



**MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

PO Box 1370

Jefferson City, MO 65102

[www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov)

(573) 751-2020 / (800) 392-8660

James Klahr

Executive Director

September 13, 2016

Patricia Martin  
206 Old Highway 39  
South Greenfield MO 65752

Re: File No. 16-0060-I, 16-0063-I, 16-0065-I

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaints filed against you at its September 12, 2016 meeting. The Commission reviewed the allegations that you: 1) personally spoke with the city clerk regarding payment of a family member's water bill without signing the log book as required by a local ordinance; 2) without authority of the board of trustees, took gravel owned by the village to repair a friend's driveway include taking village owned gravel; 3) without authority of the board of trustees, signed a service report for work performed by a company to refuel the village's generator; 4) without authority of the board of trustees, contacted the city attorney to stop the attorney from proceeding on taking certain legal action on behalf of the village; and 5) prior to your service on the board, illegally closed one end of a culvert in front of your home.

Staff reviewed the complaint and the various allegations. Staff determined that, while you did meet with the city clerk regarding the water bill, you indicated you signed in as required under ordinance 2016-1.<sup>1</sup>

While you admit that you took gravel to a friend's property, there was not adequate evidence that this occurred in violation of city ordinance.

In regard to the service performed on the village generator, staff determined that the work performed had already been approved by a village employee responsible for these matters.

With respect to allegation four, you admitted that you spoke with the city attorney but that conversation was not to request that the attorney take any particular action or stop taking any particular action. Staff contact with the city attorney confirmed this.

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<sup>1</sup> Staff was not able to find supporting documentation of village's passing ordinance 2016-1. During the time this complaint was pending, the State Auditor issued Audit Report No. 2016064 which made numerous findings regarding how the village handles its business. The findings included a finding (Finding 4) and recommendations regarding how the village maintains its ordinances and records under the Missouri Sunshine Law.

Finally, the allegation that you illegally blocked part of a culvert relates to an incident that occurred before you started serving on the board of trustees. The Commission does not have jurisdiction to consider this allegation.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 80, RSMo, relating to duties of village board of trustee members and is dismissing the complaint. The Commission further advises that, to the extent there are future allegations that a board of trustee member is not in compliance with Ordinance 2016-01 which requires a member to sign a log in sheet when meeting with the city clerk, the village is responsible for enforcing that ordinance and is in the best position to determine if the ordinance has been violated and what the consequence should be for a violation.

Sincerely,



James Klahr  
Executive Director