

ARTICLE X ADMINISTRATION

1001 Purpose

This Article X establishes the procedures for the amendment, administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

1002 Amendment

Amendments to this Ordinance shall become effective only after a public hearing held pursuant to public notice in the manner prescribed in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968, as amended.

1003 Waivers/Modifications

1003.1 Intent

The provisions of this Ordinance are intended as a minimum standard for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. If the literal compliance with any mandatory provision of these regulations is shown by the applicant, to the satisfaction of the Township, to be unreasonable or to cause undue hardship as it applies to a particular property, or if the applicant shows that an alternative proposal will allow for equal or better results, the Board of Supervisors may grant a waiver from such mandatory provision, so that substantial justice may be done and the public interest secured while permitting the reasonable utilization of the property. However, the granting of a waiver/modification shall not have the effect of making null and void the intent and purpose of this Ordinance.

1003.2 Conditions

In granting waivers/modifications the Board of Supervisors may impose such conditions as will, in its judgement, secure substantially the objectives of the standards and requirements of this Ordinance.

1003.3 Procedure

All requests for waivers/modifications shall be in writing, shall accompany and be a part of the development application, and shall include:

- A. The specific sections of this Ordinance in question.
- B. Provisions for the minimum modification necessary as an alternate to the requirements.
- C. Justification for the waiver/modification including the full grounds and facts of unreasonableness or hardship.

The Planning Commission shall recommend approval or disapproval of the request for a waiver/modification to the Board of Supervisors.

1003.4 Action

If the Board of Supervisors denies the request, the applicant shall be notified, in writing, of the reasons for denial. If the Board of Supervisors grants the request, the final record plan shall include a note which identifies the waiver/modification as granted. In any case, the Board of Supervisors shall keep a written record of all actions on all requests for waivers/modifications.

1004 Preventive and Enforcement Remedies

1004.1 Preventive Remedies

- A. In addition to other remedies, the Township may institute and maintain appropriate actions by law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate violations, to prevent unlawful construction, to recover damages and to prevent illegal

occupancy of a building, structure or premises. The description by metes and bounds in the instrument of transfer or other documents used in the process of selling or transferring shall not exempt the seller or transferor from such penalties or from the remedies herein provided.

- B. The Township may refuse to issue any permit or grant any approval necessary to further improve or develop any real property which has been developed or which has resulted from a subdivision of real property in violation of this Ordinance. This authority to deny such a permit or approval shall apply to any of the following applicants:
1. The owner of record at the time of such violation.
 2. The vendee or lessee of the owner or record at the time of such violation without regard as to whether such vendee or lessee had actual or constructive knowledge of the violation.
 3. The current owner of record who acquired the property subsequent to the time of violation without regard as to whether such current owner had actual or constructive knowledge of the violation.
 4. The vendee or lessee of the current owner of record who acquired the property subsequent to the time of violation without regard as to whether such vendee or lessee had actual or constructive knowledge of the violation.

As an additional condition for issuance of a permit or the granting of an approval to any such owner, current owner, vendee or lessee for the development of any such real property, the Township may require compliance with the conditions that would have been applicable to the property at the time the applicant acquired an interest in such real property.

- C. In the event that any applicant or owner of any property fails to obtain the proper sewage permit for any required on-site sewage disposal system, or takes such action or causes any action which results in the revocation of any sewage permit by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, the Township shall have the authority to withhold the issuance of any certificate of use for any structure on the said property and/or to take any appropriate actions by law or in equity to prohibit the occupancy of any such structure.

1004.2 Enforcement Remedies

- A. Any person, partnership or corporation who or which has violated the provisions of this subdivision and land development ordinance or prior enabling laws shall, upon being found liable therefor in a civil enforcement proceeding commenced by the Township, pay a judgment of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) plus all court costs, including reasonable attorney, witness, and consultant fees incurred by the Township as a result thereof. No judgment shall commence or be imposed, levied or payable until the date of the determination of a violation by the district justice. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgment, the Township may enforce the judgment pursuant to the applicable rules of civil procedure. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation, unless the district justice determining that there has been a violation further determines that there was a good faith basis for the person, partnership or corporation violating the ordinance to have believed that there was no such violation, in which event there shall be deemed to have been only one such violation until the fifth day following the date of the determination of a violation by the district justice and thereafter each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.
- B. The court of common pleas, upon petition, may grant an order of stay, upon cause shown, tolling the per diem judgment pending a final adjudication of the violation and judgment.
- C. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed or interpreted to grant to any person or entity other than the Township the right to commence any action for enforcement pursuant to this section, including but not limited to, injunctive relief.

1004.3 Jurisdiction

District justices shall have initial jurisdiction in proceedings brought under §1004.2.

1004.4 Transfer

The description by metes and bounds in the instrument of transfer or other document used in the process of selling or transferring shall not exempt the seller or transferor from such penalties or from the remedies herein provided.

1004.5 Construction

In the case of subdivisions, no person shall proceed with any development, site grading or construction of improvements prior to the approval of a preliminary plan in accord with this Ordinance. In the case of land developments, no person shall proceed with any development, site grading or construction of improvements prior to the authorization to proceed issued in accord with §306.7 of this Ordinance. No deeds shall be executed or recorded for the transfer of any lots or units before the Township has approved the Final Plan and such Plan is filed with the Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds.

1005 Fees

1005.1 Resolution

Fees shall be established by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

1005.2 Supplemental Fees

Prior to approval of the Preliminary application, the developer shall also pay to the Township a supplemental fee sufficient to cover the cost of engineering services, County Planning Commission fees and fees for other related consulting services incurred by the Township. Such supplemental fees shall be based on actual costs incurred in excess of the basic fee.

1005.3 Final Fees

At the time of filing, the Final Application shall be accompanied by a check payable to the Township in an amount determined by the Township sufficient to cover the cost of:

- A. Reviewing engineering details.
- B. Inspecting the site for conformance.
- C. Evaluating cost estimates of required improvements.
- D. Inspection of required improvements during installation.
- E. Final inspection or reinspection on completion of installation of required improvements.
- F. Fees charged by the County Planning Commission and fees for other related consulting services.

1005.4 Adjustment

Prior to the final approval of any application, the Township will determine all costs incurred; and, to the extent that there has been an overpayment or an underpayment, there shall be a refund or a supplemental payment as indicated.

1005.5 Disputes

Disputes between the applicant and the township regarding fees shall be settled pursuant to §503(1) and 510(g) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as amended.

1006 Records

The Township shall keep an accurate public record of its findings, decisions, and recommendations relevant to all applications filed for review or approval.