50 pounds
- Climbing (such as ladders or into equipment)
- Driving
- Bending, Twisting, Stooping
- Operation of motorized equipment
- Standing for at least four (4) hours continuously without a break
- Walking for at least four (4) hours continuously without a break



## **Physician's Statement**

Employ	yee Name:		
Is the 6	employee able to perform the foll	owing work duties:	
1.	Lifting, Pulling or Pushing up to	50 pounds?	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.	Climbing (such as ladders or into	o equipment)	
3.	Driving		
4.	Bending, Twisting, Stooping		Yes 🗆 No
5.	Operation of motorized equipme	ent	☐ Yes ☐ No
6.	Standing for at least four (4) ho	urs continuously without a break	Yes 🗆 No
7.	Walking for at least four (4) hou	rs continuously without a break	
8.	Is the employee able to perform	the essential job functions of the job for w	hich he/she is applying with
	or without reasonable accommo	odation?	Yes 🗆 No
If the r	esponse to any of the above ques	tions was "No", please indicate the anticipa	ted duration of the
conditi	on:		
	er Name and Name of Practice:		
Provide	er Address:		
Provide	er Signature:		
Date:			



## **BACKGROUND CHECK AUTHORIZATION/RELEASE**

Print Name:					
	(First)		(Middle)	(Last)	
Former Name(s) an	d Dates Use	d:			
Current Address Sir	ice:				
	(Mo/Yr)	(Street)		(City)	(State/Zip)
Previous Address Fr					
	(Mo/Yr)	(Street)		(City)	(State/Zip)
Previous Address Fr					
	(Mo/Yr)	(Street)		(City)	(State/Zip)
Social Security Num	ber:			Date of Bi	rth:
Telephone:					
(Hor		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	(Work)		(Mobile)
Vest Seneca and its design ausing a consumer report nderstand that the scope ollowing areas: verification ackground, character refeastice agency in any or all fecords.	ated agents a and/or an inv of the consur of social sec rences; drug federal, state	and represent vestigative cor mer report/in curity number; testing, credit, county jurisc	atives to connsumer repovestigative contrent and report/histodictions; driving	duct a comprehence to be generated on sumer report in previous residentary, civil and criming records, birth	e. I hereby authorize the Town of nsive review of my background d for employment purposes. I hay include, but is not limited to eces; employment history, educat nal history records from any crim records, and any other public
ne Town of West Seneca o	orcement ag r its agents.	encies) to divu I further auth	ulge any and orize the con	all information, vention, vention and the second control of the se	uding the Social Security erbal or written, pertaining to me any records or data pertaining to lude information or data received
ssigned agencies, including	g officers, em itever kind, w	ployees, or re which may, at a	elated persor any time, res	nel both individu	is agents, officials, representative ally and collectively, from any an rs, family, or associates because o
gnature:				Date:	



## EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT AND CONSENT TO DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL TESTING

I hereby agree, upon a request made under the drug/alcohol testing policy of the **Town of West Seneca**, **New York**, to submit to a drug or alcohol test and to furnish a sample of my urine, breath, and/or blood for analysis. I understand and agree that if I at any time refuse to submit to a drug or alcohol test under Town policy, or if I otherwise fail to cooperate with the testing procedures, I may be subject to immediate termination. I further authorize and give full permission to have the Town and/or its Town physician send the specimen or specimens so collected to a laboratory for a screening test for the presence of any prohibited substances under the policy, and for the laboratory or other testing facility to release any and all documentation relating to such test to the Town and/or to any governmental entity involved in a legal proceeding or investigation connected with the test. Finally, I authorize the Town to disclose any documentation relating to such test to any governmental entity involved in a legal proceeding or investigation connected with the test.

I understand that only duly-authorized Town officers, employees, and agents will have access to information furnished or obtained in connection with the test; that they will maintain and protect the confidentiality of such information to the greatest extent possible; and that they will share such information only to the extent necessary to make employment decisions and to respond to inquiries or notices from government entities.

