

Chapter 9 Administration and Enforcement

SECTION 901. RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ZONING PROCESS.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be carried out by the Swan Creek Township Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Township Board, and the Township Zoning Administrator in conformance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (P.A. 110 Of 2006, as amended).

- (1) **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.** The Swan Creek Township Board, with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, shall employ a Zoning Administrator to carry out the day-to-day administration and enforcement of this Ordinance. Conditions of the Zoning Administrator's employment, including compensation, shall be established by the Township Board. Additional staff may be employed, under the supervision of the Zoning Administrator, to assist with administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

The Zoning Administrator's duties shall include the following items and any other tasks that may be assigned by the Township Board or provisions of this Ordinance.

- (A) **APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS.** All applications for Zoning Permits shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator who shall keep a record of them and their disposition. When all applicable provisions of this Ordinance have been met regarding any application, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a Zoning Permit for the proposed use. When conditions are not met, the Zoning Administrator shall consult with the applicant regarding a further course of action. The Zoning Administrator shall maintain a record of all applications, related documentation and resulting Zoning Permits.
- (B) **WRITTEN DENIAL.** When any application for a Zoning Permit is denied, the Zoning Administrator shall provide the applicant with a written denial, stating the reasons for the denial.
- (C) **NOTICE OF HEARINGS.** Whenever a zoning matter is the subject of a public hearing before the Planning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Zoning Administrator shall prepare and disseminate hearing notices as required by this Ordinance.
- (D) **INSPECTIONS.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall have the power to make inspections of any building or parcel as necessary to enforce this Ordinance.

- (E) **RECORD NONCONFORMING USES.** The Zoning Administrator shall record all nonconforming uses existing at the effective date of this Ordinance for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Chapter 4, Section 404.
 - (F) **RECORD SPECIAL USES.** The Zoning Administrator shall keep a record of all Special Use Permits issued under the terms of this Ordinance for the purpose of carrying out provisions of Chapter 6.
 - (G) **RECORD VARIANCES, ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS, AND INTERPRETATIONS.** The Zoning Administrator shall maintain a concise record of all variances, administrative reviews, and interpretations of this Ordinance rendered by the Zoning Board of Appeals under Section 904. This record shall be consulted whenever interpretation questions arise to determine whether any applicable precedents have been set.
 - (H) **PUBLIC INFORMATION.** The Zoning Administrator shall respond to inquiries and dispense information or copies of this Ordinance to help the public understand the provisions of this Ordinance. Public awareness and acceptance of this Ordinance should help to maintain compliance with it.
 - (I) **RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS.** The Zoning Administrator shall respond within five (5) business days, whenever possible, to any complaint alleging a violation of the terms or conditions of this Ordinance or of any permit issued pursuant to it. The Zoning Administrator shall summarize the nature and disposition of recent complaints at each regular Planning Commission meeting.
 - (J) **MAY NOT CHANGE ORDINANCE.** Under no circumstances is the Zoning Administrator permitted to make changes in the Ordinance or to vary the terms of this Ordinance.
 - (K) **PUBLICIZE AMENDMENTS.** The Zoning Administrator shall file copies of all amendments to this Ordinance with the Township Clerk and publish notices of all amendments as required by Section 905.
- (2) **PLANNING COMMISSION.** The Swan Creek Township Board has previously designated the Township's Planning Commission as the organization to function in the capacity of the Zoning Commission identified in Act 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The Planning Commission shall also comply with the requirements of Public Act 33 of 2008, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The Planning Commission shall be responsible for the following administrative and enforcement activities under this Ordinance.
- (A) **SITE PLAN APPROVAL.** The Planning Commission shall review Site

Plans and issue its approval, conditional approval or denial of same as provided by Section 907.

- (B) **SPECIAL USE PERMITS.** The Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing on any application for a Special Use Permit. Following a public hearing, the Planning Commission shall review and approve or deny said application. The Planning Commission shall also take any necessary action to revoke a Special Use Permit as provided by Section 502(6).
- (C) **REZONING OR AMENDMENT.** The Planning Commission shall conduct public hearings for proposals to rezone property or amend the text of this Ordinance as provided by Section 903. Following a public hearing, the Planning Commission shall make its recommendation regarding the proposed rezoning or text change to the Township Board. The Planning Commission may initiate a text change or rezoning, subject to the requirements for notice, hearing and Township Board approval.
- (D) **PLAT REVIEW.** The Planning Commission shall review proposed plats and land divisions as provided by Section 908.

(3) ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

- (A) **CONTINUATION OF CURRENT BOARD.** The Township Board, under the authority of Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006, as amended, has previously established the Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Upon adoption of this Ordinance, the Zoning Board of Appeals previously created shall continue to function and remain in office, including all members thereof.
- (B) **MEMBERSHIP.**
 - (i) **REGULAR MEMBERS.** The Swan Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals shall consist of three (3) members. The first member of the Board of Appeals shall be the chairperson of the Township Planning Commission, one member shall be a member of the Township Board, and the remaining member shall be selected and appointed by the Township Board from among the electors residing in the unincorporated area of the Township. An elected officer of the Township may not serve as chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals. An employee or contractor of the Township Board may not serve as a member or employee of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Members of the ZBA shall be removable by the Township Board for nonperformance of duty or misconduct in office upon written charges and after public hearing.

