

**RUSH RIVER  
TOWNSHIP  
ZONING REGULATION**

CASS COUNTY  
NORTH DAKOTA  
2004

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# **ARTICLE I INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Title**

These regulations shall be known, and may be cited and referred to as the Rush River Township, Cass County, North Dakota Zoning Regulations.

## **1.2 Purpose and Intent**

- 1.2.1** To protect public health, safety, morals, comfort, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the Township of Rush River, Cass County, North Dakota.
- 1.2.2** To secure safety from fire, panic, noxious fumes, and other dangers.
- 1.2.3** To promote orderly development of land and water resources and to prevent conflict among land uses and structures.

## **1.3 Authority**

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted by Chapter 58-03 of the North Dakota Century Code.

## **1.4 Jurisdiction**

### **1.4.1 General**

These regulations shall apply to the use and enjoyment of all lands within the Rush River Township, Cass County, North Dakota.

### **1.4.2 Extraterritorial Areas**

When an incorporated municipality has declared its intent in exercising its extraterritorial authority as provided by Chapter 40-47 of the North Dakota Century Code, these regulations shall not apply to the area delineated for that purpose.

## **1.5 Interpretation**

These regulations shall be held to be minimum requirements adopted for promotion of purposes cited in Section 1.2. Whenever, the requirements of these regulations are at variance with the requirements of other lawfully adopted rules, regulations, ordinances, deed restrictions or covenants, the most restrictive shall govern unless otherwise specifically stated.

## 1.6 Severability

If any part, provision or portion of these regulations is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

## 1.7 Effective Date

These regulations shall be effective upon adoption by the Township Board of Supervisors as provided by the North Dakota Century Code.

## 1.8 Exceptions

These regulations shall not apply to the use of land and buildings for agriculture as defined herein with the exception of feedlot operation.

# ARTICLE 2      RULES AND DEFINITIONS

## 2.1 Rules

In construction of these regulations, the rules and definitions contained in this section shall be observed and applied except when the context clearly indicates otherwise.

2.1.1 Words used in present tense shall include the future.

2.1.2 Words used in singular number shall include the plural number, and the plural the singular.

2.1.3 Shall is a mandatory word and not discretionary.

2.1.4 May is a permissive word.

## 2.2 Definitions

2.2.1 **"Accessory Building and Uses"** means a subordinate building or portion of the main building the use of which is clearly incidental to and serves exclusively the principal building or principal use. The accessory building or use shall be located on the same zoning lot and it is established to contribute to the comfort, convenience or necessity of occupants of the principal building or principal use.

2.2.2 **"Adult Bookstore"** means an enclosed building having as a substantial or significant portion of its stock in trade, books, magazines, or other periodicals that are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting or describing sexual activities or anatomic areas, such as genitals, breasts, or buttocks.

2.2.3 **"Adult Cinema"** means an enclosed building used on a regular basis for presenting pictorial materials or other visual images by way of direct or indirect projection, which materials are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on the depiction of sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, such as genitals, breasts, or buttocks, for

observation by patrons therein return for the payment of consideration, irrespective of the number of patrons who may be able to view the presentation at one time.

- 2.2.4 "Adult Entertainment Facility"** means an enclosed building wherein an admission is charged for entrance, or food or nonalcoholic beverages are sold or intended for consumption, and wherein may be observed live presentation of entertainment distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matters depicting describing or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, such as genitals, breasts, or buttocks.
- 2.2.5 "Adult Entertainment Center"** means an adult bookstore, adult cinema, adult entertainment facility or any combination thereof.
- 2.2.6 "Agriculture"** means the process of producing food and fiber customary to the family farming operation with a minimum of 40 acres in area, excluding commercial feedlots, processing and manufacturing of the farm-based products.
- 2.2.7 "Airport"** means any area designated for the landing and take off of aircraft and any appurtenant areas which are used or intended for use for airport buildings and structures including runways, taxi-ways, aircraft storage and tie down areas, hangars and other related facilities and open spaces other than landing strips used for family purposes.
- 2.2.8 "Animal Feeding Operation" AFO** means a place where; livestock have been, are, or will be confined, concentrated and fed for 45 or more days in any 12 month period; animal waste or manure accumulates. This term does not include an animal wintering operation.
- 2.2.9 "Animal Hospital or Kennel"** means a building or premises set up for treatment and boarding of domestic animals including veterinary facilities.
- 2.2.10 "Animal Unit Equivalent"** means a unitless number developed from the nutrient and volume characteristics of manure for a specific livestock type. The term animal units is used to normalize the number of animals (e.g. head) for each specific livestock type which produce comparable bulk quantities of manure.
- 2.2.11 "Building"** means any structure designed or intended for shelter, housing, business, office, and accommodation of persons, animals, chattels or property.
- 2.2.12 "Building Area"** means that portion of the zoning lot that can be occupied by the principal use, excluding the front, rear and side yards.
- 2.2.13 "Building Height"** means vertical distance from the grade to the highest point of the roof.
- 2.2.14 "Building Line"** means a line establishing the minimum distance that structures may be placed from the lot lines or highway right-of-way. For the purposes of these regulations the building line is the same as setback line.
- 2.2.15 "Building, Principal"** means a building, the principal use of which is single family and multi-family dwellings, and offices, shops, stores and other uses.
- 2.2.16 "Channel"** means a natural or man-made watercourse for conducting the flowing water.
- 2.2.17 "Club or Lodge"** means a private club or lodge which is a nonprofit association of persons for the purpose of gatherings and entertaining members including consumption of food and beverages.

- 2.2.18 "Commercial Gravel Pit"** means any mining and extraction of earth materials for commercial or private sale.
- 2.2.19 "Comprehensive Plan"** means a guide for management of the physical resources and development of the Township as adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- 2.2.20 "Conditional Use"** means use of a special nature not automatically permitted in a zoning district and which requires review and approval of the Zoning Commission after public hearing.
- 2.2.21 "Conforming Building or Structure"** means a building or structure which complies with all requirements of these regulations and other regulations adopted by the Township.
- 2.2.22 "Development"** means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to the construction of buildings, structures or accessory structures, the construction of additions or alternations to buildings or structures, ditching, lagooning, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation and drilling operations.
- 2.2.23 "Development Plan"** means a document including maps and data for physical development of an area as provided by these regulations.
- 2.2.24 "District"** means a section or sections of the township for which regulations governing the use of building and premises, the building heights, size of yards, lot area, lot width and the use are uniform.
- 2.2.25 "Dwelling"** means any building or portion thereof, used exclusively for human habitation including single family and multiple family units but not including hotels or motels.
- 2.2.26 "Dwelling, Multiple Family"** means a single building or portion thereof, containing two (2) or more dwelling units.
- 2.2.27 "Dwelling, Single Family"** means a building containing one dwelling unit only.
- 2.2.28 "Encroachment"** means any fill, building, structure or use including accessory uses projecting into the required yard areas or public and private property.
- 2.2.29 "Establishment"** means a place of business for processing, production, assembly, sales, service of goods and materials.
- 2.2.30 "Farming or Ranching"** means cultivating land for production of agricultural crops or livestock, or raising, feeding, or producing livestock, poultry, milk, or fruit. The term does not include producing timber or forest products, nor does the term include a contract where by a processor or distributor of farm products or supplies provides grain, harvesting, or other farm services.
- 2.2.31 "Feedlot"** is a parcel of land which contains an operation for feeding or raising animals.
- 2.2.32 "Flood Plain"** means an area which may be covered by flood water including but not limited to regional floods.
- 2.2.33 "Frontage"** means the front part of a lot abutting a public right-of-way, or road or highway.
- 2.2.34 "Grade"** means the land elevation at the horizontal intersection of the ground and the building.

