

# DRAFT

## PUBLIC HEARING -TOWN OF SHELBY

Meeting is live streamed. You may see complete meeting on the Town of Shelby website page.

### Proposed local law 1-2023 Code of Ethics

November 20, 2023

7:50 PM

Present: Scott Wengewicz, Supervisor  
Steve Seitz, Councilman  
John Pratt, Councilman  
Ed Zelazny, Councilman  
Jeff Schiffer, Councilman  
Darlene Rich, Town Clerk  
Pam Henry, Deputy Clerk  
Kathleen Bennett, Attorney  
Claude Grimes, Constable  
Dale Root- Highway Supt.  
Miranda Bennett, Bookkeeper

Others	Michael Rich	Sharlene Pratt
	Leona Weese	John Parada
	Pam Henry	Paul Henry
	Linda Limina	Alana Koneski
	Jim Heminway	Pat Eick
	James Zelazny	Karen Curtain
	Joy Waters	Lawrence Waters
	Alan Bushover	Marguerite Sherman
	John Parada	Gabrielle Barone
	James Zelazny	Donna Mazur
	Stephen Mazur II	Paul Curtain

Public Hearing was called to order at 7:50 PM.

Supervisor advised the audience of some rules for tonight's public hearing. When you come up to speak tonight speak loud into the microphone, we are having trouble hearing people. Sign up sheets are available for those that want to speak. There is a three-minute time limit on public comments.

Councilman Pratt-Said we needed to go back over this again. Section 15 still needs a modification under C, saying recusal needs to go one step further. If you're an elected official or employee you shouldn't be on the Republican Committee or the Democrat Committee or any of them. Supervisor said they added that paragraph and that's what he wanted in there. Pratt said no, you added recusal. Councilman Pratt said what we asked for was if you were an elected member of the town board, or any other thing to do with the town board, an employee of the town you were not to be on the Republican committee because it's definitely a conflict. In the paragraph he was looking at it said recusal. Supervisor said when he came in at the last board meeting you had already agreed to the paragraph and I said I am fine with that if you guys are good with that, and the lawyer wrote that down. Councilman Zelazny-I agree with John that we did not agree to that at all. Councilman Seitz was ok with it the way it was, he had no issues. Councilman Zelazny said they are still sending endorsed candidates to the town and I think it's a huge conflict. Councilman Zelazny said Ridgeway did this a few years ago, and they aren't having any issues with any of the candidates coming over and thinks it's a good idea. Recusal and what Councilman Pratt is talking about is not one of the same, they are different. Councilman Pratt said we have a lot of people out here nodding their heads. This isn't what we agreed on so I don't know where we are coming at here. Mike Rich said it works in Ridgeway why do we have to be different. Joe Root said, well they don't have it in Barre, why do we have to be different? Linda Limina asked to speak. Supervisor told her no because she did not sign up. Alan Bushover said we did not know what was going to be brought up so why would we sign up ahead of time to speak? Supervisor said it had been on the website for a week. Larry had signed up to speak so Supervisor Linda spoke in place of him. She said she thinks there is a difference of between somebody recusing themselves and not being able to seat somebody else versus sitting on the committee and having the ability to endorse or not endorse a candidate and whether its legal or not it's the higher thing to do. So, she thinks what people are asking is just if there's not that big of deal about it why can't you pass it that way. People that sit on that committee or people that are on

the board or work for the town should not be able to have a say in who sits up here because if you should have an issue with somebody you work with, the chances of you sitting in on the Republican Committee and endorsing that person to come on the board or work for the town is probably going to be tainted. And whether you can legally make it that or not you have to see that can clearly happen so she doesn't understand if its not that big of deal why can't you pass it. Why can't you put it in? Councilman Pratt-In the past you have called for a show of hands from the audience on different items, do you think it's something we should do tonight? Supervisor said no he is not doing that tonight. Councilman Pratt said okay then we wont be doing it on anything from here on our right? Supervisor did not answer. Councilman Schiffer-Just want to make this clear in my head. He can't remember if it was Mr. Heminway or somebody came up about recusing and I thought it was a bright idea or maybe I misunderstood because I thought if I was on the Republican committee and I am a Councilman then I can't vote on who the next councilman would be appointed. Thats the way he understood it. Jim Heminway said he had agreed with John that they really shouldn't be on the committee at all. Councilman Schiffer- according to what we are saying he could not be on the Republican Committee and be a councilman. Allan Bushover said that was the vote on that proposal. Alana Koneski-It's just a conflict of interest. Alan Bushover said you may get more people. You never know.

After no other comments the Supervisor called the public hearing adjourned at 7:58PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene A. Rich, MMC, RMC  
Town Clerk