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STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2020-028

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: Albert Wasden

RESPONDENT: JERALD SANDERS, Mayor

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE: ACCOUNTANT

TITLE: Mayor - Town of Swansea

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

Jerald Sanders in June, 2019, set up a 501(c)3 Foundation called Halo Community Foundation. In December/January 2019-2020, he wrote unauthorized checks to his Foundation from the Town of Swansea funds. The money was donated to the Town of Swansea from the town's people. Jerald Sanders decided to pay Halo Community Foundation, which he is listed as the sole member, for the amount of \$4,502.96. The Town Council did not know or approve this transaction. When Jerald Sanders was asked about the transfer, he was illusive and became belligerent and defensive. Attached is a copy of the Profit and Loss schedule that was supplied by the Town's accountant showing the funds listed under "Special Events" and did not list it being paid to the Halo Community Foundation. It was this entry on the Profit and Loss schedule that was questioned. It is a conflict of interest to donate money without a strong Council's approval to your own (Jerald Sanders, Mayor of Town of Swansea) foundation.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Albert Wasden who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

29 day of May, 2020

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]  
Complainant Signature

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 6-19-2024

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192

FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

C102form



SCANNED

90 MW + JB  
6/1/2020 (Am)

# Town of Swansea

## PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2019 - April 2020

	COUNCIL	MULTIPLE LOCATION	POLICE DEPARTMENT	STREET	TOWN	WATER & SEWER	TOTAL
Income							
General Fund - Income							\$0.00
Business Licenses					53,634.53		\$53,634.53
Franchise Fee					57,575.52		\$57,575.52
Impound Fees							\$60,502.23
MASC Income		60,502.23					\$0.00
MASC - Brokers Tax					595.75		\$595.75
MASC - Insurance Tax Collections					7,653.41		\$7,653.41
MASC - Set Off Debt Collection					35.00		\$35.00
MASC - Telecommunications Tax					3,127.88		\$3,127.88
<b>Total MASC Income</b>					<b>11,412.04</b>		<b>\$11,412.04</b>
Miscellaneous							\$1,365.91
Police & Court Fines and Fees					259.11		\$115,489.25
Property Tax Revenue					161,137.32		\$161,137.32
<b>Total General Fund - Income</b>					<b>284,018.52</b>		<b>\$461,116.80</b>
Interest Income							\$1,208.70
SC RIA Grant Income							\$449,571.77
Water and Sewer						1,206.58	\$3,360.00
Connection Hookup Fee							\$0.00
Customer Services							\$3,360.00
Sewer Fee							\$0.00
Water Service							\$124,450.03
COM							\$338,816.57
Fire							\$2,729.31
Non AR							\$27,320.67
Over Pay							\$59,731.00
Penalty							\$16,137.05
RETND							\$11,573.01
Water Service Collection OS							\$514.03
<b>Total Water Service</b>							\$0.00
<b>Total Customer Services</b>							\$456,821.64
							\$581,271.67

*Handwritten signature and date: 5/22/20*

# Town of Swansea

## PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2019 - April 2020

	COUNCIL	MULTIPLE LOCATION	POLICE DEPARTMENT	STREET	TOWN	WATER & SEWER	TOTAL
Impact Fee						29,317.98	\$29,317.98
Management Fees for Bull Swamp						7,425.00	\$7,425.00
Sanitation Fees							\$27,149.04
Security Deposit						10,193.45	\$10,193.45
Tap Fee						1,939.91	\$1,939.91
<b>Total Water and Sewer</b>						<b>633,508.01</b>	<b>\$660,657.05</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$177,098.28</b>	<b>\$27,149.04</b>	<b>\$284,020.64</b>	<b>\$1,084,286.36</b>	<b>\$1,572,554.32</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$177,098.28</b>	<b>\$27,149.04</b>	<b>\$284,020.64</b>	<b>\$1,084,286.36</b>	<b>\$1,572,554.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Administrative Service					25.00		\$25.00
Advertising & Marketing					4,508.42		\$4,508.42
Bank Charges & Fees					1,147.51	2,073.54	\$3,221.05
Void (deleted)				0.00			\$0.00
<b>Total Bank Charges &amp; Fees</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,147.51</b>	<b>2,073.54</b>	<b>\$3,221.05</b>
Commission of Elections					1,205.03		\$1,205.03
Contractors (deleted)					0.00		\$0.00
Court Fee							\$0.00
Court Fines Remitted to State							\$6,627.96
Criminal Justice Academy							\$0.00
Drug Surcharge							\$66.97
DUI DPS Pullout							\$2,210.35
DUS DPS Pullout							\$312.74
Law Enforcement Surcharge							\$1,913.21
Other Assessment Municipal State Share							\$11,887.54
<b>Total Court Fines Remitted to State</b>							<b>\$47,477.32</b>
Due and Subscription				0.00	2,005.54	10,015.28	<b>\$63,868.13</b>
							\$13,987.77