- 2.2.35 "Home Occupation"** means any occupation which: (a) carried on in a dwelling unit by members of the family; (b) is clearly secondary to the use of residential dwelling units and (c) does not create excessive noise, traffic or conflict with adjoining uses.
- 2.2.36 "Hotel or Motel"** means a building in which lodging accommodations, with or without meals are provided for compensation.
- 2.2.37 "Junk or Salvage Yard"** means an open area where waste or scrap material, including parts of used motor vehicles, appliances and farm implements are bought, sold, exchanged, stored, baled, parked, disassembled or handled.
- 2.2.38 "Kennel, Animal"** means any premises where dogs, cats and other household pets are boarded, bred and maintained for compensation.
- 2.2.39 "Landfill"** means especially selected, designed, and operated sites for disposal of solid waste in accordance with N.D.C.C. 23-29-03 and the provisions of this ordinance.
- 2.2.40 "Lot"** means a piece, parcel, lot or area of land of continuous assemblage established by survey, plat or deed.
- 2.2.41 "Lot Lines"** means the property lines bounding the lot.
- 2.2.42 "Lot Width"** means the horizontal distance between the side lot lines of a lot measured at the front building setback line.
- 2.2.43 "Lot, Zoning"** means a single lot, parcel, tract of land within a zoning district developed or to be developed.
- 2.2.44 "Mobile Home"** means a manufactured trailer intended for family residential occupancy.
- 2.2.45 "Mobile Home Park"** means a parcel of land for which a detailed plan indicating the location of lots, blocks, streets, facilities and utilities exists.
- 2.2.46 "Non-conforming Building"** means any building which does not comply with any or all of these regulations.
- 2.2.47 "Non-conforming Use"** means any principal use of land or building which does not comply with any or all of these regulations.
- 2.2.48 "Nursing Home or Convalescent Home"** means a home for the aged or infirm which unrelated persons are accommodated for compensation.
- 2.2.49 "Permitted Uses"** means those uses, buildings or structures which comply with the provisions of specific zoning districts because of the similarities in nature and relationship to each other. Permitted uses are distinct from conditional uses that are authorized only if certain requirements of these provisions are met after a public hearing and approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- 2.2.50 "Person"** means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership or legal entity.
- 2.2.51 "Planned Development"** means a grouping of buildings and structures on a site of five (5) or more acres in single ownership which is not limited by the yard or building height limitations but is based on a detailed development plan and recorded in the Office of the County Register of Deeds upon approval by the Township Board of Supervisors.
- 2.2.52 "Private Gravel Pit"** means for private use, incidental to farming, which is not for sale, the mining and extraction of earth materials.

- 2.2.53 "Public Roadway or Public Way"** means any dedicated and recorded right-of-way including alleys, sidewalks, streets, roads or highways.
- 2.2.54 "Regional Flood"** means a flood determined by the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency which is representative of large floods known to have occurred in the County.
- 2.2.55 "Service Station"** means any building or premises where automotive fuels, automotive related services, lubricants, parts, and supplies are made available to the motorist.
- 2.2.56 "Sign"** means any emblem, name, identification, description or illustration which is used for outdoor advertising having permanent location on the ground or attached to or painted on a building including bulletin boards, billboards and poster boards, but excluding real estate for sale signs, political campaign signs, public information and traffic signs.
- 2.2.57 "Site Plan"** means a detailed plan for making improvements to parcel(s) of land for the purpose of building and development as provided in these regulations.
- 2.2.58 "Structural Alterations"** means any change in the supporting elements of a building or structure including bearing elements, partitions, columns, beams, girders, roofs, exterior walls and embankment.
- 2.2.59 "Structure"** means anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires permanent location on the ground including advertising signs and billboards.
- 2.2.60 "Variance"** means the relaxation of the terms of the zoning regulations in relationship to building height, size of the front, rear and side yards, where the literal enforcement of these regulations could create unreasonable hardship, but it is not contrary to the purposes of the Township Comprehensive Plan and these regulations.
- 2.2.61 "Wind Energy Conversion Systems"** Any device that is designed to convert wind power to another form of energy such as electricity, mechanical or heat (also referred to by such common names as wind charger, wind turbine, and wind mill).
- 2.2.62 "Winter Feed Lot"** means a parcel of land where animals are sheltered incidental to farming at any time between October 15 and May 15 of cash production cycle under circumstances in which these animals do not obtain a majority of their feed and nutrients from grazing.
- 2.2.51 "Yard"** means an open space on the zoning lot which is unoccupied or unobstructed by any portion of a structure from the ground upward.
- 2.2.52 "Zoning Commission"** means a body consisting of the three (3) Township supervisors and appointed members under the authority of Chapter 58-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code to review the planning issues, prepare plans, review the zoning requests and plats of subdivision, zoning amendments and conditional uses and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.



## **ARTICLE 3      GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **3.1 Compliance**

No building or land shall hereafter be used or occupied and no building shall be erected, moved, or altered unless in conformity with these regulations.

#### **3.1.1 Building Height, Lot Area and Yards**

No building shall exceed the height, occupy larger part of lot area, and no lot shall be created smaller than the requirements of these regulations.

#### **3.1.2 Substandard Lots**

All existing lots at the date of adoption of these regulations shall be deemed buildable unless for the reasons of land suitability, flooding and other physical limitations contrary to the purpose of these regulations.

### **3.2 Amendments**

The Township Board of Supervisors may, from time to time, amend, supplement or repeal any part of these regulations after a public notice and hearing.

### **3.3 Comprehensive Plan**

These regulations are administered and enforced to implement the Comprehensive Plan of the Township, a document adopted by the Board of Supervisors as a policy guide for protection of the townships natural resources and accommodating the type of development deemed appropriate including but not limited to the following objectives.

**3.3.1** To conserve and enhance the taxable value of land and buildings in the township.

**3.3.2** To encourage the most appropriate use of land in the township.

**3.3.3** To regulate and restrict the location and intensity of use of buildings and land not related to farming.

**3.3.4** To separate and control unavoidable nuisance producing uses to minimize the adverse impacts on the surrounding areas or uses.

