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Village of Caledonia
Jennifer Lindsey, Village President
250 Maple Street SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
August 28, 2025

Re: Ethics and Open Meetings Complaints Against the Caledonia Village Clerk Lisa Sunday:

I, and others make these complaints against the village clerk, who has violated multiple sections of the village code of ethics and the Open Meetings Act by presenting incomplete and altered minutes for the July 14th, 2025, Village Council meeting for approval, as documented in the August 11th, 2025, minutes. My August 10th, 2025, transcript of the meeting video shows verbatim comments, particularly from trustee Shuler and trustee Miller during agenda item 14, portions which were deliberately omitted or sanitized to obscure accountability.

This manipulation of the public record is unlawful and violates the Open Meetings Act and the following Code of Ethics obligations:

Section A (Ethics, General) : The clerk's selective editing of the minutes undermines the core principles of integrity and transparency, as it distorts the council's discussions to shield members from scrutiny and fosters a false narrative of the statements and facts.

Section A1 (Acting in Public Interest) : By omitting key resident and council comments, as verified by my transcript, the clerk failed to prioritize the public's right to an accurate record, favoring a controlled, biased narrative over community transparency.

Section A2 (Comply with Law) : The clerk's actions violate legal standards for maintaining truthful public records, as village policy mandates complete and accurate minute-taking, which the August 11th minutes fail to reflect compared to the transcript and video record.

Section A3 (Conduct of Members) : The clerk's deliberate alteration of the minutes reflects unprofessional conduct, failing to uphold the expected standards of accuracy and accountability.

Section A5 (Conduct at Public Meetings) : By presenting altered minutes during the August 11th meeting, the clerk undermined transparent public discourse, as the alterations and omissions hid critical discussions from the July 14th meeting relating to two trustee's ethics violations, and same trustee's admissions of deception regarding the DNR Passport Grant application stipulation of non-commercial use of funding.

Section C (Code of Ethics and Standards) : The clerk's actions broadly violated ethical standards by producing a misleading record that erodes public trust and accountability. Further investigation is required into all prior meetings for repeat violations of altering and misrepresenting official meeting minutes of record

Page 9 (Acknowledgment of Affirmation of Oath) : The clerk compromised her sworn oath to act with integrity, honesty, and dedication to the public good. By altering the August 11th minutes to exclude verbatim comments from the July 14th meeting, as confirmed by my August 10th transcript and video record, the clerk failed to uphold her commitment to transparent and ethical public service. This complaint is grounded in the clerk's intentional omission of key statements, particularly those by Shuler and Miller, which my transcript preserves but the official minutes presented for approval distort.

Conclusion and Remedy: The actions of the village clerk to present a public record purposely edited and manipulated for personal or coerced reasons, constitutes multiple egregious violations of the Open Meetings Act and violates her sworn Oath of Affirmation to honor and uphold the Village Code of Ethics.

These are the resulting actions of remedy demanded after a thorough investigation:

1. Immediately re-transcribe and present, in it's entirety, at the next scheduled council meeting, the complete and un-altered transcript of the video minutes for the July 14, 2025 village meeting regarding both resident and trustee comments.
2. Apologize publicly, to the village residents for each violation of ethics referenced.
3. Require the village clerk to attend refresh training on the importance and strict adherence to the Village Code of Ethics and how to effectively and honestly communicate to and with, and accurately record the public comments of all constituent residents from this day forward.
4. Require the clerk to publicly reaffirm her Oath of Affirmation to uphold the law and the Village Code of Ethics.

Submitted and Signed this day August 28, 2025

Jeffrey Kusmierz, et al

Caledonia Village Resident