WE HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE TOWN, ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, GDY, INC. AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY AND ALL HARM, LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DAMAGES AND COSTS THAT MAY ARISE FROM OR BE RELATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO A DRUG TEST. SUCH HARM, LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DAMAGES AND COSTS SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO: PHYSICAL HARM OR INJURY; LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT OR ADVERSE JOB ACTION THAT MIGHT ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE TEST; ALLEGED HARM THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM THE RELEASE OR USE OF INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE TEST.

This policy and authorization have been explained to me in a language I understand, and I have been told that if I have any questions about the test or the policy, they will be answered.

Signature of Employee	Date
Employee's Name - Printed	
Town Representative	Date



## **DIRECT DEPOSIT AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT**

Last Name	First Name			Last 4 SSN
Please complete form ev	ven if you have had I	Direct Deposit	in the past.	
Bank Name	Transit/	Type of	Amount or	Account Number
	ABA Number	Account	Percent	
		[ ] Checking		
		[ ] Savings		
		[ ] Checking		
		[ ] Savings		
		[ ] Checking		
		[ ] Savings		
		[ ] Checking		
		[ ] Savings		
accounts are designated, d The Town will credit my a morning of pay date howe has no control over my ba	eposits are to be made account(s) the amount ver each bank posts fo ank's posting. Also, I	e in whole perce t of my payroll ounds to accounts hereby grant th	ntages of pay to check on payda at different ting te Town of Wes	e percentages specified. (If two or more total 100%.)  y. Deposits are normally available the nes daily, and the Town of West Senecast Seneca the right to correct any suching my account to the extent of such
my responsibility to verify	deposits on a per pay is not responsible for	date basis befor bank errors or b	e writing checks bank fees. Bank	receipt and without advice to me. It is against these funds. I understand that ing services are provided in accordance n.
termination or change. I u my behalf. If this occurs, r	nderstand that if my a ny employer will not ORDER TO TERMINAT	account has clos be able to proce E OR REVOKE TH	ed, my financia ess any further	ved written authorization from me of its I institution cannot accept a deposit on direct deposits without further written TION, I MUST NOTIFY MY EMPLOYER IN
Signature:				Date:

Please allow 2-4 weeks for your direct deposit to begin.

Please verify with your bank that your first direct deposit has been processed correctly.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIREMENT SYSTEM ELIGIBILITY

l,		, as an employee of the Town of
(Print Employe	ee Name)	
West Seneca, was o	ffered the option of enrolling	in the New York State and Local
Employees' Retireme	ent System pursuant to Sect	ion 45 of the New York State
Retirement and Soci	al Security Law.	
Initial Date	<u> </u>	
Employee Signature	<del></del>	Date
Town Representation		 Date