# Town of Swansea

## PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2019 - April 2020

	COUNCIL	MULTIPLE LOCATION	POLICE DEPARTMENT	STREET	TOWN	WATER & SEWER	TOTAL
Repairs & Maintenance							
Building					1,139.50	34,120.86	\$35,260.36
Equipment					0.00	1,620.00	\$1,620.00
Street			180.35	83.02	985.92	49,116.08	\$50,365.37
Vehicles						3,889.20	\$3,889.20
<b>Total Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>			12,057.05	792.49	593.47	1,568.79	\$15,011.80
Salaries & Wages			<b>12,237.40</b>	<b>875.51</b>	<b>2,718.89</b>	<b>90,314.93</b>	<b>\$106,146.73</b>
Payroll Taxes		31,962.48					\$0.00
Payroll Wages	14,715.44		71,218.66		41,770.16	67,907.77	\$31,962.48
Reimbursement			1,109.85				\$195,612.03
<b>Total Payroll Wages</b>	<b>14,715.44</b>		<b>72,328.51</b>		<b>41,770.16</b>	<b>67,907.77</b>	<b>\$196,721.88</b>
Retirement Benefits							\$42,282.71
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>14,715.44</b>	<b>42,282.71</b>	<b>72,328.51</b>		<b>41,770.16</b>	<b>67,907.77</b>	<b>\$270,967.07</b>
Street Maintenance							\$0.00
Solid Waste Company							\$30,152.19
<b>Total Street Maintenance</b>							<b>\$30,152.19</b>
Temporary Labor							\$12,547.50
Testing Fees							\$2,252.25
Training & Education							\$0.00
Travel							\$938.18
Uniforms			754.45	1,006.16	285.69	127.33	\$2,173.63
Utilities							\$0.00
Cell Phone							\$0.00
Phone & Internet Service			1,962.16	431.21	1,656.55	1,418.85	\$5,468.77
Power Electric			2,360.52		3,463.79	2,674.33	\$8,498.64
<b>Total Utilities</b>			<b>2,480.02</b>		<b>24,135.27</b>	<b>9,873.07</b>	<b>\$36,488.36</b>
Vehicle			<b>6,802.70</b>	<b>431.21</b>	<b>29,255.61</b>	<b>13,966.25</b>	<b>\$50,455.77</b>
Tags & Taxes							\$0.00
Vehicle Fuel	159.53		40.00		56.34		\$96.34
<b>Total Vehicle</b>	<b>159.53</b>		<b>11,387.06</b>	<b>1,247.75</b>	<b>814.47</b>	<b>5,085.44</b>	<b>\$18,654.25</b>
							<b>\$18,750.59</b>

# Town of Swansea

## PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2019 - April 2020

	COUNCIL	MULTIPLE LOCATION	POLICE DEPARTMENT	STREET	TOWN	WATER & SEWER	TOTAL
Victim Services SC Disbursement							
Assessments			5,968.42				\$0.00
Surcharges			3,190.05				\$5,968.42
<b>Total Victim Services SC Disbursement</b>			<b>9,158.47</b>				<b>\$3,190.05</b>
Water Purification						195,795.90	<b>\$9,158.47</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,874.97</b>	<b>\$114,198.25</b>	<b>\$263,823.28</b>	<b>\$37,486.10</b>	<b>\$182,496.54</b>	<b>\$585,787.92</b>	<b>\$195,795.90</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -14,874.97</b>	<b>\$ -114,198.25</b>	<b>\$ -86,725.00</b>	<b>\$ -10,337.06</b>	<b>\$101,524.10</b>	<b>\$498,498.44</b>	<b>\$1,198,667.06</b>
Other Expenses							
Other Miscellaneous Expense					911.00		
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$911.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$911.00</b>
NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ -911.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ -911.00</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -14,874.97</b>	<b>\$ -114,198.25</b>	<b>\$ -86,725.00</b>	<b>\$ -10,337.06</b>	<b>\$100,613.10</b>	<b>\$498,498.44</b>	<b>\$372,976.26</b>

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2020-028 )  
Alberta Wasden, )  
Complainant. )  
Jerald Sanders, )  
Respondent. )


BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**MOTION TO DISMISS**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act) and corresponding regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-703(C) and 52-706(C), the undersigned counsel hereby seeks an Order from the Commission dismissing the above-captioned complaint. This motion is based on the following:

1. The above-captioned complaint was filed on June 1, 2020 and alleged Respondent, Town of Swansea Mayor, wrote unauthorized Town checks to his private foundation, The Halo Community Foundation.
2. On July 12, 2021, Respondent was arrested and charged with misconduct in office, malfeasance, and embezzlement of public funds.
3. On July 15, 2021, the Commission found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Act and referred the matter to the Attorney General's Office.
4. At the outset of the Attorney General's investigation, Respondent reimbursed the Town for monies misspent.
5. On December 30, 2024, the Attorney General's Office notified the Commission that Respondent had successfully completed a Pre-Trial Intervention Program (PTI).
6. Commission staff believes that Respondent's successful completion of PTI allows for dismissal of the above-referenced Complaint.
7. Respondent's counsel was consulted and has no objection to this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Courtney M. Laster (Bar No. 77807)  
S.C. State Ethics Commission  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210  
claster@ethics.sc.gov

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2020-028 )  
Alberta Wasden, )  
Complainant. )  
Jerald Sanders, )  
Respondent. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the State Ethics Commission (Commission) convened on March 20, 2025 and heard Commission staff's Motion to Dismiss the above-captioned complaint based on the following:

1. The above-captioned complaint was filed on June 1, 2020 and alleged Respondent, Town of Swansea Mayor, wrote unauthorized Town checks to his private foundation, The Halo Community Foundation.
2. On July 12, 2021, Respondent was arrested and charged with misconduct in office, malfeasance, and embezzlement of public funds.
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4. At the outset of the Attorney General's investigation, Respondent reimbursed the Town for monies misspent.
5. On December 30, 2024, the Attorney General's Office notified the Commission that Respondent had successfully completed a Pre-Trial Intervention Program (PTI).
6. Commission staff believes that Respondent's successful completion of PTI allows for dismissal of the above-referenced Complaint.

Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-703(C) and 52-706(C), the Commission hereby grants the Motion to Dismiss C2020-028.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
  
F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina