

**Code
of the
Town of Rochester**

COUNTY OF ULSTER
STATE OF NEW YORK

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**OFFICIALS
OF THE
TOWN OF
ROCHESTER**

Town Offices
Post Office Box 65
Accord, New York
12404
(914) 626-7384

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Supervisor
ROBERT K. BAKER

Deputy Supervisor
RICHARD W. GRAY

Town Board
CARL EDWARDS
RICHARD W. GRAY
RONALD J. SANTOSKY
LEON SMITH

Town Clerk
VERONICA I. SOMMER

PREFACE

Established in 1688 and incorporated in 1703, the Town of Rochester has always been closely related to its productive soils and outstanding scenic beauty. Easily reached by traveling up the gentle inclines of the Roundout Valley from the Hudson River, its main thoroughfare, Route No. 209 (the oldest public road in the United States), became an important overland path to Philadelphia and the West.

In the beginning, its people were sustenance farmers; developing specialties as opportunities presented themselves. Water power was plentiful so grist and lumber mills developed. Hemlock trees abounded making the tanning industry commonplace in the uplands. Extremely hard conglomerate in the Shawangunks, and bluestone in the Catskills, were the source of important industries.

However, most of the output above the sustenance level was only for local consumption until the advent of the D&H Canal (1828 through 1898) which made the export of local products feasible. The canal established locks where the terrain required it and "ports" mostly where transverse roads from the upland or mountains existed. Hence, Accord (Port Jackson) and Alligerville became the town's major points of transshipment of local products. When the railroad replaced the canal (1900 through 1958), Accord remained a center of importance of Kyserike replaced Alligerville because the rails no longer followed the route of the canal in that area.

With the coming of the railroad with its refrigerated cars, an export dairy business became possible and soon became the major industry of the town. The trains also made coming to Rochester an easy reach for urban people wishing to enjoy our good air, fresh produce, and great scenery, and a tourist industry quickly proliferated. Ultimately, small farms lost out to large operations and boarding house and bungalow colonies gave way to hotels and a few summer camps.

Today, what little Rochester has to export such as milk and farming produce is handled by truck and the transportation "hubs" have lost their significance. We are basically a "bedroom" community in which many people are establishing second homes to enjoy our still rural nature.

Many smaller hamlets, which at one time boasted their own school, post office, and chapel, are slowly losing their sense of community and are becoming area names on the map. The Town of Rochester Census of 1990 states 5,679 residents. The population growth by the year 2000 will indicate a great increase in the number of households. Through all these changes in population and occupation, the Town of Rochester remains a place of beauty and delightful place to call home.

The Town of Rochester has, over the years, passed through a process of legislative change common to many American communities. While only a few simple laws were necessary at the time of the establishment of the town, subsequent growth of the community, together with the complexity of modern life, has created the need for new and more detailed legislation for the proper function and government of the town. The recording of local law is an aspect of municipal history, and as the community develops and changes, review and revision of old laws and consideration of new laws, in the light of current trends, must keep pace. The orderly collection of these records is an important step in this ever-continuing process. Legislation must be more than mere chronological enactments reposing in the pages of old records. It must be

available and logically arranged for convenient use and must be kept up-to-date. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that the Town Board ordered the following codification of the town's legislation.

Contents of Code

The various chapters of the Code contain all currently effective legislation of a general and permanent nature enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rochester, including revisions or amendments to existing legislation deemed necessary by the Town Board in the course of the codification.

Division of Code

The Code is divided into parts. Part I, Administrative Legislation, contains all town legislation of an administrative nature, namely, that dealing with the administration of government, that establishing or regulating municipal departments and that affecting officers and employees of the municipal government and its departments. Part II, General Legislation, contains all other town legislation of a regulatory nature. Items of legislation in this part generally impose penalties for violation of their provisions, whereas those in Part I do not.

Grouping of Legislation and Arrangement of Chapters

The various items of legislation are organized into chapters, their order being an alphabetical progression from one subject to another. Wherever there are two or more items of legislation dealing with the same subject, they are combined into a single chapter. Thus, for example, all legislation pertaining to the regulation of streets and sidewalks may be found in Part II, in the chapter entitled "Streets and Sidewalks." In such chapters, use of article or part designations has preserved the identity of the individual items of legislation.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents details the alphabetical arrangement of material by chapter as a means of identifying specific areas of legislation. Wherever a chapter is divided into two or more articles or parts, titles of the several articles or parts are listed beneath the chapter title.

Reserved Chapters

Space has been provided in the Code for the convenient insertion, alphabetically, of later enactments. In the Table of Contents such space appears as chapters entitled "(Reserved)." In the body of the Code, reserved space is provided by breaks in the page-numbering sequence between chapters.

Pagination

A unique page-numbering system has been used, in which each chapter forms an autonomous unit. One hundred pages have been allotted to each chapter, and the first page of

each is the number of that chapter followed by the numerals “01.” Thus, Chapter 6 begins on page 601, Chapter 53 on page 5301, etc. By use of this system, it is possible to add or to change pages in any chapter without affecting the sequence of subsequent pages in other chapters, and to insert new chapters without affecting the existing organization.