**3.3.5** To facilitate traffic movement and promote development of compatible uses.

### **3.4 Non-conforming Uses**

The lawful use of a building or premises existing at the date of adoption of these regulations may be continued. Where a non-conforming use is discontinued for a period of more than twelve consecutive calendar months any subsequent use or occupancy of such premises shall conform to these regulations. Whenever a building is destroyed or damaged by fire or other casualty to the extent of more than sixty percent (60%) of its market value it shall not be restored unless said building shall conform to the provisions of the district in which it is located. Non-conforming uses shall not be expanded to occupy a larger area of land than existed at the date of adoption of these regulations unless approved by the Township Board of Supervisors after a public hearing, to accrue after Zoning Commission has reviewed request and make recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

### **3.5 Land Suitability**

No land shall be used for a purpose which is held unsuitable for the reason of flooding, soil limitations, inadequate drainage, incompatibility with adjoining uses or any condition likely to be harmful to the health, safety or the welfare of the people in the area. The Township Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors may require information and data to determine the land suitability. The Township may consult with county and state agencies to assist in its determination.

### **3.6 Conditionally Permitted Uses**

Where a use is classified as a conditional use under these regulations and exists at the date of adoption of these regulations, it shall be considered a permitted use. Where a use is not allowed as a conditional use or permitted use, under these regulations, and exists at the date of adoption of these regulations, it shall be considered non-conforming and shall be subject to the non-conforming buildings and use provisions.

### **3.7 Road and Highway Access**

A permit for access to the township roads is required by the Board of Supervisors. In granting the access permit to the township roads, the Board of Supervisors may adopt rules and regulations as to the number of access points per mile, the width, construction and other features of the access to the adjoining properties. The Board of Supervisors may place conditions when granting a road access permit. Farm driveways and field access points are exempt from these provisions.

### **3.8 Road and Highway Setback - Tree Plantings, Shelter-belts**

All buildings and structures shall be placed at least 100 (one hundred) feet from township, county and state highway rights-of-way for the purpose of preventing

hazardous accumulations of snow and to allow for future widening of public right-of-ways. Tree plantings and shelterbelts shall be planted 200' from center of road.

### **3.9 Standards**

All structures or buildings shall conform to requirements of the North Dakota State Building Code, NDCC 54-21.3, the most recent addition of the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Electrical Code

All individual water supply and sewage disposal systems shall conform to the requirements set forth in the North Dakota Plumbing Code and Sanitary Code.

## **ARTICLE 4 ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND MAP**

### **4.1 Zoning Districts**

In order to carry out the purposes and provisions of these regulations, the following zoning districts are hereby established.

#### **4.1.1 A-1 Agricultural District**

### **4.2 Zoning District Map**

#### **4.2.1 Zoning Districts**

The location and boundaries of the zoning districts are hereby established as shown on the "Zoning District Map" on file in the Office of the Township Code Administrator. The zoning district maps, together with all information shown thereon and all amendments thereto, shall be an integral part of these regulations.

#### **4.2.2 Public Roads and Highways as Boundary**

Where zoning district boundary lines are indicated as following roads and highways or extensions thereof, such boundary lines shall be construed to be the center line of said roads and highways or extension thereof unless clearly shown to the contrary.

#### **4.2.3 Property Line as Boundary**

Where a zoning district boundary line coincides approximately but not exactly with the property line, the zoning boundary shall be construed to be the lot line at that location. All section lines, quarter section lines and quarter section lines may be construed as the property lines.

#### **4.2.4 District Description for Unsubdivided Lands**

For unsubdivided property, zoning district boundaries are determined by metes and bounds description or by a legal description as deemed necessary.

#### **4.2.5 Vacated Areas**

Where a public road or highway is vacated by the official action of the Board of Township Supervisors, the zoning district boundaries shall be extended to the center of the vacated public road or highway.

#### **4.2.6 Zoning District Boundary Interpretation**

Where any uncertainty exists as to the exact location of the zoning district boundary lines, the Board of Supervisors shall determine the location of such boundary lines

#### **4.2.7 Certification**

The official zoning map shall bear a certificate with the signature of the Township Chairman and certification of the Township Clerk and date of adoption of the zoning map as an integral part of these regulations.

### **ARTICLE 5 ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS**

#### **5.1 A-1 Agricultural District**

##### **5.1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this district is to provide for preservation and protection of agricultural lands and to discourage uses incompatible with agricultural operations or detrimental to agricultural land utilization.

##### **5.1.2 Permitted Uses**

5.1.2.1 All types of farming and ranching operations including dairying, livestock and poultry raising, apiaries and fur farming.

5.1.2.2 Accessory Buildings and Structures.

5.1.2.3 Cemeteries.

5.1.2.4 Churches.

5.1.2.5 Golf Courses.

5.1.2.6 Grain Elevators and Accessory Structures.

- 5.1.2.7 Home Occupations.
- 5.1.2.8 Parks and Playgrounds.
- 5.1.2.9 Mobile Homes.
- 5.1.2.10 Public and Private Schools.
- 5.1.2.11 Public Buildings and Facilities Including County Garages.
- 5.1.2.12 Single Family Non-farm Residential Units on 3 (three) acres or more.
- 5.1.2.13 Stock Piling of Sand and Gravel for Road Construction and Maintenance.
- 5.1.2.14 Construction and Maintenance of Drainage Systems to Manage the Water Run-off.
- 5.1.2.15 Utility Lines and Pipe Lines Including Substations for Transformers, Pumping Stations and Lift Stations.
- 5.1.2.16 Water Reservoirs.
- 5.1.2.17 Manufacturing and Processing of Wood Products

### **5.1.3 Conditionally Permitted Uses**

- 5.1.3.1 Antique and Craft shops.
- 5.1.3.2 Art Studios.
- 5.1.3.3 Commercially Operated Air Landing Strip and Accessory Buildings.
- 5.1.3.4 Feedlots for feeding livestock, fur bearers and poultry subject to the provisions of 6.6.
- 5.1.3.5 Voltage Transmission Lines and Accessory Structures.
- 5.1.3.6 Manufacturing and Processing of Agricultural Products Produced in the Area.
- 5.1.3.7 Radio, TV Stations and Towers.
- 5.1.3.8 Sale and Services of Agricultural Equipment and Machinery.

- 5.1.3.9 Salvage and Junk Yards Subject to Provisions of Section 6.4.
- 5.1.3.10 Sanitary Landfills subject to the Provisions of Section 6.3.
- 5.1.3.11 Sewage Lagoons and Wastewater Treatment Facilities.
- 5.1.3.12 Skeet, Trap and Rifle Ranges if not Nearer than 1,000 (one thousand) Feet From Any Residence.
- 5.1.3.13 Storage of Farm Related Chemicals.
- 5.1.3.14 Veterinary Clinics, Animal Hospitals and Domestic Animal Kennels not nearer than 500 (five hundred) feet from any Residence except the Residence of the Owner or Operator.
- 5.1.3.15 Mining of Sand, Gravel, Clay and General Excavation subject to Provisions of Section 6.8.

#### **5.1.4 Lot Area and Lot Width**

- 5.1.4.1 For non-farm residential uses the lot area shall not be less than 3 (three) acres.
- 5.1.4.2 For non-residential uses the lot area shall not be less than 3 (three) acres.
- 5.1.4.3 The lot width for any use in agricultural district shall not be less than 250 (two hundred fifty) feet.