- (ii) **ALTERNATE MEMBERS.** The Township Board may appoint not more than two (2) alternate members for the same term as regular members to the Zoning Board of Appeals. An alternate member may be called upon to serve as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals in the absence of a regular member if the regular member is absent from or will be unable to attend two (2) or more consecutive meetings of the ZBA, or is absent from or will be unable to attend meetings for a period of more than thirty (30) consecutive days. An alternate member may also be called to serve as a regular member for the purpose of reaching a decision on a case in which the regular member has abstained for reasons of conflict of interest. The alternate member shall serve in the case until a final decision is made. The alternate member shall have the same voting rights as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- (C) **TERMS OF OFFICE.** Terms of Zoning Board of Appeals members shall be for three (3) years, except for members serving because of their membership on the Planning Commission or Township Board, whose terms shall be limited to the time they are members of said bodies and the period stated in the resolution appointing them. A successor shall be appointed not more than one (1) month after the term of the preceding member has expired. All vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled for the remainder of the term.

- (D) **PER DIEM OR EXPENSES.** The total amount allowed such Board of Appeals in one (1) year as per diem or as expenses actually incurred in the discharge of their duties shall not exceed a reasonable sum, which shall be appropriated annually in advance by the Township Board.

- (E) **RULES OF PROCEDURE.** The Board of Appeals shall adopt its own rules of procedure as may be necessary to conduct its meetings and carry out its function. The Board shall choose its chairperson, and in the chairperson's absence, an acting chair.

- (F) **MEETINGS.** Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair and at such other times as the Board in its rules of procedure may specify. A simple majority of the membership of the Board of Appeals shall constitute a quorum and may conduct any items of business brought before the Board. All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

- (G) **RECORDS.** Minutes shall be recorded of all proceedings and shall contain evidence and dates relevant to every case considered, together with the votes of the members and the final disposition of each case. Such minutes shall be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and are public

records.

- (H) **MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED.** The concurring vote of a majority of the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be necessary to reverse any decision of the Zoning Administrator, to decide in favor of the applicant any matter upon which the board is required to pass, or to grant any variance of the terms or conditions of this Ordinance.
- (I) **DECISIONS.** The Zoning Board of Appeals shall return a decision upon each case within thirty (30) days of a request or appeal, unless a further time is agreed upon by the applicant. Any decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall not take effect until the expiration of three (3) working days after the date of said decision, unless the Board of Appeals certifies on the record that the decision must be given immediate effect for the preservation of property or personal rights. No Zoning Permit authorized by such a decision shall be issued until the decision has taken effect.
- (J) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** A member of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall disqualify himself or herself from a vote in which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure of a member to disqualify himself or herself from a vote in which the member has a conflict of interest shall constitute misconduct in office.
- (K) **DUTIES.** The Swan Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the power to act on those matters where this Ordinance provides for an administrative review, interpretation, or variance as defined herein. The ZBA shall *not* have the power to alter or change the Zoning District classification of any property, or to change the terms or intent of this Ordinance.
 - (1) **VARIANCES.** The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the power to authorize variances from any quantifiable requirements of this Ordinance. See Section 903(1) and Section 903(5).
 - (2) **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.** The ZBA shall hear and decide appeals where it is alleged by the appellant that there is an error in any order, requirement, permit, decision, or denial made by the Zoning Administrator. See Section 903(2) and Section 903(5).
 - (3) **INTERPRETATION.** Upon request, the ZBA shall have the power to interpret the provisions of this Ordinance so as to carry out its intent and purpose. See Section 903(3) and Section 903(5).
- (4) **TOWNSHIP BOARD.** On recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Township Board has adopted the Zoning Ordinance, making it the enforceable

policy of Township government. The Township Board may take other actions related to this Ordinance, as follows:

- (A) **AMEND.** The Township Board, upon the advice of the Planning Commission, may amend the text of this Ordinance or the boundaries of Zoning Districts (rezoning), according to the procedures defined in Section 905.
- (B) **SET FEES.** The Township Board shall, by resolution, set fees to be charged to applicants for various actions to be conducted under this Ordinance. These fees shall apply to Zoning Permit applications, Special Use Permits, rezoning applications, Site Plan Reviews, text amendments, actions by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and any other actions the Township Board sees fit to add. The fees shall be established in reasonable relation to the Township's actual cost of administering the Ordinance, and shall include the actual costs of engaging the services of engineers, attorneys, and related professionals when needed to review applications.
- (C) **WAIVE FEES.** By resolution, the Township Board may waive the fee for any application requesting one or more of the actions listed above.

SECTION 902. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES.

- (1) **ZONING PERMIT REQUIRED.** The issuance of a Zoning Permit signifies compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. A Zoning Permit must be obtained from the Zoning Administrator before any of the following activities may legally take place:
 - (A) Occupancy and use of vacant land (including parking lot construction).
 - (B) Any change in the use of a parcel of land or a building, including any construction or structural alteration of a building that requires issuance of a Building Permit. A Zoning Permit must be obtained before a Building Permit may be issued. When erected at the same time as the principal building, accessory structures shall not require a separate Zoning Permit. A change in use of a parcel or existing building from one Use by Right in the applicable Zoning District to another Use by Right does not require a Zoning Permit.
 - (C) Any use of a parcel or a building that is identified as a Special Use by the Table of District Regulations in Chapter 3 for the Zoning District in which the parcel is located.
 - (D) Any change of a nonconforming use or building.