**Employees' Retirement System** Office of the New York State Comptroller Received Date **Membership Registration RS 5420** New York State and Local Retirement System 110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244-0001 Plan Tier Rate Date of Membership (mm/dd/yyyy) Fax Number: (518) 486-4382 For questions concerning Member Enrollment call: (518) 474-3081 NYSLRS ID Social Security Number \* **Registration Number** Part 1: Employee - Read information provided on page 2. Complete part 1 and sign at the bottom of the form. Middle Initial: Employee's Last Name: First Name: Employee's Address: City State **Zip Code** Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Former Name: (if applicable) Sex Are you receiving or about to receive a pension from a New York State or New York City public retirement system? Yes No If yes, please indicate name of system: Are you inactive or withdrawn from a New York State or New York City public retirement system? Yes No If yes, please indicate name of system: (NYS Teachers', NYS Employees', NYS Police and Fire, NYC Police Pension Fund, NYC Fire Pension Fund, NYC Board of Education, NYC Teachers', NYC Employees') Part 2: Employer - See page 2 for additional information and instructions regarding the completion of this form. Employer's Name: Employer's Telephone: Employer's Address: **Employer's Fax Number:** Job Code [1] **Employee Classification** Regular [2] ☐ Full Time ☐ 12 Month ☐ 10 Month ☐12 M Provisional LIOn Call Part Time Temporary Seasonal Substitute Per Diem Date of Full-Time Permanent Standard For State Agency Use Only -**Location Code** Hire Date [3a] Workday [4] Agency Code Appointment [3b] Day Month Month Year Day Year For a substitute, seasonal, on call or per diem employee, please check if he/she/they Frequency of Payment Semi - Monthly Monthly Quarterly Semi- Annually Annually Other- Please Specify\_ | Weekly | Bi-Weekly Projected Annualized Wage [5] Tier 6 requires employers to determine the Annualized Wage for individuals who work part-time, seasonal, or on an hourly, daily, or unit of work basis. We ask that you use this calculation for all other tiers as well. See page 2 for examples. Important: If your employment is on a part-time, temporary or provisional basis, or less than 12 months a year, membership is optional. If your membership is optional, you must sign and date below to affirm Retirement System Membership. I acknowledge that my membership in the New York state and Local Retirement System is governed by provisions of Article 15 of the Retirement and Social Security Law and that I am entitled to all the benefits thereof. I understand that, as required by law, a deduction will be made from my salary or compensation for retirement contributions. Date: \_\_\_ Employee's Signature:

**Employee's Email Address:** 

**Employee's Telephone Number:** 

#### Part 1 - Employee Instructions

**Important:** If your employment is on a part-time, temporary or provisional basis, or less than 12 months a year, membership is optional. If your membership is optional and you **do not wish** to join the Retirement System, do not complete this application.

**Warning:** If you are receiving or are about to receive a pension from another New York State or New York City public retirement system, contact us directly before enrolling in NYSLRS. Enrollment may result in suspension of your pension benefit. NYSLRS retirees should contact us directly before enrollment to discuss working after retirement and possible restoration of membership.

#### **Membership Information:**

- If you are currently an active or vested member of any other public retirement system in New York State, you should contact that system concerning the advantages of transferring your membership to this System. Failure to contact that system could cause loss of the privilege of transferring membership and may affect contribution cessation dates.
- If you were previously a member of any public retirement system in New York State, and your membership was terminated or withdrawn, you may be eligible for a reinstatement of that membership. It is highly recommended that if you have a prior Tier 1 or 2 membership in any New York public retirement system that you complete the Tier Reinstatement application, RS5506 and include it with your membership registration application.
- You may also be eligible to receive credit for public service earned with a participating employer before your current date of membership. This additional service may impact your future benefits.
- You are covered by the Death Benefit allowed by law for your tier and plan status. If you have not already done so, complete an RS5127 Designation of Beneficiary with Contingent Beneficiaries form to designate beneficiary(ies) to receive an Ordinary Death Benefit. If there is no RS5127 Designation of Beneficiary with Contingent Beneficiaries on file with this System, your Ordinary Death Benefit will become payable to your estate.

#### Part 2 – Employer Instructions - Field Explanation and information:

- [1] Job Code— As the employer, you will need to reference our job code list at <a href="https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/retirement\_online/job\_codes.php">https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/retirement\_online/job\_codes.php</a> to determine which job code is applicable to the employee's job title. If the title is accountant, auditor, physician, attorney, engineer or architect, please submit documentation as indicated at <a href="https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/employers/">https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/employers/</a> employer reporting basics/emp-membership-basics/independent vs employee.php
- [2] Regular is the same as Permanent or Probationary. Temporary is anything other than regular.
- [3a] Hire Date is the first time the employee was hired for the job criteria entered.
- [3b] Full-Time permanent appointment box must only be completed if at anytime the employee is appointed to a (permanent or probationary) 12 month, full-time position earning no less than current state minimum wage
- [4] Standard Workday A standard workday (hrs/day) applies to all tiers. The minimum number of hours that can be established for a standard workday is six, while the maximum is eight. A standard workday is the denominator to be used for the days worked calculation; it is not necessarily the number of hours the person actually works. For example, if a bus driver works four hours a day, you must still establish a standard workday between six and eight hours as the denominator for their days worked calculation. When entering the information on the Employer Retirement Online, you will need to select "Daily" for Work Period and then enter the standard work day in the standard day field.
- [5] Projected Annualized Wage Examples of Tier 6 annual wage for individuals paid at an Hourly, Daily or Unit of Work basis of compensation:

compensation.	
Hourly Employees  12 month Employee: \$ X X 260 = \$  Hourly Standard Days Annual Rate Workday Worked Wage	Daily Employees  12 month Employee: \$ X 260 = \$  Daily Days Annual  Rate Worked Wage
10 month Employee: \$XX 180 = \$ Hourly Standard Days Annual Rate Workday Worked Wage	10 month Employee: \$X 180 = \$ Daily Days Annual Rate Worked Wage
Unit of Work Employees  \$X = Unit Rate  # of Events** Annual Wage	Unit of Work Employee Example: Paid \$50 per Meeting  \$ 50
**Estimated or Actual	***An estimate of the number of events is acceptable

Note: Any questions regarding annualized wage, please contact the Retirement System.

#### \*Social Security Disclosure Requirement

In accordance with the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, you are hereby advised that disclosure of your Social Security account number is mandatory pursuant to Sections 11, and 34 of the Retirement and Social Security Law. The number will be used in identifying retirement records and in the administration of the Retirement System.

#### **Personal Privacy Protection Law**

The Retirement System is required by law to maintain records to determine eligibility for and calculate benefits. Failure to provide information may interfere with the timely payment of benefits. The System may be required to provide certain information to participating employers. The official responsible for record maintenance is the Director of Member and Employer Services, NYS and Local Retirement System, Albany, NY 12244; call toll-free at 1-866-805-0990 or 518-474-7736 in the Albany Area.

## Chapter 13. Ethics, Code of

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca 12-16-2019 by L.L. No. 5-2019.1<sup>1</sup>1 Amendments noted where applicable.]

[1] Editor's Note: This chapter also superseded former Ch. 13, Ethics, Code of, adopted 12-7-2009 by L.L. No. 4-2009.

### § 13-1. Legislative intent.

The proper operation of Town government requires that its officers and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; that public officers and employees observe in their official acts the highest standards of ethics and discharge faithfully the duties of their public office regardless of personal consideration; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government and the officers and employees thereof. It is the policy of the Town of West Seneca and the purpose of this chapter to establish standards and guidelines for ethical conduct of officers and employees. Though assurance of such conduct will continue to rest primarily on personal integrity and community vigilance, the establishment of standards is another step toward providing the highest caliber of public administration for the Town and ensuring that government decisions are arrived at impartially and free of conflict of interests and thereby increasing confidence in public officials. It is also the purpose of this chapter to protect officials and employees from unwarranted assaults on their integrity by separating real conflict from the inconsequential, recognizing that for local government to attract and hold competent administrators, public service must not require a complete divesting of all proprietary interests. In recognition of these goals, there is hereby established a Code of Ethics for all officers and for all employees of the Town of West Seneca, hereinafter referred to as the "Town." In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Code and provisions of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law, the latter shall control. This chapter shall be enforceable upon all Town officials, officers and employees. No acknowledgement, service or acceptance of this chapter shall be necessary for enforcement of its provisions.

### § 13-2. Definitions and word usage.

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

AGENCY

Any Town department, division, board, committee, or bureau, including the Town Board or any successor thereto.

#### **APPEAR and APPEAR BEFORE**

Communicating in any form, including without limitation, personally, by letter, electronic communication, telephone or by any other device.

