



May 30, 2026

Robert M. Mihelich
Law Office of Robert M. Mihelich
2665 S. Moorland Road, Suite 200
New Berlin, WI 53151
262-7889-9300
Via Email: attyrmm@bizwi.rr.com

RE: Records Request to the Village of Kewaskum

Dear Mr. Mihelich:

This letter serves as the response to your Public Records Request to the Village of Kewaskum. Your requests are voluminous and detailed and, in some cases, ambiguous, so we are providing you with this response and will produce the responsive records as they become available based upon our search of the emails and electronic databases you have requested. I have set forth below your request (black font) and then the Village's response (blue font) to each request.

Records Relating to the Engagement of Carroll and Mueller Communications

1. Retainer / Engagement Agreement

All retainer agreements, engagement letters, contracts, or other agreements between the Village of Kewaskum and Buelow Vetter / Attorney Carroll relating to the investigation of Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department's hiring practices, including the date each engagement was initiated.

RESPONSE: The Village has a retainer agreement between the Village of Kewaskum and Buelow Vetter. A copy of that agreement is being produced for you.

Stadler Sacks LLC

303-B N. Main Street, West Bend, WI 53095 ♦ T: 262-304-0610
www.stadlersacks.com

2.Retainer / Engagement Agreements — Mueller Communications:

All retainer agreements, engagement letters, contracts, scope-of-work documents, or other agreements between the Village of Kewaskum and Mueller Communications / Lori Richards relating to the investigation of Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department, including the date each engagement was initiated.

RESPONSE: There are no retainer agreements, engagement letters, contracts, scope-of-work documents, or other agreements between the Village of Kewaskum and Mueller Communications/Lori Richards.

3.Billing Records — Mueller Communications:

All invoices, billing statements, time records, expense reports, and payment records from Mueller Communications to the Village relating to any work on matters involving Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department. These records are specifically requested to establish when PR-related work commenced relative to the West Bend investigation and the filing of charges.

RESPONSE: There are no invoices, billing statements, time records, expense reports, and payment records from Mueller Communications to the Village.

4.Billing Records — Carroll / Buelow Vetter:

All invoices, billing statements, time records, and payment records from Buelow Vetter / Attorney Carroll to the Village relating to any work on matters involving Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department during the Relevant Period.

RESPONSE: A copy of that Buelow Vetter/Attorney Carroll billing records, with redactions is being produced for you. They have been redacted to preserve the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. those communications are protected by the attorney/client privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being redacted because any potential disclosures would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

5. Scope of Work — Mueller Communications:

All documents describing or defining the scope of work, objectives, deliverables, or strategy assigned to or proposed by Mueller Communications in connection with this matter, including any communications defining Mueller's role relative to the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the Village's public communications strategy regarding Chief Bishop or Officer Haske.

RESPONSE: There are no such records.

B. Records Relating to the Preparation of the Summary of Investigation

6. All Drafts of the Summary:

All drafts, versions, and iterations of the Summary of Investigation dated February 26, 2026, including any tracked-changes versions, comments, or annotations, and the dates on which each draft was prepared or circulated. Draft documents are public records subject to disclosure under Wisconsin law, and no privilege attaches to drafts circulated to or prepared in collaboration with Mueller Communications, a non-attorney third party.

RESPONSE: The summary investigation was not prepared by the Village, and it is not the authority responsible for any drafts, versions, and iterations of the Summary of Investigation, nor does it possess copies of such documents.

Carroll–Mueller Communications Regarding the Summary:

All communications between Attorney Carroll (or any Buelow Vetter staff) and Mueller Communications / Lori Richards regarding the preparation, drafting, editing, or distribution of the Summary, including all emails, texts, and meeting notes.

RESPONSE: There are no such records.

7. Communications Transmitting the Summary to Village Officials:

All communications by which the Summary was transmitted to any Village Official, including the date of transmission, the identity of recipients, and any cover communications accompanying the Summary.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: January 1, 2026 through April 3, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement."

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Village Official Responses to the Summary:

8. All communications from any Village Official responding to, commenting on, or acting upon the Summary, including any communications directing that charges be filed, that the Summary be revised, or that the Summary be shared or not shared with Chief Bishop.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: January 1, 2026 through April 3, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement."

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Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Communications Among Village Officials Regarding the Investigation and Charges

9. Martin–Gitter Communications:

All communications between Village President Michael Martin and Village Administrator Adam Gitter during the Relevant Period relating to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, the West Bend

investigation, the Summary, or the filing of charges relating to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the filing of charges.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin and Gitter.