- (2) **APPLICATION FOR ZONING PERMIT.** Application for a Zoning Permit shall be made at least ten (10) days before construction of a new or enlarged building or structure, or a new or enlarged use of a parcel, is intended to begin. The application package may be submitted by the property owner, or by any other person with the owner's signed permission. A permit fee in the amount established by the Township Board shall accompany the application package. The application shall consist of the following material:
- (A) **APPLICATION FORM.** Applicants for a Zoning Permit shall submit a Zoning Application Form with all requested information completely filled in.
 - (B) **SUBMISSION WITH BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION.** When a Building Permit is also required, application for a Zoning Permit may be made at the same time. If the Township Building Inspector also acts as the Zoning Administrator, the Inspector may elect to accept information submitted for a Building Permit without duplication on the Zoning Permit application form.
 - (C) **PROPERTY INFORMATION.** The Zoning Application Form must be accompanied by a copy of a property survey, deed or tax records that are sufficient to allow identification of the parcel in the Township Assessor's property maps. When the applicant is anyone other than the property owner identified by the Assessor's records, evidence of the owner's concurrence of a change in ownership must also be submitted.
 - (D) **PLOT PLAN.** The Zoning Application Form must also be accompanied by a plot plan drawn at a size and scale sufficient to clearly identify the exact dimensions of the parcel, all abutting streets, alleys or easements, and the size, position and height of all existing and proposed buildings or structures thereon. The Zoning Administrator may also require any other information deemed necessary for the proper enforcement of this Ordinance.
- (3) **APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.** On submission of an application for a Zoning Permit, the Zoning Administrator shall review the application material. Whenever possible, it is desirable for this review to be conducted with the applicant present to facilitate any necessary explanation. If all requirements have been met, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a Zoning Permit. When failure to meet any requirement prohibits the issuance of a permit, the problem shall be identified and the applicant advised of his or her options. In all cases, a full review shall be conducted to identify all potential obstacles to issuance of a Zoning Permit.

(4) PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE.

- (A) **AUTHORIZATION AND INTENT.** The Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are hereby authorized to require a sum of money be deposited with the Township Treasurer, payable by check or money order, as a guarantee of performance for any conditions attached to approval of Zoning Permits that come before either group. It is intended that a cash deposit will not be required for trivial items, but will be uniformly imposed when items vital to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public are concerned. The Treasurer shall hold this sum in escrow in the name of the Township, the applicant, and any other party providing the funds.
- (B) **AMOUNT.** The Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals shall specify the amount of any required cash deposit and the conditions for which a deposit is required in the resolution granting conditional approval with the required guarantee. The amount should be sufficient to enforce compliance with the specified condition.
- (C) **USE OF ESCROWED FUNDS.** If the Zoning Administrator determines that a condition of a Zoning Permit has been violated and that the permit holder has not acted to correct said violation in a timely fashion, he or she may recommend to the Planning Commission that funds escrowed as a performance guarantee for that condition be used to bring about compliance with said condition. At its first meeting after such a recommendation is made, the Planning Commission shall decide whether to approve said recommendation for action to the Township Board. The Township Board shall consider such action at its first meeting after the Planning Commissions' review. ***ESCROWED FUNDS MAY ONLY BE SPENT UPON AN AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE SWAN CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD.*** Said resolution shall direct the Zoning Administrator to take any action or procure any services which he or she deems necessary to bring about compliance with said condition.
- (D) **RETURN OF CASH DEPOSIT.** The Zoning Administrator must certify, in writing, to the Township Treasurer that any condition has been satisfied for which a cash deposit has been made as a performance guarantee. Said certification shall identify the condition, the amount of deposit specified for its guarantee, and any amount that may have been used to enforce compliance with the remaining balance (if any). The Treasurer shall issue a check to the party named on the escrow account in the amount specified, following standard Township procedures for authorization of such disbursements.

- (5) **RECORD MAINTAINED.** The Zoning Administrator shall keep a record of each application for a Zoning Permit that has been submitted, including the disposition of each one. This record shall be a public record and open for inspection upon request.
- (6) **VALIDITY OF ZONING PERMIT.** A Zoning Permit remains in effect for a period of one (1) year from the date it is issued. By that time, the activity authorized by the Zoning Permit must have begun. This means that any use of land or of an existing building must be underway, or a Building Permit for any new construction must have been issued and construction commenced. The validity of a Zoning Permit may be extended not more than once by the Zoning Administrator, for a period not to exceed one (1) additional year. An extension must be requested in writing by the permit holder before the expiration of the initial permit period.
- (7) **VOIDING OF ZONING PERMIT.** If the permit holder fails to initiate the activity authorized by the Zoning Permit by the end of one (1) year from the date the permit was issued, the Zoning Permit is automatically null and void. Any additional rights associated with the Zoning Permit that have been granted by the Planning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals, such as Special Use Permits or variances, expire together with the Zoning Permit.

Any performance guarantee shall be refunded to the permit holder unless the failure to initiate activity has resulted in costs to the Township that were to be covered by the guarantee. If any amount of the guarantee remains after the costs are satisfied, the balance of the guarantee shall be released and returned to the permit holder.

- (8) **RE-ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.** Re-issuance of a Zoning Permit that has expired requires a new Zoning Application Form to be filed with the Zoning Administrator and fully processed.