#### **5.1.5 Yard Requirements**

- 5.1.5.1 The minimum front yard, measured from the front lot line shall not be less than 75 (seventy-five) feet for properties abutting township roads and 100 (one hundred) feet for properties fronting on other rights-of-ways.
- 5.1.5.2 The minimum rear yard, measured from the rear lot line shall not be less than 50 (fifty) feet.
- 5.1.5.3 The minimum side yard, measured from the side lot line shall not be less than 50 (fifty) feet.

### **5.1.6 Building Height**

- 5.1.6.1 The building height for residential buildings shall not exceed two and one half stories or 35 (thirty-five) feet except for farm buildings and structures.
- 5.1.6.2 The building heights for manufacturing of agricultural products shall be determined by the Township Board of Supervisors.
- 5.1.6.3 The building height, excepting the radio and TV towers and church steeples for all other uses shall not exceed 35 (thirty-five) feet.

### **5.1.7 Parking Requirements**

For non-farm uses the parking requirements shall be subject to the provisions of Section 6.1 of these regulations

### **5.1.8 Sign Requirements**

Sign requirements shall be subject to the provisions of Section 6.2 of these regulations.

## **ARTICLE 6 SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

### **6.1 Off-Street Parking**

#### **6.1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to provide for the off-street parking regulations to:

- 6.1.1.1 Increase the safety and capacity of public roads by requiring off-street parking or loading facilities.
- 6.1.1.2 Minimize adverse effects of off-street parking and off-street loading facilities on the adjacent properties.
- 6.1.1.3 Lessen congestion and preventing the overtaxing of public roads by regulating the location and capacity of off-street parking or off-street loading facilities.

## **6.1.2 General Requirements**

- 6.1.2.1 An off-street automobile parking space shall be at least 9 (nine) feet wide and 20 (twenty) feet long, exclusive of access drives or ramps.
- 6.1.2.2 All open off-street parking areas with 4 (four) or more spaces and all loading berths shall be:
  - (1) Improved with all weather surfaces to provide a durable and dust free surface;
  - (2) Graded to dispose of all surface water run-offs but not be diverted to adjoining properties.

## **6.1.3 Special Requirements**

- 6.1.3.1 No building shall be erected or enlarged without meeting the following parking requirements.
  - (1) Business; professional or public office building, studio, bank, medical or dental clinics, three (3) parking spaces plus one additional space for each four hundred (400) square feet of floor area over one thousand (1,000) square feet.
  - (2) Hotels and motels; one parking space for each room plus one space for each two hundred (200) square feet of eating and drinking establishments or restaurants.
  - (3) Private club or lodge; one parking space for each two hundred (200) square feet of service area.
  - (4) Restaurant, eating and drinking establishment; one parking space for each one hundred (100) square feet of floor area.

## **6.2 Signs**

### **6.2.1 Purpose**

The purposes of regulating signs in the Township is to provide for a visually pleasant environment and minimize potentially unsafe conditions for all age groups, but yet offer many opportunities for public and private information and advertising.



## **6.2.2 General Requirements**

- 6.2.2.1 No sign shall be located, erected, moved, reconstructed, extended, enlarged or structurally altered without obtaining a permit from the Township Code Administrator.
- 6.2.2.2 Signs shall not be permitted within 300 (three hundred) feet of any road crossing which is measured from the point of intersection of the road center lines. For state and federal highways the state and federal sign requirements shall apply.
- 6.2.2.3 Directory signs shall not be larger than 20 (twenty) square feet in area for permitted uses.
- 6.2.2.4 Directory signs shall not be larger than 96 (ninety-six) square feet.

## **6.3 Sanitary Landfills and Solid Waste Sites**

### **6.3.1 Compliance with North Dakota State Laws and Rules**

Any person who operates sanitary landfills or solid waste sites shall comply with all North Dakota state laws and administrative rules set forth by the state agencies.

### **6.3.2 Compliance with County Ordinances and Procedures**

Where a county solid waste ordinance exists, any person who operates a sanitary landfill or solid waste site shall comply with the County Ordinance, rules and procedures.

### **6.3.3 Township Ordinance and Procedures**

The Township hereby adopts solid waste provisions, subject to the provisions of NDCC 11-33-20, to assure meeting the purposes of these regulations and the township comprehensive plan.

### **6.3.4 Purpose**

The purpose of these provisions is to protect public health, ground and surface water, conflict with present land uses and preservation and protection of natural resources in the Township.

### **6.3.5 Site Approval Requirements**

All solid sites require approval by Township Board of Supervisors.

### **6.3.6 Locational Standards**

- 6.3.6.1 No landfill, incinerator shall be located within 1 mile of residential uses or unincorporated community.
- 6.3.6.2 No landfill shall be located in areas, which due to high water table, flooding, or soil conditions may affect the quality of surface and ground water.
- 6.3.6.3 No landfill operation shall be located nearer than 200 (two hundred) feet of all road and highway rights-of-way.

### **6.3.7 Data Submission Requirements**

- 6.3.7.1 Maps of the area showing existing features such as roads, highways, vegetation cover, water courses, drainage way, soils, topography, depth of water table, wet lands, sloughs, existing uses, buildings and structures including the existing utility lines.
- 6.3.7.2 A plan for operation of the site including a descriptive text explaining consistency or inconsistency with the natural or man made environment.
- 6.3.7.3 Records of data and information submitted to the state of North Dakota appropriate agencies and the county as a part of application for state and county permits.
- 6.3.7.4 The Township Board of Supervisors may require additional information if it deems it necessary.

### **6.3.8 Statement of Findings**

Upon the public notification and a public hearing the Township Board of Supervisors shall determine whether the proposed site meets the requirements of these regulations. The Township Board of Supervisors may place conditions for approval of the site.

## **6.4 Junk or Salvage Yards**

### **6.4.1 Purpose**

The purpose of these requirements is to preserve and protect the visual and other environmental amenities of the rural areas while allowing the salvage or junk yards as business places.

## **6.4.2 Site Approval Requirements**

All sites for salvage and junk yards require approval by the Township Board of Supervisors.

## **6.4.3 Locational Standards**

- 6.4.3.1 No salvage or junk yard shall be located within 500 (five hundred) feet of a residential district and 200 (two hundred) feet of commercial buildings and structures.
- 6.4.3.2 No salvage or junk yard shall be located in areas which due to high water table, flooding and soil conditions may affect the quality of surface and ground water.
- 6.4.3.3 No salvage or junk yard shall be located nearer than 100 (one hundred) feet of all road and highway rights-of-way.
- 6.4.3.4 All salvage yards and operations shall be screened from the public view unless the salvage material is placed 500 (five hundred) feet away from any highway right-of-way and screened by natural vegetation, building and landform.

## **6.5 Public and Non-Profit Wildlife Management Areas**

### **6.5.1 Purpose**

These provisions are designed to address the need for Public Wildlife Management Areas and at the same time preserve and protect the interest of the township for its tax lease and investment in construction and maintenance of public roads.

