

CASE STUDIES 2019

Case A

In 2011, the town of Blue Springs opened a publicly funded senior living center. The center has been a blessing for the community which has a growing aging population. Many elders in town do not have family near. The local economy was badly affected by the 2008 economic downturn and many youngsters relocated to larger urban areas around the country where they could find jobs. Unfortunately, many of them had to leave their elderly parents behind.

By the end of 2018, the residents of the senior living center had outgrown the facility and accommodating the new requests became impossible. The Executive Director recognized the need for relocating to a larger facility but had a hard time finding the perfect place to accommodate the residents' needs.

During review of the transaction by the Board of Works, it was discovered that the Senior Center's Director retained his realtor-wife to find the new location. When asked about this, the Director mentioned that his wife agreed to contribute 1% of her commission to the center.

Case B

The town of River, immersed in a beautifully wooded area, does everything possible to educate its 35,000 residents to preserve the health of its trees. For this reason, the village offers support with tree health assessments as a public service.

The arborist appointed for the job, Mr. Dean Lohan, works M-F from 9:00am to 5:00pm and he is on call during weekends and most evenings. His availability has been a great support for the community, especially when strong winds from the plains blow over the area.

Mr. Lohan is a friendly guy. He knows everyone in town. The residents are very appreciative of his weekend and evening service and they often tip him for his work. The amount of these tips is unknown.

The clerk at the town hall, Ms. Gina Smith, recently found out that Mr. Lohan has been accepting tips the residents offer and she is concerned about this but does not know what she should do about it.

Case C

Jake has had a rough decade. His wife died after a long battle with cancer leaving many bills not covered by insurance. His income was modest, but he had access to his employer's credit card. At first, he only used the card occasionally for personal expenses. As time went by, he started using it for mortgage and other larger personal purchases and was promptly caught, tried for embezzlement, convicted and sent to jail for eight years in California.

He was released early for good behavior and moved to Indiana. He wants to "start over" but needs a job. His god-mother, whom he had kept in contact with over the years, lives locally and works as HR director for the county's largest city. She was interviewing candidates for an opening in the park department when he asked her for help. The position involves handling considerable cash and also has authority to determine which groups get which facility on which date for their event. There were already four candidates for the position, all of whom had already been interviewed. Three of the candidates are current city employees with good job performance reviews.

Without mentioning her personal relationship with Jake or his past criminal record, Betty recommended his appointment for approval by the Park Board.