SECTION 903. AUTHORITY OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

The Zoning Board of Appeals may grant variances, hear appeals from administrative actions, and make interpretations of this Ordinance as follows:

- (1) **VARIANCE.** Upon a showing of practical difficulty, the Board may grant variances to such requirements as lot area and width regulations, yard and depth regulations, and off-street parking and loading space requirements. Any requirement of this Ordinance which can be expressed in terms of numbers may be considered for a variance. In passing upon variances, the Board may vary or modify the provisions of the Ordinance as authorized above so that the spirit of the Ordinance is observed, public safety is secured, and substantial justice done.

- (2) **APPEALS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.** The Zoning Board of Appeals is empowered to review and reverse or modify any order, decision or determination made by the Zoning Administrator. The Board is also empowered to review decisions of the Planning Commission regarding Special Use Permits and Site Plan Review.
- (A) **REQUESTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.** An Administrative Review by the Zoning Board of Appeals may be requested by any aggrieved person, or by any officer, department, or board of local, county, or state government. Any such request must be made in writing not more than ten (10) days after the date of the decision being appealed. The request shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator and shall identify the applicant, the proposed activity, the action being appealed, and the grounds for the review. The Zoning Administrator shall immediately transmit to the Chairperson of the Board of Appeals any papers constituting the record upon which the action being reviewed was taken.
- (B) **STAY.** An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action being reviewed, except as follows. If the Zoning Administrator certifies in writing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, after an appeal has been filed, that a stay would cause imminent peril to life or property, the proceedings shall not be stayed unless a restraining order is issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals or by court action.
- (3) **INTERPRETATION.** The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) may interpret provisions of this Ordinance as outlined below. Each such interpretation shall establish the precedent for future treatment of the issue being addressed. To achieve the objective of consistent enforcement of this Ordinance, whenever an interpretation question arises that has been addressed previously by the Zoning Board of Appeals, the earlier interpretation shall apply without requiring further action by the Board. The Zoning Administrator shall keep a concise record of all interpretations made by the Zoning Board of Appeals to facilitate such reference.
- (A) **DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.** The ZBA may determine the precise location of the boundary lines between zoning districts.
- (B) **ACTIVITY CLASSIFICATION.** The ZBA may classify any activity which is not specifically mentioned in the Table of District Regulations in Chapter 3 for any Zoning District as a Use by Right or Special Use within at least one Zoning District, provided that the classification shall be consistent with the classification of similar uses and with the purpose and intent of each Zoning District.
- (C) **PARKING AND LOADING SPACES.** The ZBA may determine the off-street parking and loading space requirements of any use for which these

requirements are not determinable using the information provided for this purpose in Chapter 3, District Regulations.

- (D) **CLARIFICATION.** The Board may interpret any portion of this Ordinance when the Zoning Administrator is unable to clearly determine its intent or effect.

- (4) **FEES.** A fee as established by the Township Board shall be paid to the Zoning Administrator at the time of filing application with the Board of Appeals. The purpose of such fee is to cover, in part, the necessary advertisements, investigations, and other expenses incurred by the Board of Appeals for the appeal.

- (5) **RULES FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ACTIONS.**
 - (A) **PUBLIC HEARING.** The Zoning Board of Appeals must hold a public hearing before making a decision on a variance, appeal, or interpretation. Mailed notice, as specified by Section 906, shall be given not less than fifteen (15) days before the date of the hearing. At the hearing, a party may appear in person or may be represented by an agent or attorney.

 - (B) **INTENT.** Any decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals must not be contrary to the public interest or to the intent and purpose of this Ordinance.

 - (C) **USE VARIANCE PROHIBITED.** No variance, site plan approval, or administrative review may be construed to allow the establishment any use which is not permitted by right or by Special Use Permit in the applicable Zoning District. The Zoning Board of Appeals may only classify a use which is not specifically mentioned along with a comparable permitted use for the purpose of the use regulations of a zoning district. In exercising the power of administrative review, the Zoning Board of Appeals must apply, and not vary, the terms of the Zoning Ordinance.

 - (D) **CONSIDER PROPERTY VALUES.** In any decision, the Zoning Board of Appeals must try to avoid causing a substantial adverse effect on property values in the vicinity of the subject property or on other parcels in the Zoning District in which the subject property is located.

 - (E) **SINGLE PARCEL.** Any action brought before the Zoning Board of Appeals may relate only to a single parcel that must be under control of the applicant. If the applicant is not the owner of the property, evidence must be provided that the owner concurs with the request for ZBA action.