### **6.5.2 General Requirements**

- 6.5.2.1 All publicly owned and non-profit agency wildlife management areas established after adoption of these regulations require a conditional use permit subject to the provisions of Section 8.2.
- 6.5.2.2 If the area is leased for this purpose, the public agency is required to provide the following as a part of the petition for a conditional use permit:
  - (1) A road maintenance agreement specifying duties and responsibilities of the owner/lessee for access and through roads
  - (2) Duties and responsibilities of the owner/lessee for the control of noxious weeds in the wildlife management area.

6.5.2.3 If the land is purchased by a public agency for such a purpose, the public agency shall arrange for compensating the township for the loss of the property tax.

6.5.2.4 When a township road provides access to the wildlife management area, a road maintenance agreement specifying the duties and responsibilities of the public agency shall be a part of the conditional use permit.

## 6.6 Feed Lots

### 6.6.1 Purpose

These regulations are designed to allow feed lots for feeding of livestock, furbearers and poultry at the same time protect the adjoining uses against odor, run off and other incompatible characteristics associated with feed lots.

### 6.6.2 General Requirement

- (1) All feedlots as defined by this code are only permitted as conditional uses subject to the provisions of this code and the requirements of the North Dakota State Health Department. Wherever the provisions of this ordinance conflict with the requirement of ND State Health Department, the more restrictive requirements shall apply.
- (2) All feedlots shall be designed and constructed with all reasonable preventative measures to avoid surface run-off including construction of sealed collection and retention ponds.
- (3) Where appropriate, there shall be sufficient drainage to avoid pollution of the ground and surface water from the standing effluents.
- (4) Feedlots shall not be placed in the floodplains.
- (5) The applicant, as a part of site approval application, shall submit a plan for removal and disposal of the liquid and solid waste generated by the feed lot.
- (6) An "animal unit equivalent" is a unitless number developed from the nutrient and volume characteristics of *manure* for a specific *livestock* type. The term "animal units" is used to normalize the number of animal (e.g., head) for each specific *livestock* type which produce comparable bulk quantities of *manure*. The animal unit equivalents for types of *livestock* and the numbers of *livestock* for facility size thresholds of 300 animal units (a.u.), and so forth, are listed in the following table.

- (7) An Animal feeding operation or AFO means a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met: a) Animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are, or will be stable or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period; and b) Crops, vegetation, forage growth, post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing seasons over any portion of the lot or facility. All AFO shall apply to the setback distance as listed in the following table. In no event shall an AFO be located nearer than .50 miles from a residential platted development, Commercial Zoning district, or any city limits, park, cemetery, church, school or residence other than owner/operator's residence.
- (8) The requirements are not applicable to winter feedlots as defined in the definitions.

**Equivalent Numbers of the Livestock (hd)  
for Four Sizes (a.u.) of Animal Feeding Operations**

Livestock Type	Animal Unit Equivalent	300 a.u.	1,000 a.u.
1 horse	1.0	300 hd	1,000 hd
1 dairy cow	1.33	225	750
1 mature beef	1.0	300	1,000
1 beef feeder - finishing	1.0	300	1,000
1 beef feeder - backgrounding	0.75	400	1,333
1 mature bison	1.0	300	1,000
1 bison feeder	1.0	300	1,000
1 swine, >55 lbs.	0.4	750	2,500
1 goose or duck	0.2	1,500	5,000
1 sheep	0.1	3,000	10,000
1 turkey	0.2	1,500	5,000
1 chicken	0.1	3,000	10,000

**SETBACK DISTANCES FOR ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS**

NUMBER OF ANIMAL UNITS	HOG OPERATIONS	OTHER OPERATIONS
Small AFO * 100 - 299	1 mi.	0.50 mi.
Medium AFO* 300 - 999	2 mi.	1 mi.
Large AFO* 1000 or more	2 mi.	2 mi.

\*Animal Feeding Operation

## **6.7 Animals Prohibited**

Dangerous and/or exotic animals such as but not limited to lions, tigers, cheetahs, bears, venomous reptiles, alligators, etc. are prohibited except for traveling fairs, circuses, and brief veterinary care unless a conditional use permit is obtained.

## **6.8 Mining of Sand, Gravel, Clay and General Ground Excavation**

### **6.8.1 Purpose**

The purpose of these provisions is to provide for mining and extraction of materials for commercial uses, and to protect and preserve agricultural land by guiding such operations, and to minimize the traffic, noise, dust, fume and vibration impact on the adjoining uses and the city.

### **6.8.2 Site Approval Requirements**

All excavation sites require approval by the Township. See definitions of "commercial gravel pit" and "private gravel pit". All new excavations are considered conditional uses and shall conform to provisions of the conditional use permit requirements of these regulations.

### **6.8.3 Data Submission Requirements**

- (1) A site plan for operation and reclamation of the mined land including maps showing location of the land to be mined, location of roads and point of access to the site, adjacent residences within one mile of site, maps showing the existing and proposed contours after the land is mined and a time table for operation of the site. There will be a minimum 1 to 3 slope. All top soil shall be replaced and planted to natural protected vegetation.
- (2) Reclamation of the site shall be completed within one year of the resource being exhausted, abandoned or closure of the operation of the site.
- (3) Proof of compatibility with the existing landform including the vegetation, surface and ground water resources.
- (4) Bonding required as follows:

0 – 19 acres	no bond
20 – 39 acres	\$50,000
40 + acres	\$100,000

#### **6.8.4 Proximity to Existing Uses**

The operation of sand and gravel sites shall not be nearer than five hundred (500) feet from any residential uses.

#### **6.8.5 Permit Requirements**

Any person who operates a sand and gravel operation shall obtain a permit from the planning and zoning committee before starting any mining or excavation of the sand and gravel sites, and after review by the planning and zoning board and approval by the Township Board.

### **6.9 Garden Sheds**

A garden shed shall be no larger than twelve (12) feet by twelve (12) feet and no greater than twelve (12) feet in height. Garden sheds shall be located no less than three (3) feet from the rear and side lot lines in rear corners of the property. There shall be no more than two (2) garden sheds on any zoning lot. Said structures shall have doors facing into the property.

### **6.10 Public Nuisances**

The maintenance of public nuisances including, but not limited to noxious weeds, smoke, gases, radio interference, blighted structures or buildings, substantial noise in excess of 75 dB during the day and 65 dB at night, accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, automobiles, dead or diseased trees shall be subject to the provisions of the Township.

### **6.11 Noise**

Sustained noise of over 75 dB during the day and 65 dB at night is not allowed.

### **6.12 Recreational Vehicles and Travel Trailers**

The use of recreational vehicles, travel trailers and other trailers used for temporary occupancy shall be limited to two hundred forty (240) days per year within the township. Storage of residents' recreational vehicles is unlimited.

### **6.13 Animal Units on Single Family Non-Farm Residential and Recreational Districts**

1. Animal Units not exceeding one (1) unit per acre density provide that:
  - (a horse is considered one animal unit)
  - a. the parcel in question comprises an area of at least 3 acres, there shall be minimum of one (1) acres for one animal unit, and an additional acre for every additional animal unit kept on the property. More animal units on acreage will require a conditional use permit.