Timeframe: During the "Relevant Period" as you have defined that term.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement" which relate to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the filing of charges relating to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the filing of charges

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Member to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Communications that include communications between Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller and legal counsel will not be produced. These emails are protected by the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being denied because any potential documents would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

10. Village Board Member Communications:

All communications among Village Board members, or between any Board member and Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller, during the Relevant Period relating to Chief Bishop, Officer

Haske, the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the decision to file charges. This specifically includes communications on personal devices, as Wisconsin's public records law applies to government business conducted on personal devices. See *Schill v. Wisconsin Rapids School District*, 2010 WI 86.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters”

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: January 1, 2026 through April 3, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement" and which relate to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, the West Bend investigation, the Summary, or the decision to file charges.

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Emails that include communications between Board members or board members and village officials and legal counsel will not be produced. These emails are protected by the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being denied because any potential documents would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

Communications Predating the West Bend Investigation:

11. All communications between Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller during the period February 1, 2026 through February 11, 2026 (i.e., between receipt of the anonymous text and the

commencement of the West Bend investigation) relating to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department's hiring practices. These records are sought to determine whether any conclusions regarding Chief Bishop were reached before the investigation commenced. This request includes all drafts of every public statement issued by the Village that was drafted or prepared by Mueller Communications.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: February 1, 2026 through February 11, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement" and which relate to Chief Bishop, Officer Haske, or the Kewaskum Police Department's hiring practices.

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Communications that include communications between Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller and legal counsel will not be produced. These emails are protected by the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being denied because any potential documents would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

12. Communications Between Completion of West Bend Investigation and Filing of Charges:

All communications among Village Officials, Carroll, and Mueller between February 23, 2026 (the date the West Bend investigation was completed and returned to Administrator Gitter) and April 3, 2026 (the date charges were filed) relating to Chief Bishop, the investigation findings, the Summary, the decision whether to file charges, the form of charges, or communications strategy regarding same.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: February 23, 2026 and April 3, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement" and which relate to Chief Bishop, the investigation findings, the Summary, the decision whether to file charges, the form of charges, or communications strategy regarding same.

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Communications that include communications between Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller and legal counsel will not be produced. These emails are protected by the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being denied because any potential documents would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

13. The Anonymous Text Message:

All records in the Village's possession relating to the anonymous text message received by Village President Martin on or about February 1, 2026, from phone number (608) 473-1080, including: the original text message; any forwarding of the message to other Village Officials; any Village efforts to identify the sender; any law enforcement requests made in connection with the message; and any communications among Village Officials or with Carroll or Mueller regarding the source, identity, or motivation of the sender.

RESPONSE: The Village is searching for responsive records. Consistent with the emails between you and me, the Village is using the following parameters:

Custodians: Martin, Gitter, all Village Board members, Carroll / Buelow Vetter staff, Richards / Mueller Communications staff.

Timeframe: On or after February 1, 2026.

Search terms: Bishop, Haske, Mueller, Carroll, Richards, "Summary of Investigation," "West Bend," Grinwald, McAndrews, "Police and Fire Commission," "PFC," "charges," "anonymous text," "608-473-1080," "PR," "communications strategy," "press release," "public statement" and which relate to the anonymous text message received by Village President Martin on or about February 1, 2026, from phone number (608) 473-1080.

Platforms: All Village email systems, personal email accounts used for Village business, text messages, Teams, Slack, Signal, WhatsApp, and any other messaging platform.

Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 19.33, each elective official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office. Thus, the Village is not the custodian of records of each Village Board member. As a courtesy to you, we are asking the Board Members to search and produce for records consistent with the parameters set forth above.

Communications that include communications between Village Officials, Carroll, or Mueller and legal counsel will not be produced. These emails are protected by the attorney client privilege and the work product privilege. See Wis. Stat. § 905.03. In addition to attorney/client privilege your request is being denied because any potential documents would contain attorney work product, which is recognized under the common law and is an exception to the open records law. *Seifert v. Sch. Dist.*, 2017 WI App 207, ¶ 28. Additionally, even if the privilege does not apply, the Village has conducted a balancing test and determined that public interest in the disclosure of these records is outweighed by the Village's need to obtain legal advice and to be able to review bills to determine that the services it has been billed for were reasonable and necessary without disclosing the substance of its communications with its attorneys and without disclosing the thoughts and impressions of its attorneys in regard to the work they have completed for the Village.

C. Village Board Meeting Records — Open Meetings Law Compliance

These records are requested to assess compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law, Wis. Stat. § 19.81 et seq., which requires that deliberations of a governmental body be open to the public except in narrowly defined circumstances, and that any closed session be properly noticed, convened, and limited to permitted subjects.

14. All Village Board Meeting Notices:

All public notices, agendas, and supplemental materials for every Village Board meeting held during the Relevant Period, including notices posted pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.84.

RESPONSE: Please see the attached notices, agendas, and supplemental materials for every Village Board meeting held during the Relevant Period.

15. Open Session Minutes:

Certified copies of the approved minutes of all open session Village Board meetings held during the Relevant Period.

RESPONSE: The Village will provide you with copies of the approved minutes of all open session Village Board meetings held during the Relevant Period.