- (F) **PROFIT IS NOT A MOTIVE.** No approval shall be granted by the ZBA simply to prevent an economic loss. The improvement of an owner's opportunity to profit from the sale of a parcel is *not* an objective of this Ordinance.
- (G) **RESUBMISSION.** Any request that has been denied wholly or in part by the Zoning Board of Appeals may not be resubmitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last denial. However, if new evidence or changed conditions are found, the ZBA may elect to rehear a case.
- (H) **CONDITIONS.** The Board of Appeals may attach any reasonable conditions to the approval of any request to secure the objectives and purposes of this Ordinance. The breach of any such condition shall automatically invalidate any Zoning Permit granted pursuant to the Zoning Board of Appeals action. When it attaches any conditions to the approval of a request, the Board of Appeals may require that a bond of ample sum be furnished to ensure compliance with the conditions imposed, as specified by Section 902(4).
- (I) **PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY.** A variance may only be granted upon a showing of practical difficulties by the applicant that prevent carrying out the strict letter of this Ordinance. These practical difficulties are to be evaluated in terms of the applicants's ability to physically locate a permitted use on the particular parcel of land. They must not have resulted from any act of the applicant or property owner.
- (J) **ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.** A variance or site plan approval granted under the provisions of this Section becomes a condition of the Zoning Permit granted pursuant to such action. If the Zoning Permit expires as defined by Section 902(6), any rights granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals expire together with the Zoning Permit.
- (K) **REQUIRED RECORDS.** The minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at which any decision was made regarding a variance, appeal, or interpretation must specify the reasoning used by the Board in making the decision, and any conditions that may be attached to issuance of a Zoning Permit.
- (L) **RECURRENT ISSUES.** If certain conditions are so widespread as to make similar variances a frequent issue for the Zoning Board of Appeals, the ZBA shall suggest a general regulation for such conditions to be considered by the Planning Commission.

SECTION 904. ENFORCEMENT.

- (1) **RESPONSIBILITY.** The Zoning Administrator shall enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.
- (2) **VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.** Violations of any provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be a nuisance *per se*. Any and all building or land use activities which are considered to be possible violations of the provisions of this Ordinance, and which are observed by or communicated to a Township Official or employee, shall be reported to the Zoning Administrator.
 - (A) **INSPECTION AND ORDER.** The Zoning Administrator shall inspect each alleged violation he or she observes or is made aware of and shall order correction, in writing, of all conditions found to be in violation of this Ordinance.
 - (B) **CORRECTION PERIOD.** Orders to correct violations shall allow a correction period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days, as the Zoning Administrator deems necessary.
 - (C) **PENALTIES.** Every person, whether as principal agent, servant, employee, or otherwise, including the owners of any building, structure or premise or part thereof where any violation of this Ordinance shall exist or shall be created, who shall violate or refuse to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance, shall be in violation of the Swan Creek Township Civil Infraction Ordinance. All penalties for violations shall be determined by the Township Civil Infraction Ordinance.
 - (D) **CUMULATIVE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.** The rights and remedies provided herein are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies provided by law.
- (3) **CONFLICTING REGULATIONS.** In the interpretation, application, and enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance, whenever any of the provisions or limitations imposed or required by the Ordinance are more stringent than any other law or Ordinance, then the provisions of the Ordinance shall govern, *provided* also that whenever the provisions of any other law or Ordinance impose more stringent requirements than are imposed or required by this Ordinance, the provisions of such other law or Ordinance shall govern.

SECTION 905. AMENDMENT.

- (1) **TOWNSHIP BOARD MAY AMEND.** The regulations and provisions stated in the text of this Ordinance and the boundaries of zoning districts shown on the Zoning District Map may be amended, supplemented, or changed by ordinance by the Township Board in accordance with the applicable enabling legislation of the State.

- (2) **INITIATION OF AMENDMENTS.** Proposals for amendments, supplements, or changes may be initiated by the Township Board of its own action, by the Planning Commission, or by petition of one (1) or more persons having an interest, by ownership or option to purchase, in property to be affected by the proposed amendment.
- (3) **AMENDMENT PROCEDURE.**
- (A) **PETITION TO TOWNSHIP CLERK AND PAYMENT OF FEE.** Each petition by one (1) or more owners or their agents, for an amendment shall be submitted upon an application of standard form to the Township Clerk. A fee as established by the Township Board shall be paid at the time of application to cover costs of necessary advertising for public hearings and processing of the amendment request. The Township Clerk shall transmit the application to the Planning Commission for recommended action.
- (B) **PUBLIC HEARING.** Before voting on any proposed amendment to this Ordinance, the Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing, with notice being given by the Zoning Administrator as specified by Sections 906(1) and (2) and by the following paragraphs:
- (1) **PUBLISHED NOTICE.** Notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the community, to be printed not less than fifteen (15) days before the date of the hearing.
- (2) **MAILED NOTICE.** In any instance involving the rezoning of one or more parcels, or when the owner or other party having an interest in any parcel has requested a text change which will affect use of that parcel, notice of the proposed amendment shall be mailed as specified by Sections 906(3) and (4).
- (C) **RECOMMENDATION.** The Planning Commission shall consider each proposed amendment in terms of the likely effect of such proposal upon the development plans for the community as well as in terms of the merits of the individual proposal. The Planning Commission may recommend any additions or modifications to the original amendment petition.
- (D) **SAGINAW COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION.** Following the conclusion of the Public Hearing and approval by the Township Planning Commission, the proposed amendment and any applicable zoning district map shall be submitted to the Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission for their review. The County Planning Commission will have waived its right to review the amendment unless the Commission notifies the Township of its recommendations within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the amendment.

(E) **TOWNSHIP BOARD ACTION.** Upon receipt of the Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission's recommendation, the Township Board shall review said recommendation and that of the Township Planning Commission. The Township Board may deny or adopt the amendment with or without changes by a majority vote of its membership, following its standard procedures for the adoption of ordinances. The Township Board may also refer the amendment back to the Township Planning Commission for further changes or clarification.