- b. the residential use area shall be separated from the area to be used as an animal enclosure by a fence, and that the entire animal enclosure area shall be fenced to prevent escape and subsequent damage to adjacent property.
- c. no structure intended for housing animals or any manure pile shall be closer than 500 feet from any residential structures other than that of the owner.
- d. all manure and other animal wastes be removed and disposed of properly on at least an annual basis.
- e. the number of animal units permitted shall be based on the size of the portion of the parcel to be used as an animal enclosure, and that animal enclosure area shall not be less than 2 acres.

#### **6.14 Trees and Tree Plantings:**

1. No person or persons, corporations or otherwise, whether owners or tenants of any property along the streets or roadways of the Township shall permit any trees to project less than eight (8) feet over the sidewalks, streets, and roadways, and twelve (12) feet above streets and roadways.
2. It is the duty of all persons, whether owners or tenants to keep the trees along public streets and roadways adjoining such property trimmed in such manner that trees shall not interfere with travel on said streets, roadways, and sidewalks.
3. No persons, firms or corporations shall plant any tree, shrub, or other vegetable growth except lawn grass on any road right-of-way, or within confines of the ditch back slope.
4. For the purpose of insuring reasonable visibility at street or roadway intersections, trees shall be trimmed to at least twelve (12) feet above street or roadway surface and eight (8) feet over sidewalks.
5. Hedges may be planted two hundred (200) feet from the center of road if they do not exceed a height of twenty-four (24) inches.
6. Shelterbelts shall not be planted closer than two hundred (200) feet from center of road.
7. Farmstead windbreaks set back shall be two hundred (200) feet away from center of road. Variances for trees and fences issued through appropriate highway officials: Township Supervisors.



8. In unplatted areas, trees and shrubs may be planted no closer than two hundred (200) feet from center of road or at discretion of the Township Supervisors. Any changes from this guideline shall be assessed a permit fee to cover site inspections and other incurred costs.

### **6.15 Fences**

1. No site-obscuring fence over forty-eight (48) inches in height shall be erected within the front yard of any lot used for residential purposes.
2. No fence shall exceed a height of six (6) feet without first obtaining a permit from the Zoning Administrator.
3. No permanent fence shall be erected on a road right-of-way or within the confines of the ditch back stop.
4. Electrical fences shall conform in all respects to the State of North Dakota regulations for electrical wiring, and shall be energized only with underwriters laboratories approved equipment.

### **6.16 Home Occupations, Standards for Approval** – Shall be considered as a conditional use and shall conform to the provisions of the conditional use permit requirements of these regulations.

1. A Home Occupation in an unincorporated community:
  - a. The occupation shall be limited to the dwelling and the area of the occupation shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the main floor area, but not including basement or garage floor space.
  - b. Structural changes shall not be made in the dwelling, unless a building permit is obtained.
  - c. Employees are limited to two full time or four part time besides owners without a special use permit.
  - d. No sign may be permitted larger than four (4) square feet.
  - e. Evidence of the occupation shall not be visible from the road.
  - f. The occupation shall not adversely affect the character of the uses permitted in the district in which it is located.

## 2. Rural Home Occupations:

Rural home occupations shall conform to the requirements for unincorporated community homes except:

- a. Rural Home Occupations may be located in a separate non-residential or farm building provided any building principally used for the home occupation shall not exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty (1,280) square feet. Minimum lot size for a separate non-residential building shall be one (1) acre.
- b. Employees are limited to two full time or four part time personnel.
- c. Structural additions may be made to a dwelling provided the alterations shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the main floor of the area of the dwelling, but not including basement or garage floor area. A building permit is required.
- d. Location site shall be limited to single lot residential sites or farmstead sites.

### **6.17 Adult Entertainment Center** - Shall be considered as a conditional use and shall conform to the provisions of the conditional use permit requirements of these regulations.

1. An adult entertainment center shall not be located within 1,250 feet of any religious institution, cemetery, school, park or recreation facility (bike paths excluded). They shall be located in an industrial zoning district.
2. An adult entertainment center shall not be located within 1,250 feet of any establishment that dispenses alcohol on-premises.
3. An adult entertainment center shall not be located within 1,250 feet of any other adult entertainment center.
4. An adult entertainment center must prohibit entrance by persons less than 18 years of age.
5. An adult entertainment center may not display any signs visible from the exterior of the adult entertainment center, except for signs identifying it as an adult entertainment center, as an adult bookstore, adult entertainment facility, adult cinema or combination thereof.
6. No material depicting specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas shall be visible from the exterior of an adult entertainment center.

7. The business premises of an adult entertainment center that are generally open to its patrons are open equally at the same time to members of any law enforcement agency who may wish to enter thereon provided the entry is in the course of the discharge of the law enforcement officer's duties.

## **6.18 Utilities**

1. The term "utilities" includes, but is not limited to, electric power, electrical transmission lines, wind conversion systems, commercial wind generators, dams, electrical and telephone towers and substations, natural gas pipelines, the petroleum product pipelines, water and sewer lines, telephone lines and other above ground or underground communication and energy transfer lines and pipelines.
2. All new utility lines and pipelines require a permit.
3. All new utility lines and pipelines are considered conditional uses and shall conform to the provisions of the Conditional Use Permit requirements of these regulations.
4. All pipelines, natural gas, petroleum pipelines and other energy transfer lines shall be placed deep enough in the ground so as to not interfere with or become hazardous to normal farming operations.
5. Excavation for tunneling of any pipelines under roads, farm drains, group drains and local drains shall be done by the company owning or leasing said pipelines and the cost of said excavation and damages to be born by the said company.
6. All wind generators shall be set back one thousand (1,000) feet from residences other than that of the owner/operator.
7. All utilities shall notify the township supervisors within thirty days of abandoning a tower site or utilities. All utilities shall be removed within one year after abandonment.
8. All utilities, excluding wind generators, shall be set back the height of the tower plus twenty-five percent (25%).

## **ARTICLE 7      ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **7.1 Organization**

To administer these regulations the following bodies are hereby vested with authority to act in behalf of the Township.

- (1) The Code Administrator
- (2) The Zoning Commission

### **7.2 The Code Administrator**

The Code Administrator is a duly appointed township official authorized by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible to administer Zoning Regulations, to assist the Zoning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors on any matter related to planning for and development of the township.

#### **7.2.1 Duties**

- 7.2.1.1 Issue all zoning certificates, permits and maintain records thereof.
- 7.2.1.2 Issue all building and repair permits.
- 7.2.1.3 Maintain zoning related records and zoning district map including records of all amendments, conditional uses and variances.
- 7.2.1.4 Receive, file and forward to the Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors all applications for zoning amendments, site approvals and conditional uses.
- 7.2.1.5 Prepare and publish notices and notify adjoining property owners.
- 7.2.1.6 Notify, in writing, the property owner or user upon finding violation of these regulations and cite the nature of violation clearly and require compliance within a reasonable time. If the notification is not replied to or steps are not taken to correct the violations within 30 (thirty) days, the Code Administrator shall make a report of the findings to the Board of Supervisors.

