Record Retention, Recovery, and Destruction Plan

Record Retention

Records shall be retained in a marked file cabinet for the period of their immediate or current use, unless longer retention is necessary for historical reference or to comply with contractual or legal requirements. Records and documents outlined in this policy includes paper, electronic files (including e-mail) and voicemail records regardless of where the document is stored, including network servers, desktop or laptop computers and other wireless devices with text messaging capabilities.

1. Documents for Permanent Retention
   a. IRS exemption letter
   b. Articles of Incorporation, Charter, Bylaws, minutes and other incorporation records
   c. Deeds and mortgages
   d. Annual tax returns and related paperwork
   e. Canceled checks for important payments such as property purchases and special contracts
   f. Depreciation schedules
   g. Annual Financial reviews
   h. Year end financial statements
   i. General ledgers
   j. Insurance Records
   k. Appraisals
   l. Property records (including plans, blueprints, costs)
   m. Legal correspondence
   n. Retirement and pension records
   o. All approved Board minutes

2. Documents Kept for Seven (7) Years
   a. Accident reports and claims
   b. Accounts receivable
   c. Expense reports

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3. Documents Kept for Three (3) Years
   a. Employment applications
   b. Expired insurance policies
   c. General and routine correspondence

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**Record Recovery**

1. *QuickBooks* Monthly Backup
   
   The Bookkeeper is responsible for backing up the hard drive of the accounting system to removable media at least once per month.

2. Monthly Exchange (two backups are retained)
   a. The backup media will be made and given to the Finance Committee Chair to be stored off premises for safeguarding.
   b. The Finance Committee Chair will return the previous monthly backup media in exchange.

3. Annual Backup
   a. The monthly backup described above is a complete backup of all Quickbooks data (going back years), so an annual backup should not be necessary.

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**Record Destruction**

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 1519 and the Sarbanes Oxley Act, documents with the intent to obstruct or influence an “investigation of proper administration of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department agency of the United States…” This also applies to all matter involving state or local agencies. If an official investigation is underway, or even suspected, document purging must stop in order to avoid obstruction.

The Director will be responsible for policy compliance.

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