(1) **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING.** The Township Board shall grant a hearing on the proposed amendment to any party who has filed a written request to be heard with the Township Clerk by certified mail. The request must be received prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment would first be considered by the Township Board. The Township Board may also hold a public hearing if the Board considers it necessary. The Planning Commission shall be notified of the hearing, which may be held at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

(2) **NOTICE.** Notice of the hearing, including all information required by Section 906(1), shall be published in a newspaper which circulates in the Township not less than fifteen (15) days before the hearing. Mailed notice of the hearing is not required, except that notice shall be given to the interested property owner as required by Section 906 (3).

If the Township Board deems advisable any changes to the amendment recommended by the Planning Commission, it shall refer these changes back to the Planning Commission for a report thereon within thirty (30) days.

The Township Board may deny or adopt the amendment with or without changes, by a majority vote of its membership, following the Board's standard procedures for adoption of ordinances.

(F) **AMENDMENT TO CONFORM WITH COURT DECREE.** An amendment for the purpose of conforming a provision of the zoning ordinance to the decree of a court of competent jurisdiction as to any specific lands may be adopted by the Township Board and the notice of the adopted amendment published without referring the amendment to any other board or agency provided for in this Ordinance.

(G) **RE-SUBMITTAL.** No application for a rezoning which has been denied by the Township Board shall be re-submitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last denial, except on grounds of newly discovered evidence or proof of changed conditions which, upon inspection by the

Township Board, are found to be valid.

SECTION 906. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- (1) **CONTENT.** Each public hearing notice required by this Ordinance shall include the following information:
 - (A) Identification of the applicant, if any.
 - (B) Identification of all parcels that are the subject of the request, including all street addresses, if any, that currently exist within the property.
 - (C) Nature of the matter to be considered.
 - (D) Identification of the public body conducting the hearing and deciding on the matter.
 - (E) The date, time, and place of the public hearing.
 - (F) The places and times at which any proposed text and/or map amendments may be examined and copies purchased.
 - (G) A statement of where and when both written and verbal comments will be received concerning the request.
- (2) **AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING.** An affidavit of mailing that identifies all parties to whom notice has been sent, including railroad and public utility companies, shall be prepared and filed with other material relating to the public hearing prior to the meeting at which it is to be held.
- (3) **MAILED NOTICE.** Whenever this Ordinance requires mailed notice of a public hearing, the mailing list shall be compiled from the following sources:
 - (A) The owner(s) of the parcel(s) in question.
 - (B) All persons to whom real property is assessed in Swan Creek Township or any adjoining governmental unit, where any part of their parcel lies within three hundred feet (300') of the parcel that is the subject of the hearing.
 - (C) The occupants of all buildings on parcels within three hundred (300') of the parcel that is the subject of the hearing. Each dwelling unit or tenant in such buildings shall receive one (1) notice of the hearing. If the name of an occupant is not known, the term "occupant" may be used in the address. For any building containing more than four (4) dwelling units, the notice may be mailed to the manager or the owner of the building who shall be requested to post the notice at the building's primary entrance.

- (4) **NOTIFICATION OF RAILROADS, PUBLIC UTILITIES, AND AIRPORTS.** Notice of any public hearing regarding amendment of this Ordinance shall be given by mail to each electric, gas, and pipeline public utility company, each telecommunication service provider, each railroad operating within the zone or district affected, and the airport manager of each airport that registers its name and mailing address with the Township Clerk for the purpose of receiving such notices.

SECTION 907. SITE PLAN REVIEW

The various provisions of this Ordinance require review of site plans before certain approvals may be granted. The Township Zoning Administrator conducts a review of site plans for each Zoning Permit issued. The Zoning Board of Appeals conducts such reviews before granting various types of requests. For certain activities, however, a more formal Site Plan Review before the Township Planning Commission is required to insure conformance with the intent and objectives of this Ordinance. This section defines the procedures and standards to be used for formal Site Plan Review.

- (1) **SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE SITE PLAN REVIEW.** Site plan review and approval shall be required as described below. Site plan approval must be obtained before a land use-building permit can be issued, and prior to the commencement of land clearing or excavation necessary for the construction of site improvements. Site plan review and approval is required:
- (A) For all non-residential land uses permitted in all zoning districts, except home occupations and farming operations.
 - (B) For all special uses. A site plan shall be submitted at the time application is made for a Special Use Permit. Review of the site plan shall be concurrent with deliberations on the application for a Special Use Permit.
 - (C) For all Planned Unit Developments (PUD's), if permitted elsewhere in this Ordinance. A site plan shall be submitted at the time application is made for PUD approval. Review of the site plan shall be concurrent with deliberations on the application for the PUD.
 - (D) All site condominium and condominium subdivisions developed pursuant to the Condominium Act (P.A. 59 of 1978, as amended).
- (2) **SITE PLAN REVIEW NOT REQUIRED FOR REZONING.** Site Plan Review shall not be required as part of the decision process for a rezoning application. The decision to rezone property is based on consideration of its

effect on the long-range development of the Township, especially in regard to all the potential uses that the rezoning would permit on the subject parcel. In contrast, the scope of site plan review is limited to the specific use that is proposed. Also, conditions may be attached to site plan approval. Conditions may *not* be attached to the rezoning of property.

(3) THE SITE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS.