Numbering of Sections

A chapter-related section-numbering system is employed, in which each section of every item of legislation is assigned a number which indicates both the number of the chapter in which the legislation is located and the location of the section within that chapter. Thus, the first section of Chapter 6 is § 6-1, while the fourth section of Chapter 53 is § 53-4. New sections can then be added between existing sections using a decimal system. Thus, for example, if two sections were to be added between §§ 53-4 and 53-5, they would be numbered as §§ 53-4.1 and 53-4.2.

Scheme

The Scheme is the list of section titles which precedes the text of each chapter. These titles are carefully written so that, taken together, they may be considered as a summary of the content of the chapter. Taken separately, each describes the content of a particular section. For ease and precision of reference, the Scheme titles are repeated as section headings in the text.

Histories

At the end of the Scheme in each chapter is located the legislative history for that chapter. This History indicates the specific legislative source from which the chapter was derived, including the enactment number (e.g., ordinance number, local law number, bylaw number, resolution number, etc.), if pertinent, and the date of adoption. In the case of chapters containing parts or articles derived from more than one item of legislation, the source of each part or article is indicated in the History. Amendments to individual sections or subsections are indicated by histories where appropriate in the text.

Codification

Amendments and Revisions

New chapters adopted during the process of codification are specifically enumerated in chapter Histories with reference to “Ch. 1, General Provisions,” where the legislation adopting this Code and making such revisions will appear after final enactment. Sections amended or revised are indicated in the text by means of Editor’s Notes referring to the chapter cited above.

General References; Editor’s Notes

In each chapter containing material related to other chapters in the Code, a table of General References is included to direct the reader’s attention to such related chapters. Editor’s Notes are used in the text to provide supplementary information and cross-references to related provisions in other chapters.

Appendix

Certain forms of local legislation are not of a nature suitable for inclusion in the main body of the Code but are of such significance that their application is community-wide or their provisions are germane to the conduct of municipal government. The Appendix of this Code is reserved for such legislation and for any other material that the community may wish to include.

Disposition List

The Disposition List is a chronological listing of legislation adopted since the publication of the Code, indicating its inclusion in the Code or the reason for its exclusion. The Disposition List will be updated with each supplement to the Code to include the legislation reviewed with said supplement.

Index

The Index is a guide to information. Since it is likely that this Code will be used by persons without formal legal training, the Index has been formulated to enable such persons to locate a particular section quickly. Each section of each chapter has been indexed. The Index will be supplemented and revised from time to time as new legislation is added to the Code.

Instructions for Amending the Code

All changes to the Code, whether they are amendments, deletions or complete new additions, should be adopted as amending the Code. In doing so, existing material that is not being substantively altered should not be renumbered. Where new sections are to be added to a chapter, they can be added at the end of the existing material (continuing the numbering sequence) or inserted between existing sections as decimal numbers (e.g., a new section between §§ 45-5 and 45-6 should be designated § 45-5.1). New chapters should be added in the proper alphabetical sequence in the appropriate division or part (e.g., Part I, Administrative Legislation, or Part II, General Legislation), utilizing the reserved chapter numbers. New chapter titles should begin with the key word for the alphabetical listing (e.g., new legislation on abandoned vehicles should be titled "Vehicles, Abandoned" under "V" in the table of contents, and a new enactment on coin-operated amusement devices should be "Amusement Devices" or "Amusement Devices, Coin-Operated" under "A" in the table of contents). Where a reserved number is not available, an "A" chapter should be used (e.g., a new chapter to be included between Chapters 45 and 46 should be designated Chapter 45A). New articles may be inserted between existing articles in a chapter (e.g., adding a new district to the Zoning Regulations) by the use of "A" articles (e.g., a new article to be included between Articles XVI and XVII should be designated Article XVIIA). The section numbers would be as indicated above (e.g., if the new Article XVIIA contains six sections and existing Article XVI ends with § 45-30 and Article XVII begins with § 45-31, Article XVIIA should contain §§ 45-30.1 through 45-30.6).

Supplementation

Supplementation of the Code will follow the adoption of new legislation. New legislation or amendments to existing legislation will be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage. Supplemental pages should be inserted as soon as they are received and old pages removed, in accordance with the Instruction Page which accompanies each supplement.

Acknowledgment

The assistance of the town officials, especially Supervisor Robert Baker, is gratefully acknowledged by the editor. The codification of the legislation of the Town of Rochester reflects an appreciation of the needs of a progressive and expanding community. As in many other municipalities, officials are faced with fundamental changes involving nearly every facet of community life. Problems increase in number and complexity and range in importance from everyday details to crucial areas of civic planning. It is the profound conviction of General Code Publishers Corp. that this Code will contribute significantly to the efficient administration of local government. As Samuel Johnson observed, "The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public."