

Rives Township Jackson County, Michigan

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025- 03

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY DATE PROPOSED:
FEBRUARY 6, 2025

DATE ADOPTED:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

I. Application and Purpose

This conflict-of-interest policy will apply to Rives Township Board Members, appointees, members of the various Rives Township commissions and committees (including, but not limited to, the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Review), Rives Township employees, and all persons or entities (including the entities' employees) which serve as contractors in Rives Township. Such individuals shall be hereinafter cumulatively referred to as public servants.

This policy is intended to supplement existing Michigan law concerning unethical conduct and/or conflicts of interest by municipal board members, employees, and commissioners. In addition to this policy, public servants are bound by all state laws, including, but not limited to, the Incompatible Public Office Act, (MCL 15.181 et. Seq), the Contract of Public Servants with Public Entities Act (MCL 15.321 et seq.), and the Standards of Conduct of Public Officers and Employees Act (MCL 15.341 et seq.)

As employees, members, participants, and contractors in the municipal government, one must be diligent in avoiding unethical conduct, conflicts of interest, and/or the appearance or perception thereof.

II. Conflict of Interest Defined and Prohibited Conduct

A public servant shall not engage in quid pro quo conduct and accept personal favors, benefits, goods, or money in exchange for granting privileges, permits, licenses, rezonings, or other favors, or passing ordinances. A public servant shall not accept gifts, favors, privileges, promises, or benefits under circumstances which might influence or be construed by a reasonable person as influencing the performance of his or her governmental duties.

An actual conflict of interest arises in a situation where:

1. Financial or other personal or professional considerations compromise, or could reasonably appear to compromise, a public servant's objectivity, professional judgment, professional integrity, or ability to perform his or her responsibilities to the Township.

III. Compliance

It is expected and required that public servants will comply with and help enforce this policy. Each person has the primary responsibility to assure that this policy is understood and met and ensure that the public can have full confidence in the integrity of the Township government.

A. Personal Conflicts of Interest

It is the duty of a public servant to abstain from deliberating or voting on matters in which he or she has a conflict of interest. Additionally, a public servant shall forgo advocating for any entity, business, organization, or company in which he or she has a pecuniary interest. This applies even if the public servant is advocating for such entity, business, organization, or company in front of a board, commission, or subcommittee in which the public servant does not have a vote, relationship with, or supervisory authority.

In the event of a conflict of interest, it is the public servant's duty to declare such conflict to the Board, commission, subcommittee, or department in which he or she is a member. If the public servant is a member of a Board or Commission that holds public meetings, such notification should occur at the public meeting at which the matter is introduced and any subsequent meetings at which a vote will be held. Notification shall occur prior to any deliberation on the matter. Public servants that are members of a Board, Commission, or Committee should abstain from participating in any deliberations or votes on the matter, absent invocation of the rule of necessity.

B. Conflict Assessment

If it is unclear whether conduct constitutes a conflict of interest, a public servant can submit written notification of the circumstances constituting the conflict to the Township Supervisor, who shall cause such item to be placed on the Township Board agenda at its next meeting. At the Township Board meeting, the Township Board shall have the opportunity to deliberate and declare whether the proposed circumstance constitutes a conflict of interest. A vote of the majority of the Board is necessary to declare that a conflict arises from the proposed circumstances. If a conflict is deemed to arise from the circumstances, the public servant should abstain from participating in any deliberations or votes on the matter.

IV. Enforcement

It is the duty of a public servant to promptly report any perceived violation of this Policy. Perceived violations shall be made in writing to the public servant's manager or, if the individual is on a board or commission, the chair of the commission. If the perceived violation involves the public servant's manager or chair member, the violation shall be reported to the Township Supervisor (or the Township Clerk and Treasurer if the Supervisor is the subject of the report).

2025- 3 Resolution to Authorize Conflict of Interest Policy

I, Joseph Super, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Rives Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of Rives Township, as presented at a regular meeting of said Board held on February 6, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.


Joseph Super, Clerk

2/7/2025
Date