- (A) **APPLICATION DEADLINE.** If a Zoning Permit application requires a Site Plan Review pursuant to Section 907(1), the complete application package must be received at least fifteen (15) days before the Planning Commission meeting at which the application is to be considered. If a Site Plan Review is being conducted for a Special Use Permit or subdivision plat, the application deadline for the specific process will apply.
- (B) **APPLICATION MATERIAL.** The application package for a Site Plan Review must meet the requirements of Section 902(2) and be accompanied by a Site Plan Review fee as established by the Township Board and at least four (4) copies of a site plan that meets the requirements of Section 907(3)(C) as described below. The application will not be reviewed until all the listed items have been received.
- (C) **SITE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.** Any details depicted in the site plan will be relied upon by the Planning Commission in its review. Therefore, these details become conditions for approval of the site plan. Failure to abide by such conditions is a violation of the terms of any Zoning Permit issued pursuant to site plan approval, and is subject to enforcement under Section 904 of this Ordinance. The site plan shall show the following information:
 - (1) Scale and north arrow. The scale shall be not less than 1" = 20' for property under three (3) acres and at least 1" = 100' for parcels three (3) acres or more in size.
 - (2) Name, address, and phone number of the applicant(s). Name, address, and phone number of the person or firm that prepared the site plan.
 - (3) The date on which the site plan was prepared. In the event that revisions of the site plan are required, then the subsequent revision dates shall also be indicated.
 - (4) Tax identification number of the property subject to the application.

- (5) Name and address (or approximate location) of the proposed land use or land development project.
- (6) Size of the property in acres and square feet.
- (7) Area in square feet to be occupied by buildings, parking areas, roadways, landscaped areas, and unimproved open space.
- (8) A small-scale map (1" = 200') indicating the location of streets, highways, watercourses, and lakes located within one-half (1/2) mile of the subject property shown on the site plan. The property subject to review must be highlighted.
- (9) The exterior property lines (boundaries) of the property subject to the application.
- (10) The zoning classification of the property subject to review, as well as that of adjoining properties.
- (11) The location, name, pavement width, and right-of-way width of existing and proposed streets, highways, easements, and rights-of-way that adjoin or cross the property.
- (12) The location, name, pavement width, and right-of-way width of existing and proposed private roadways.
- (13) The location, width, and purpose of other existing and proposed easements or rights-of-way.
- (14) Locations and dimensions of existing and proposed buildings and other structures. The distance between existing and proposed buildings, and existing and proposed setbacks from property lines must be indicated in feet.
- (15) Location and layout of existing and proposed parking and loading areas, including proposed surface type. The direction of travel on driveways and driving lanes must be indicated. Parking spaces must be consecutively numbered.
- (16) The location of existing and proposed stormwater management facilities. The Planning Commission may require that applicants submit a separate storm drainage plan.
- (17) The location and height of existing fences or walls, including the type of fencing proposed.

- (18) The location of required landscaped buffers and screening, as well as other landscape improvements. The Planning Commission may require that applicants submit a separate landscaping plan.
 - (19) The location and type of existing natural features on the site, including but not limited to, wetlands, watercourses, floodplains, ponds, wooded areas, major topographic features, and so forth. Indicate the location and type of existing trees and other vegetation to be retained on the site.
 - (20) The location, height, and design of existing and proposed signs and exterior lighting fixtures.
- (D) **STAFF REVIEW OF SITE PLAN.** Within two (2) working days of receipt of a site plan for review by the Planning Commission, the Zoning Administrator shall notify all Township departments that it has been received. Any interested department may comment on the site plan in writing to the Zoning Administrator at least five (5) days before the Planning Commission meeting at which the site plan is to be reviewed. Reviewers shall address the considerations identified in Section 907 (4) and any applicable Special Use Permit Standards listed in Chapter 6. After reviewing such comments, the Zoning Administrator shall recommend to the Planning Commission what action should be taken.
- (E) **PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW OF SITE PLAN.** The Planning Commission shall conduct their Site Plan Review at a public meeting. A public hearing on the site plan will be held only if any party submits a written request for a hearing to the Township Clerk prior to the Planning Commission meeting. In such cases, the public will be heard before the Planning Commission acts on the site plan. However, a Site Plan Review conducted pursuant to Section 907(1) does not require special notification of any party. The staff's review findings and any public comments shall be considered by the Planning Commission, but they are not binding on it in any way. The Planning Commission should take one of the following actions at the meeting that considers the Site Plan:
- (1) **APPROVAL.** An affirmative vote by a majority of the Planning Commission is necessary to approve a site plan. An approved site plan becomes a condition of any resulting Zoning Permit. Deviations from the site plan are permitted only as specified by Section 907(3)(F).
 - (2) **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.** The Planning Commission may attach conditions to approval of a site plan as justified by the requirements of this Ordinance, or other local, state, or federal

laws. These conditions and their justification must be identified in the motion for site plan approval and communicated to the applicant in writing. The conditions then become part of the site plan, just as if they were part of the original submission, and they shall be reflected in any resulting Zoning Permit. Deviations from the conditions are permitted only as described by Section 907(2)(F). Approval of any site plan that must also be approved by other public agencies shall be conditioned upon the granting of the other agency approvals, including variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Approval of a variance that specifies conditions different from those depicted on the site plan or identified in a conditional approval does not require an additional Site Plan Review.