#### **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

The same meaning as defined in the New York State Public Officer's Law1¹1 as well as any information discussed and/or revealed at an executive session of a Town Board meeting.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Any action or omission which is in conflict or gives or may reasonably give the appearance of conflict with the performance of official Town business or government.

#### **CUSTOMER or CLIENT**

Any entity or person to whom an official, officer or employee of the Town of West Seneca or his or her outside employer or business has supplied goods or services during the previous calendar year having, in the aggregate, a value greater than \$2,000.

#### **FINANCIAL BENEFIT**

Any money, service, license, permit, contract, authorization, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, gratuity or other compensation of anything of value, or any promise thereof.

#### **GOOD FAITH**

Information concerning potential wrongdoing is disclosed in good faith when the individual making the disclosure reasonably believes such information to be true and reasonably believes that it constitutes potential wrongdoing.

#### HOUSEHOLD

All persons living in a single residence, whether related or not.

#### **INTEREST**

Deemed to include the affairs of the official, officer or employee or their spouse, minor children and dependents, firm, partnership or association in which such official, officer or employee is a member or employee; a corporation in which such official officer or employee is an officer director, or employee; and a corporation of which any stock is owned or controlled directly by the official, officer or employee.

#### PERSONNEL ACTION

Any action affecting compensation, appointment, promotion, transfer, assignment, reassignment, reinstatement or evaluation of performance.

#### **RECUSE**

The act of abstaining from participation or influencing in an official action due to a conflict of interest.

#### **RELATIVE**

A spouse, parent, grandparent, stepparent, sibling, step-sibling, sibling's spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or household member of a Town official, officer or employee and individuals having any of these relationships to the spouse of the Town official, officer or employee.

#### TOWN EMPLOYEE

All board members, officers and staff employed by the Town, whether employed full-time or part-time, employed pursuant to a contract, employed temporarily or employees who are on probation, paid or unpaid.

#### WHISTLEBLOWER

Any Town employee (as defined herein) who in good faith discloses information concerning wrongdoing by another Town employee or concerning the business of the Town itself.

#### **WRONGDOING**

Any alleged corruption, fraud, criminal or unethical activity, misconduct, waste, conflict of interest, intentional reporting of false or misleading information or abuse of authority engaged in by a Town employee (as defined herein) that relates to the Town.

- [1] Editor's Note: See McKinney's Public Officers Law§ 1 et seq.
- B. Word usage. The use of the masculine gender shall include the feminine where applicable.

#### § 13-3. Standards of conduct.

Every official, officer and employee of the Town of West Seneca shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

- A. No Town official, officer or employee shall use his or her official position or office to take or fail to take any action in a manner which he or she knows or has reason to know may result in a financial benefit or interest for any of the following persons or entities:
  - (1) The Town official, officer or employee;
  - (2) His or her outside employer or business;
  - (3) A member of his household;
  - (4) A customer or client; or
  - (5) A relative.
- B. No Town official, officer or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity or incur any obligation of any nature that is in conflict with, or might reasonably tend to conflict with, the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest. Any officer or employee who has a direct or indirect financial or other private interest in any matter before any board of the Town shall publicly disclose in writing on the official record of such board the nature and extent of such interest prior to participating in the discussion or before making a recommendation or giving an opinion to such board on such matter.
- C. No Town official, officer or employee shall represent private interests before any board, department, office or agency of the Town, nor represent private interests in any action or proceeding against the interests of the Town or in any litigation to which the Town is a party. The preceding sentence shall not preclude any such officers or employees from appearing in the performance of public or civic obligations or on their own behalf with respect to matters of a personal nature. All appearing parties before any board of the Town shall make a disclosure as provided under § 809 of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law. Every application, petition or request submitted for a variance, change of zoning, site plan approval or waiver, license or permit pursuant to the provisions of any ordinance, local law, rule or regulation constituting the zoning and planning regulations of the Town in which a Town officer or employee has an interest as defined in this chapter shall state the name, residence and the nature and extent of the interest of any officer or employee of the Town, in the person, partnership or association making such application, petition or request.
- D. A Town Board member, official, officer or employee shall promptly recuse himself or herself from acting on a matter before the Town when acting on the matter or failing to act on the matter may provide a financial benefit to the persons or entities listed in § 13-3A above. A Town Board member shall promptly recuse himself or herself from voting on the appointment, hiring, or other matter involving a person or entity described in§ 13-3A above.
- E. No Town official, officer or employee, whether paid or unpaid, shall directly or indirectly solicit, accept or receive any gift, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, material goods, things, or promise of any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred or could reasonably be expected that the gift was intended to influence such official, officer or employee in the performance of his or her official duties or was intended to reward official action or inaction. Under no circumstances shall an official, officer or employee accept any gift valued in excess of \$25. No officer or employee of the Town shall grant in the discharge of his duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prohibit any officer or employee of the Town from borrowing money from any bank or banks designated as depositories by the Town Board.