16. Closed Session Notices and Motions:

All motions, resolutions, or other records by which the Village Board voted to convene in closed session during the Relevant Period, including: the stated statutory basis for each closed session (e.g., Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(b) for personnel matters or § 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel); the identity of those present in each closed session; and the dates and times of each closed session.

RESPONSE: The only records that would reflect motions, resolutions, or other records by which the Village Board voted to convene in closed session during the Relevant Period, including: the stated statutory basis for each closed session (e.g., Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(b) for personnel matters or § 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel); the identity of those present in each closed session; and the dates and times of each closed session would be the agendas and minutes of those meetings which are being produced in response to your requests 14 and 15.

Closed Session Minutes:

Certified copies of the minutes of all closed sessions of the Village Board held during the Relevant Period. Although closed session minutes may be temporarily withheld under Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1) while the need for confidentiality continues, Chief Bishop specifically requests a determination as to whether that need has lapsed for any closed sessions held in this matter, particularly any sessions held before charges were filed, and requests production of any minutes

for which the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Note regarding closed session minutes: Chief Bishop specifically seeks minutes of any closed session in which the Village Board deliberated about: (a) the West Bend investigation findings; (b) the Summary of Investigation; (c) whether to file charges against Chief Bishop; (d) the form or content of charges; or (e) any aspect of the employment or discipline of Chief Bishop, Lt. Frank or Officer Haske. Any use of a closed session to deliberate about the filing of charges—rather than merely to receive legal advice—may constitute a violation of the Open Meetings Law, and these records are necessary to evaluate that question.

RESPONSE: Closed session minutes regarding Officer Haske relate to an ongoing investigation. Therefore, the Village is withholding the requested records pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(10)(b) until the investigation is complete. Once the Village's investigation is complete, the records will be forwarded to you subject to further review and potential redaction. Minutes from all other all closed sessions of the Village Board held during the Relevant Period are attached.

17. Materials Distributed at Closed Sessions:

All documents, reports, memoranda, or presentations distributed to Village Board members in connection with any closed session held during the Relevant Period, including any copies of the West Bend investigation report, the Summary, draft charges, or legal memoranda.

RESPONSE: The only records distributed to Village Board members in connection with any closed session held during the Relevant Period are the West Bend Police Department investigation report and the charges, copies of which have been produced to you.

18. Legal Counsel Attendance at Board Meetings:

Records sufficient to identify which Village Board meetings (open or closed) Attorney Carroll, Attorney Ronald S. Stadler, or any other retained counsel attended during the Relevant Period, and the stated purpose of counsel's attendance.

RESPONSE: The only records that would reflect whether counsel (and who that counsel was) attended a Village board meeting during the Relevant Period would be the agendas and minutes of those meetings which are being produced in response to your requests 14 and 15.

D. Records Relating to Village Board Authorization of Actions Taken

19. Authorization to Place Haske on Administrative Leave:

All records reflecting the Village Board's authorization to place Officer Haske on paid administrative leave, including any resolution, motion, or directive, and the date such

authorization was given.

RESPONSE: The only records that would reflect the Village Board's authorization to place Officer Haske on paid administrative leave would be the agendas and minutes of those meetings which are being produced in response to your requests 14 and 15.

20. Authorization to Retain West Bend Police Department:

All records reflecting the Village Board's authorization to retain the West Bend Police Department to conduct the investigation, including any resolution, motion, or agreement, and the date such authorization was given.

RESPONSE: The only records that would reflect the Village Board's authorization to retain the West Bend Police Department to conduct the investigation would be the agendas and minutes of those meetings which are being produced in response to your requests 14 and 15.

Authorization to Retain Mueller Communications:

All records reflecting any Village Board authorization to retain Mueller Communications, including any resolution, motion, or spending approval, and whether the Board was informed of Mueller's specific role in preparing the Summary.

RESPONSE: There are no such records.

21. Authorization to File Charges:

All records reflecting any Village Board discussion, direction, or authorization related to the decision by Village President Martin to file charges against Chief Bishop and Lt. Frank, including any communications in which Board members were consulted about or consented to the filing of charges.

RESPONSE: There are no such records.

CONCLUSION

These responses to your records requests include the denial or withholding of some records. As such, I must advise you may pursue either, or both, of the alternatives under Wis.

Stats 19.37 (1) pars. (a) and (b) which provide:

(a) The requester may bring an action for mandamus asking a court to order release of the record. The court may permit the parties or their attorneys to have access to the requested record under restrictions or protective orders as the court deems appropriate.

Robert M. Mihelich

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(b) The requester may, in writing, request the district attorney of the county where the record is found, or request the attorney general, to bring an action for mandamus asking a court to order release of the record to the requester. The district attorney or attorney general may bring such an action.

If you have questions about any aspect of this response, please feel free to contact me.

STADLER SACKS LLC
Attorneys for the Village of
Kewaskum

By: /s/ electronically signed by
Ronald S. Stadler
Ronald S. Stadler