

MENOMINEE COUNTY/TOWN OF MENOMINEE
ETHICS INQUIRY BOARD

LAURE PECORE,

Complainant,

v.

LOUISE MADOSH, Treasurer/Register of Deeds,

Respondent.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ETHICS INQUIRY BOARD

On August 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. the Ethics Inquiry Board was convened to hear the grievance of Laure Pecore against Louise Madosh. Present for the hearing were members of the Board: Robert Hermes, Annmarie Johnson and Barbara Grignon, together with Corporation Counsel, Terence J. Bouressa. Both parties to the grievance were present and evidence was presented to the Board in the form of exhibits and the testimony of the parties and witnesses including: Misty Wayka, Beth Moses, Jeremy Weso, Amy Dillenburg, Sarah Steinbach, and Kyle Franson by letter.

After considering the testimony of the parties and the witnesses, together with the exhibits submitted, the Board makes the following findings and recommendations:

BOARD FINDINGS

1. That the positions of Treasurer and Register of Deeds are elected positions with defined duties and responsibilities which positions are to cooperatively work with the Town and County Board of Supervisors and their committees to provide necessary information to conduct Town and County business. The Board determines that it is reasonable for the Town and County

Board to request the attendance of the Treasurer and Register of Deeds at committee and board meetings in order to have necessary information to conduct Town and County business.

2. That specifically, the duties of the Treasurer are defined by Section 59.25 of the Wisconsin Statutes and include receiving and paying out monies, keeping true and correct accounts of receipts and expenditures, and other duties more specifically described. That the Town and County Board require the information kept by the Treasurer's office as required by statute and otherwise to conduct Town and County business including attending Town and County Board and committee meetings when it is deemed necessary for the conducting of Town and County business.

3. That specifically, the duties of the Register of Deeds is defined in Section 59.43 of the Wisconsin Statutes and further requires information to be provided by the Register of Deeds to the Town and County Board and their committees from time to time as may be required to conduct Town and County business. The Register of Deeds is expected to attend committee and board meetings as requested in order to conduct Town and County business.

4. The Board finds that it is necessary for Louise Madosh, as the Treasurer and Register of Deeds, be present in her office to serve the public as required by Wisconsin Statutes and further as required by Section 15 of the Code of Ethics for Menominee County/Town Officials and Employees requiring public officials to maintain office hours as required. The Ethics Inquiry Board finds that Louise Madosh as Treasurer and Register of Deeds is not present in her office as required and necessary.

5. The Board finds that full and complete honesty and transparency are necessary between elected officials and members of the Town and County Board. The Board finds that Louise Madosh, in her capacity as Treasurer and Register of Deeds, was not completely honest

with members of the Personnel and Finance Committee and County Board specifically in denying her attendance at the meeting of the Register of Deeds Association which took place on June 8 and 9, 2017, and by stating that inquiring parties were mistaken as to her attendance and otherwise not being forthright and honest with regard to her attendance at the meeting.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Ethics Inquiry Board recommends that the Treasurer and Register of Deeds, Louise Madosh, be reprimanded for failure to attend committee and board meetings as required. The recommended reprimands are pursuant to ¶ 19.08 A. 3. of the Menominee County/Town Code of Ethics Ordinance (the Code). The Ethics Inquiry Board makes this finding by clear and convincing evidence.

2. The Ethics Inquiry Board recommends that the Treasurer and Register of Deeds, Louise Madosh be reprimanded for failure to keep regular office hours as required of elected officials. The Ethics Inquiry Board makes this finding by clear and convincing evidence.

3. The Ethics Inquiry Board recommends that Louise Madosh, in her capacity as Register of Deeds, be reprimanded for her failure to be honest and forthright in connection with her attendance at the meeting referenced. The Ethics Inquiry Board makes this finding by clear and convincing evidence.

4. In addition to the above recommended reprimands and as to the violations of the ethics ordinance that have been determined to exist by the Ethics Inquiry Board, it is further recommended that pursuant to ¶ 19.08 A. 2., of the Code and based on the nature of the violations that Louise Madosh, in her capacity as Treasurer and Register of Deeds, pay \$250.00 to the Menominee County through its Administrative Coordinator whether through installments,

payroll deductions, or otherwise, within six (6) months following the adoption of the recommendations of the Ethics Inquiry Board.


5. The Ethics Inquiry Board further finds that there are problems and issues within the Treasurer's Office with respect to the handling of receipts and disbursements and various issues related thereto. The Board does not find a violation of the Treasurer's duties with respect to the receiving, handling and disbursement of County funds, based upon the evidence presented, which did not constitute clear and convincing evidence so as to justify a recommendation as to these allegations.

By their signatures below, the members of the Ethics Inquiry Board hereby adopt the above findings and make the recommendations set forth to the Menominee County Board of Supervisors.


Date: 8-14-17


Robert Hermes, Ethics Inquiry Board

Date: 8-15-17


Annmarie Johnson, Ethics Inquiry Board

Date: 8/15/17


Barbara Grignon, Ethics Inquiry Board