- F. No Town official, officer or employee shall disclose any confidential information or use said information to further their personal interest or the personal interests of others, unless required to do so by law or court order.
- G. No Town official, officer or employee, whether paid or unpaid, shall engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service is in conflict with the proper discharge of his official duties.
- H. No Town official, officer or employee shall accept employment by any person, firm or corporation with which he or his department, office or agency is engaged on behalf of the Town in the transaction of business which is or may be affected by his official action. No officer or employee of the Town shall, within one year after termination of service or employment with the Town, appear before any board or agency of the Town in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he personally participated during the period of his service or employment or which was under his active consideration.
- I. No Town official, officer or employee shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself or others or grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizens beyond that which is available to every other citizen.
- J. No Town official, officer or employee shall, by his conduct, give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can unduly influence him or improperly enjoy his favor in the performance of his official duties or that he is affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person.
- K. No Town official, officer or employee shall direct or cause any officer or employee of the Town to do or perform any service or work outside of public work or employment, or accept any such service or work, nor shall any officer or employee of the Town offer to or perform any such service or work for such officer or employee.
- L. No Town official, officer or employee shall use or permit the use of Town property (including vehicles, equipment, materials and any other property) for personal convenience, profit, or political means except when such use is available to Town citizens generally or is provided as a matter of written Town policy
- M. No Town official, officer or employee shall require, authorize, or influence any other Town official, officer, or employee to participate in an election campaign or contribute to a political committee.
- N. No Town official, officer or employee shall induce or aid other officials, officers or employees of the Town to violate any provisions of this chapter.
- O. All Town Board members, officials, officers, employees, and volunteers are required to reasonably cooperate with any investigation of the Board of Ethics. Such reasonable cooperation shall include by way of example, but not be limited to, participating in investigatory interviews, producing documents or other tangible information in their possession or control, and appearing at scheduled hearings and giving testimony. Employees represented by a union will have the right to have a union representative present with them for any investigatory interviews and to seek the advice of their union representative prior to appearing before or providing information to the Board of Ethics.
- P. Every Ethics Board Member shall annually complete two hours of ethics training.
- Q. This Ethics Code shall be annually available to all Town officials, Board members, employees, and volunteers.

### § 13-4. Penalties.

- A. In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, a violation of this chapter may result as follows:
  - (1) Forfeiture of pay, suspension or removal from office or employment or such other disciplinary action as the Town Board may consider advisable.
  - (2) Any contract knowingly entered into by and/or with the Town or any agency thereof in which there is an interest or financial benefit prohibited by this chapter shall be null, void, and wholly unenforceable.
  - (3) Recommend a civil fine, not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, upon a Town Official, Board member, employee or volunteer found guilty of a violation of this code. Such fine shall be payable to the Town.
- B. No action expressly or impliedly permitted under Article 18 of the General Municipal Law shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

#### § 13-5. Disclosure statements.

- A. The following Town officials, officers and employees of the Town of West Seneca shall be required to file annual disclosure statements by March 31 of each year in the form set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto: |
  - (1) All elected officials.
  - (2) All department heads.

