

Chapter 2 Officials and Committees
2.15 General Regulations Governing All Village Officials

(5) Meeting Attendance

The board may compel the attendance of trustees at meetings and punish nonattendance by that authority granted by sec. 61.32, Stats. Certain villages, for example, have enacted legislation that provides for the assessment of a penalty against a trustee in case of an unexcused absence. Others have adopted rules that allow, at the direction of the board, for a law enforcement officer to actually locate and produce, if possible, an absent member at the meeting. If a board member is continually absent from board meetings, he or she may potentially be subjected to the ultimate penalty measure — removal. WI Stats. Section 17.13(2), specifically provides that any elective village officer may be removed by the board for “gross neglect of duty.” The Village of Eagle board is hereby formally defining ‘gross neglect of duty’ to not be limited to but shall include both excessive absences and failure to attend meetings in a sober and accountable state to be able to make sound and responsible decisions.

Board members for the Village of Eagle may be absent (either excused or not excused) from two meetings (Board, Committee, Commission or Rep) in a quarter.

For the third and fourth missed meeting in a quarter, a penalty of \$60.00 for each meeting will be deducted from their quarterly stipend.

Each meeting missed in a quarter thereafter will be a \$100.00 penalty deduction until a zero balance is reached and no stipend is left to be paid.

If a board member misses 10 meetings in 6 months, the Board will review the individual attendance situation and take further action as needed.

Board members shall not attend meetings under the influence of drugs or alcohol because it can hinder a member’s ability to make decisions in the best interest and good of the Village. If a majority of the Board determines that a board member appears to be under the influence of alcohol or some other drug and that it appears to be impacting their ability to perform their duties that the board member may be removed from the meeting.

As a member of the village board, all board members are imbued with the power to manage and control village property, finances and public services and to act for the government and good order of the village for the health, safety, welfare and convenience of the public. See sec. 61.34, Stats. These duties and powers, however, can only be exercised with the other members of the board at legally convened meetings. A board member’s continuous failure to attend meetings in a sober state and perform the functions of the office, therefore, reasonably equates to gross neglect of duty and constitutes legitimate grounds for removal. See Governing Bodies 296.

NOTE:

Change the existing paragraph (5) to paragraph (6)