## **7.2.2 Interpretation of Regulations**

All questions of interpretation of these regulations shall be presented to the Code Administrator and that such questions shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors only on appeal from the decision of the Code Administrator.

## **7.2.3 Building Permit Applications**

Any person or persons intending to construct or reconstruct or relocate a building or make alteration, shall, before proceeding with the work, or commencing any excavation in connection with it, shall obtain a permit from the Code Administrator. These regulations shall also apply to the mobile homes.

7.2.3.1 Each application for a building permit shall be accompanied by a legal description and a map showing the actual dimension of the lot to be built upon, the size, shape and location of the building for observing the yard requirements of these regulations.

7.2.3.2 The application shall specify the type of the building, structure, material of which it is composed, the part or portion of the lot to be occupied by the principal building and accessory buildings and the probable building cost, together with such additional plans and specifications as required by these regulations.

## **7.2.4 Building Permits**

The Code Administrator shall issue a building permit if the proposed building or structure conforms to zoning and building provision of these regulations. If the Code Administrator denies a permit because of non-conformance with these regulations, he shall inform the applicant of his/her right to appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

## **7.2.5 Building Permit Fees**

The Code Administrator shall charge and collect a fee according to the Resolution of Fees and Schedules established by the Township Board of Supervisors. The applicant for a conditional use permit and amendment to the zoning ordinance, or building permit, shall be liable for and pay to the Township Clerk sufficient sums of money to pay for and cover all of the costs incurred by the Township for the processing of such application, including, but not limited to: publication costs; attorney's fees; mileage; copy expense, etc. No Permit shall be issued until all such costs as these described herein have been paid by the applicant, unless the Township Board of Supervisors has otherwise provided by resolution for a particular case.

### **7.2.6 Certificate of Occupancy or Use**

The Code Administrator shall issue a certificate of occupancy upon inspection of the completed building, including placement of mobile homes and manufactured homes and assurance that all provisions and conditions set forth by the authority

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of these regulations are met. In the event the Code Administrator finds violations and deviations from the terms and conditions of these regulations, he shall make a report and recommendation for action to the Board of Supervisors.

### **7.2.7 Conditional Use and Site Approval Permits**

The Code Administrator shall issue a conditional use or site approval permit upon approval of the application by the Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors stipulating all conditions set forth.

### **7.2.8 Variances**

The Code Administrator shall issue a permit if the Board of Supervisors reverses the decision. The terms of the variance or special use shall be stipulated in the permit.

## **7.3 The Zoning Commission**

The Zoning Commission shall consist of the three township supervisors. Where a city is exercising extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction two members may be appointed by the city to the township zoning commission.

### **7.3.1 Duties**

- 7.3.1.1 To hear and recommend action to the Board of Supervisors on all applications for amendments to zoning districts.
- 7.3.1.2 To hear and recommend action to the Board of Supervisors on all applications for conditional uses and site approvals in the manner prescribed in these regulations.
- 7.3.1.3 To study, examine and recommend action to the Board of Supervisors on issues which may adversely affect the natural resources and farming operations in the Township.
- 7.3.1.4 To serve in an advisory capacity to the Township Board of Supervisors whereby final action is implemented.

### **7.3.2 Notice of Hearings**

The Zoning Commission shall fix a reasonable date for hearing of applications for zoning district amendments, conditional use permits, site approval applications and other matters before it, give public notice thereof in the official newspaper of the county and the nearest regularly published newspaper at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the hearing. The notices shall give time and place of hearing and shall state the purpose of the hearing and that the applications and supporting documents for zoning district amendments and conditional use permits shall be available for public inspection by the Code Administrator.

### **7.3.3 Meetings**

Meetings of the Zoning Commission shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and at such other times as the Zoning Commission may determine. All meetings shall be open to the public and any person may testify for or against a petition.

## **7.4 Violations and Penalties**

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations or fails to comply with any of its requirements including the conditions or modification of use, building or structure shall upon conviction thereof forfeit not more than \$100 and in addition pay all expenses involved in the case. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

## **ARTICLE 8 PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENTS, CONDITIONAL USES, VARIANCES AND APPEALS**

### **8.1 Zoning District Amendments**

#### **8.1.1 Public Hearing Notice**

The notice of all such public hearings shall be published at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the hearing in the official newspaper of the county. The notice of hearing shall include: (1) the time and place of hearing; (2) description of the property by street address for platted lands and clearly identifiable location for the unplatted lands; (3) the proposed use and requested zoning district change; (4) time and place for public inspection of the documents before the hearing.

#### **8.1.2 Public Hearings**

The Zoning Commission at the public hearing shall listen to all persons who may speak in support of or in opposition to the proposal. Upon the completion of its review, the Zoning Commission shall take action for recommendation of approval, denial or modification of the petition. The Zoning Commission may require additional information before it completes its findings and makes a

recommendation to the board of supervisors. Thereafter, the Board of Supervisors shall review the matter at a public hearing for final decision.

### **8.1.3 Data Submission Requirements**

Petitions for zoning district change and conditional uses shall be submitted with the following information:

- 8.1.3.1 Legal description of the area proposed to be rezoned, the mile of the site.
- 8.1.3.2 A map showing the existing land uses and zoning district classification of the area.
- 8.1.3.3 A site plan showing buildings and uses in the zoning district proposed to be changed and the requested zoning district classification.
- 8.1.3.4 A fee shall be paid in accordance with the schedule established by the Township Board of Supervisors.

### **8.1.4 Deliberation and Decision**

Following public hearing, the Zoning Commission, upon due deliberation, shall make a report of its findings and recommendation and forward the same to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed amendment within 30 (thirty) days after the hearing. In making their findings, the Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors shall ascertain as to whether the proposal for zoning district amendment is consistent with the township Comprehensive Plan and meets all requirements of these regulations and other regulations of the township and recommend and forward the same to the Board of Supervisors.

## **8.2 Conditional Use Permits**

### **8.2.1 Purpose**

The development of these regulations is based upon division of the township into districts, within which district the use of land and building bulk and locations of building and structures are mutually compatible and substantially harmonious. However, there are certain uses which, because of their unique characteristics, cannot be properly classified as permitted uses in any particular district, without consideration, in each case, of impact of those uses upon neighboring premises. Such uses, nevertheless, may be necessary or desirable to be allowed in a particular district provided that due consideration is given to location, development and operation of such uses.



## **8.2.2 Public Hearing Notice**

Shall be the same as the provisions set forth for public hearing notice for zoning district amendment in Section 8.1.1.

## **8.2.3 Public Hearings**

Shall be the same as the provisions set forth for public hearing for zoning district amendment in Section 8.1.2.

## **8.2.4 Data Submission Requirements**

Shall be the same as the provisions set forth for data submission requirements for zoning district amendment in Section 8.1.3.

## **8.2.5 Deliberation and Decision**

Shall be the same as the provisions set forth for deliberation and decision for zoning district amendment in Section 8.1.4

## **8.2.6 Standards**

No application for conditional use shall be approved unless findings are made that all of the following conditions are present.