- (3) Any and all Board members, Commission members, Committee members, whether elected, appointed, or volunteer.
- [1] Editor's Note: Said attachment is on file in Town offices.
- B. Said forms shall be filed with the Town Clerk and shall be available for public inspection.
- C. Any independent contractors hired by the Town to perform any work for the Town shall be required to file annual disclosure statements by March 31 of each year in a form set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.|2|
  - [2] Editor's Note: Said attachment is on file in Town offices.

### § 13-6. Whistleblower Policy.

- A. This Whistleblower Policy applies to all board members, officers, employees of the Town of West Seneca, and the public, and provides them with a confidential means to report credible allegation of misconduct, wrongdoing or unethical behavior and to protect those individuals, when acting in good faith, from personal or professional retaliation.
- B. Town employees who discover or have knowledge of potential wrongdoing concerning board members, officers or employees of the Town, or a person having business dealings with the Town, or concerning the Town itself, shall report such activity in accordance with the following procedures:
  - (1) The Town employee shall disclose any information concerning wrongdoing either orally or in a written report to his or her supervisor, to the Town Ethics Board Attorney, general counsel, human resources representative, or the Erie County Whistle Blower Hotline at (716-858-7722) or email at whistleblower@erie.gov.
  - (2) Town employees who discover or have knowledge of wrongdoing shall report such wrongdoing in a prompt and timely manner. If reporting through the Town Ethics Board Attorney, then the form attached hereto as Exhibit "C"[¹1shall be completed and submitted to the Town Ethics Board Attorney.
    - [1] Editor's Note: Said attachment is on file in Town offices.
  - (3) The identity of the whistleblower and the substance of his or her allegations will be kept confidential to the best extent possible.
  - (4) The individual to whom the potential wrongdoing is reported shall investigate and handle the claim in a timely and reasonable manner, which may include referring such information to the authorities or an appropriate law enforcement agency where applicable.
  - (5) Should a Town employee believe in good faith that disclosing information within the Town would likely subject him or her to adverse personnel action or be wholly ineffective; the Town employee may instead disclose the information to the local authorities or to an appropriate law enforcement agency, if applicable.
  - (6) Should a Town employee believe in good faith that disclosing information within the Town would likely subject him or her to adverse personnel action or be wholly ineffective; the Town employee may instead disclose the information to the local authorities or to an appropriate law enforcement agency, if applicable.
  - (7) All allegations of retaliation against a whistleblower or interference with an individual seeking to disclose potential wrongdoing will be thoroughly investigated by the Town Ethics Board.
  - (8) Any Town employee who retaliates against or attempts to interfere with any individual for having in good faith disclosed potential violations of the Town's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing is subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.
  - (9) Any allegation of retaliation or interference will be taken and treated seriously and irrespective of the outcome of the initial complaint, will be treated as a separate matter.
  - (10) The Whistleblower Policy is not intended to limit, diminish or impair any other rights or remedies that an individual may have under the law with respect to disclosing potential wrongdoing free from retaliation or adverse personnel action.
  - (11) Specifically, the Whistleblower Policy is not intended to limit any rights or remedies that an individual may have under the laws of the State of New York, including but not limited to the following provisions: Civil Service Law§ 75-b, Labor Law§ 740, State Finance Law§ 191 (commonly known as the "False Claims Act") and Executive Law§ 55(1).
  - (12) With respect to any rights or remedies that an individual may have pursuant to Civil Service Law§ 75-b or Labor Law§ 740, any employee who wishes to preserve such rights shall, prior to disclosing information to a government body, have made a good faith effort to provide the appointing authority or his or her designee the information to be disclosed and shall provide the appointing authority or designee a reasonable time to take appropriate action unless there is imminent and serious danger to public health or safety. [See Civil Service Law§ 75-b(2)(b); Labor Law§ 740(3)).
- C. Once a complaint has been submitted, the Ethics Board will investigate the allegations of the complaint. In conducting any such investigation, the Ethics Board may administer oaths or affirmations, issue subpoenas pursuant to Article 23 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, compel witness attendance and require the production of any books or records which it may deem relevant and material. The Ethics Board shall require clear and convincing evidence before determining that a violation has occurred.