- 8.2.6.1 That the establishment, maintenance or operation of the conditional use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort or general welfare.
- 8.2.6.2 That the uses, values and enjoyment of other property in the neighborhood for purposes already permitted shall be in no foreseeable manner substantially impaired or diminished by the establishment, maintenance or operation of the conditional use.
- 8.2.6.3 That the establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.
- 8.2.6.4 That adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary site improvements have been or are being provided.
- 8.2.6.5 That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic impact on the area.

8.2.6.6 That the conditional use shall substantially conform to all applicable regulations of the district in which it is located.

### **8.2.7 Conditions and Guarantees**

8.2.7.1 Prior to the decision on any conditional use, the Board of Supervisors may stipulate such conditions and restrictions upon the establishment, location, construction, maintenance and operation of the conditional use as deemed necessary to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the township and to secure compliance with the standards and requirements specified in Section 8.2.6. In all cases in which conditional uses are granted, the Board of Supervisors shall require such evidence and guarantees as it may deem necessary as proof that the conditions stipulated in connection therewith are being and will be complied with.

8.2.7.2 No alteration of a conditional use shall be permitted unless approved by the Board of Supervisors. Where the Board of Supervisors has approved or conditionally approved an application for a conditional use, such approval shall become null and void within 12 (twelve) months of the date of the Board of Supervisors action unless the use is commenced, construction is underway or the current owner possesses a valid building permit.

### **8.3 Variances**

Variance from the terms of these regulations as to building height, lot area and yard requirements may be granted provided that the applicant establishes proof of practical difficulty or undue hardship.

#### **8.3.1 Public Hearing Notice**

Notice of all such public hearings shall be published at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the hearing in the official newspaper of the county. The notice of hearing shall include: (1) the time and place of hearing; (2) description of the property by street address for platted lands and clearly identifiable location for the unplatted lands; (3) the proposed use and requested zoning variance; (4) time and place for public inspection of the documents before the hearing.

#### **8.3.2 Public Hearings**

Shall be the same as the provisions set forth for public hearing notice for zoning district amendment in Section 8.1.

### **8.3.3 Data Submission Requirements**

Petitions for variances shall be submitted with the following information.

- 8.3.3.1 Description of the property by street address for platted land and clearly identifiable location for the unplatted lands, the name and addresses of all owners of property lying within one mile of the site.
- 8.3.3.2 A map showing the existing land uses and zoning district classification of the area.
- 8.3.3.3 A fee shall be paid in accordance with the schedule established by the Zoning Commission.

### **8.3.4 Deliberation and Decision**

In making its finding, the Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors shall follow the same provisions set forth for deliberation and decision for zoning district amendments in Section 8.1.4.

### **8.3.5 Standards**

No application for variance shall be approved unless it is found that all of the following are present.

- 8.3.5.1 That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the premises and which are not applicable to other premises in the same zoning district.
- 8.3.5.2 That literal interpretation of these regulations would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district.
- 8.3.5.3 That the special conditions and circumstances have not resulted from actions of the applicant.
- 8.3.5.4 That granting the variance requested will not confer upon the applicant any special privileges that are denied by these regulations to other premises.

### **8.3.6 Justification**

- 8.3.6.1 That the reasons set forth in the application justify the granting of the variance.

- 8.3.6.2 The variance is the minimum which would make possible a reasonable use of the premises.
- 8.3.6.3 That the granting of variance will be in harmony with the general purpose of these regulations and will not be injurious to the surrounding premises, neighborhood or the city and will not be contrary to the comprehensive plan and the purposes of these regulations.
- 8.3.6.4 That there is practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship in use of the premises if the strict application of the regulations were to be carried out.

### **8.3.7 Authorized Variances**

A variance shall not be granted for any yard or setback less than the yard or setback as required by these regulations.

- 8.3.7.1 To reduce not by more than twenty percent (20%) the applicable requirements for lot area and lot width.
- 8.3.7.2 To reduce the applicable off-street parking or loading facilities by no more than fifty percent (50%) of the requirements.
- 8.3.7.3 To permit the use of lot of record if it is smaller than the minimum size required by these regulations.
- 8.3.7.4 To permit roof alterations to provide additional winRush River, headroom or area for occupancy of third level.
- 8.3.7.5 To permit conversion of an existing building to a permitted residential use provided that is shall not conflict with the above standards cited in Sections 8.3.5 and 8.3.6.

## **8.4 Appeals of Administrative Decisions**

### **8.4.1 Applicability**

The Board of Township Supervisors shall be authorized to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official of the Township in the administration or enforcement of this land development code.

#### **8.4.2 Right to Appeal**

Appeals of Administrative Decisions may be filed by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board or agency affected by any decision of the administrative officer.

#### **8.4.3 Application Submittal**

Applications for Appeals of Administrative Decisions shall be submitted to the Codes Administrator in a form established by the Codes Administrator along with a nonrefundable fee that has been established by the Board of Township Supervisors. No application shall be processed until the application is complete and the required fee has been paid.

#### **8.4.4 Time of Filing Appeal**

Appeals of Administrative Decisions shall be filed within 10 days of the date of the decision being appealed.

#### **8.4.5 Effect of Filing**

The filing of a complete application for appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed, unless the official whose decision is being appealed certifies to the Board of Township Supervisors, after the appeal is filed, that, because of facts stated in the certification, a stay would cause immediate peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall not be stayed other than by a restraining order, which may be granted by the Board of Township Supervisors, or by a court of record.

#### **8.4.6 Transmittal of Papers**

The Codes Administrator or the official whose decision is being appealed shall transmit to the Board of Township Supervisors all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed is taken.

#### **8.4.7 Review and Action – Board of Township Supervisors**

Appeals of Administrative Decisions shall be taken to the Board of Township Supervisors. The Board of Township Supervisors shall grant to the administrative official's decision a presumption of correctness, placing the burden of persuasion of error on the appellant. In exercising the appeal power, the Board of Township Supervisors shall have all powers of the official from whom the appeal is taken, and the Board of township Supervisors may reverse or affirm wholly or partly or may modify the decision being appealed. If the Board of Township Supervisors determines that it is necessary to obtain additional evidence in order to resolve the matter, it shall remand the appeal to the official

from whom the appeal is taken, with directions to obtain such evidence and to reconsider the decision in light of such evidence. A concurring vote of three members of the Board of Township Supervisors shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of an administrative official.

**8.4.8 Review Criteria; Findings of Fact**

An appeal shall be sustained only if the Board of Township Supervisors finds that the administrative official erred. Every decision of the Board of Township Supervisors shall be accompanied by written findings of fact specifying the reason for the decision. These findings shall be filed in the office of the Board of Township Supervisors within 15 days after the date of the final action.

**RESOLUTION**

Whereas, the Township Zoning Commission has approved this amended Township Zoning Ordinance, and recommends it adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors.

Now and therefore, be it resolved that the Township Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Rush River Township Zoning Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date