## § 13-7. Creation of Board of Ethics; composition of membership; conditions of membership.

- A. A Board of Ethics is hereby established pursuant to Article 18, Section 808, Subdivision 3 of the General Municipal Law. The members of the Board of Ethics shall be appointed by the Town Board and shall receive no salary or compensation for their services as members of such Board. A member of the Board of Ethics may be removed for cause. The Board shall be composed of one member to be appointed by each member of the Town Board with staggered terms. Three members shall be appointed in 2021 and two members to be appointed in 2022. The term of each member shall be five years with three more being appointed or reappointed in 2026 and two being appointed or reappointed in 2027, which shall continue on the same scheme. A member of the Town Board shall not appoint himself or herself or any other current Town Board member. The seventh member of the Board of Ethics shall be the Town Clerk, who shall be an ex officio member without the power to vote. The members of the Board of Ethics shall be residents of the Town of West Seneca and only one member shall be a current Town official, officer or employee. The Town Attorney representing the Town shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Ethics without the power to vote. In the event that the Town Board increases to five board members, the Board of Ethics shall become a five-member Board. One member shall be appointed by each Town Board member and the terms shall be five years as decided by a majority of the Town Board members.
- B. Advisory opinions. Upon written request of any Town official, officer or employee, the Board of Ethics established herein shall render advisory opinions regarding this chapter of Ethics or the provisions contained in Article 18 of the New York State General Municipal Law. The Board of Ethics shall also make recommendations as to any amendments to this chapter upon the request and majority vote of the Town Board. The opinions of the Board of Ethics shall be advisory and under no circumstances shall the identity of the Town officer, official or employee be disclosed except to authorized persons and agencies or pursuant to a court order.
- C. Rules and regulations. The Board of Ethics shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as to its form and procedures and shall maintain appropriate records of its opinions and proceedings.
- All recommendations, advisory opinions and rules and regulations of the Board of Ethics shall be kept in the Town Clerk's Office.

## § 13-8. Severability.

If any portion of this chapter shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such portion thereof shall be deemed inoperative and the balance of the code deemed to be in full force and effect.

## § 13-9. Permissible claims.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former Town official, officer or employee of any claim, account, demand or suit against the Town or any agency thereof on behalf of himself or any relative or household member arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

## § 13-10. Compliance required; distribution of copies.

Compliance with this Code of Ethics shall be deemed a condition of employment for all Town officials, officers and employees. The Town Human Resources Department must promptly cause a copy of this code, including any amendments, to be distributed to every person who is or becomes an official, officer or employee of the Town of West Seneca and a receipt of the same shall be signed by such official, officer or employee. Such receipts shall be filed with Human Resources, who shall supply the necessary forms, and a photocopy shall be filed in the officer's or employee's personnel folder and with the Board of Ethics.

§ 13-11. When effective.

This chapter shall become effective immediately upon its enactment by the Town Board after proper filing, including filing with the office of the State Comptroller and the office of the Secretary of State.

### **TOWN OF WEST SENECA**



Gary A. Dickson **Supervisor's Office** 

TOWN SUPERVISOR
Gary A. Dickson
TOWN COUNCIL
William Bauer
Joseph J. Cantafio
Jeffrey Piekarec
William P. Hanley

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Town of West Seneca's Code of Ethics (West Seneca Town Code Chapter 13). I have read and understand the aforementioned Code together with all amendments thereto and will abide by them.

Signature:	-		
Print Name:			
Date:			