- (3) DENIAL WITH EXPLANATION. Failure to comply with one or more of the standards listed in Section 907(4) is the only justification for denial of a site plan. A majority vote of the Planning Commission is required to deny a site plan. The motion to deny must state which Review Standards were not met by the site plan, and it failed to meet them. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the denial of the site plan, with the full text of the motion to deny reproduced in the communication.
- (4) TABLE TO SPECIFIED MEETING. The Planning Commission may choose to delay its decision for any specified reason by tabling the action to another meeting. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be identified in the motion to table and clearly stated for the benefit of any persons in attendance.
- (F) ACCEPTABLE DEVIATIONS FROM APPROVED SITE PLAN. Unforeseen circumstances can cause changes in a project during its development. Therefore, minor deviations from an approved site plan are permitted if the Zoning Administrator determines that all Site Plan Review standards have been met. These deviations shall be documented as described in Section 907(2)(H).
- (G) UNACCEPTABLE DEVIATIONS FROM SITE PLAN. If the Zoning Administrator finds that a deviation from an approved site plan does not comply with the Review Standards, he or she shall immediately notify the permit holder, the Township Building Inspector, and the Planning Commission in writing that the site plan approval has been suspended. The notice to the permit holder shall be sent by certified mail. If construction has begun, a stop work order should be issued by the Building Inspector with respect to that portion of the project that is not in compliance with the Site Plan Review Standards. Once site plan approval has been suspended, the permit holder may change the project plans to

conform to the Review Standards, or restart the Site Plan Review process. When the issue has been resolved, the Zoning Administrator shall send a written notice of this to the permit holder, the Township Building Inspector, and the Planning Commission.

This provision shall not prohibit phased development of a project, provided that each phase complies with the requirements of the Review Standards and the approved site plan.

- (H) **RECORD TO BE MAINTAINED.** The Zoning Administrator shall maintain the record relating to any approved site plan with the records pertaining to the Zoning Permit for the project. This record shall include an official copy of the site plan as approved by the Planning Commission. The official copy shall be signed and dated by the permit holder, the Planning Commission Chair, and the Zoning Administrator. The record shall also include documentation of any conditions attached to the site plan approval, evidence that these conditions have been satisfied, and documentation of any allowed deviations from the approved site plan. If any deviations from an approved site plan are made, an “as built” version of the site plan shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator before the Building Inspector issues final approval for the project and before any performance guarantee attached to the Zoning Permit may be fully refunded.
- (4) **SITE PLAN REVIEW STANDARDS.** All Site Plan Reviews shall use only the following set of standards to determine whether a site plan should be approved or denied. No off-site improvements can be required as conditions for site plan approval, unless the applicant volunteers to construct such improvements as documented by the site plan drawings. If the lack of such off-site improvements will create conditions that are contrary to the intent and objectives of this Ordinance, this lack is sufficient justification for denial of the site plan.
 - (A) There must be a proper relationship between the proposed use and existing streets and highways within the vicinity of the proposed use.
 - (B) Proposed driveway entrances and exits, parking areas, service drives, and other internal circulation routes must be located and arranged so as to assure the safety and convenience of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
 - (C) All buildings, structures, driveways, internal circulation routes, parking areas, and storage areas must be designed and located so as to minimize potential adverse impacts on adjacent and nearby properties.
 - (D) As many natural features of the landscape as possible shall be incorporated into the design and layout of the site so as to buffer the site from adjacent incompatible land uses, to assist in preserving the general

appearance of the surrounding area, and to help control erosion of the soil and the discharge of water. Reasonable buffer and open space areas may be required.

- (E) The site shall be improved with a storm drainage system that maintains stormwater runoff at a pre-development rate. Runoff shall be managed in a manner that prevents off-site impacts.
- (F) Adverse impacts upon adjoining land uses shall be minimized by appropriate screening, fencing, or landscaping.
- (G) The land use subject to review and approval shall comply with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance.
- (H) All buildings, structures, parking areas, and storage areas will be accessible to emergency vehicles at all times of the year. Particular attention shall be paid to site access in the event of fire or other emergency.
- (I) The site plan as approved must be consistent with the intent and purpose of this Zoning Ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

908 REVIEW OF SUBDIVISION PLATS AND LAND DIVISIONS

- (1) **ZONING.** All plats and land divisions shall be subject to the provisions of the Zoning District in which they are located. Any Zoning District changes that may be necessary to accommodate a proposed plat or land division shall be made according to the amendment procedure specified in Section 905. After the effective date of this Ordinance, no proposed plat of a new or redesigned subdivision or any other land division shall be approved unless the proposed lots equal or exceed the minimum lot area and dimensional requirements for the applicable Zoning District.
- (2) **PLAT APPROVAL PROCESS**
 - (A) **SUBMISSION OF PLAT.** When a preliminary or final plat has been submitted to the Swan Creek Township Board for approval, the Township Clerk shall forward a copy of the plat to the Zoning Administrator. Since the Township Board must act on the plat within ninety (90) days of submission, the Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission Chair shall convene a special meeting of the Planning Commission, if necessary, to provide a recommendation to the Township Board.
 - (B) **PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION.** The Planning Commission shall review the plat to determine if it complies

with all provisions of this Ordinance, and any other applicable Township ordinances, at an open public meeting. A public hearing is not required. However, any person who wishes to address the Planning Commission shall be permitted to do so. If all standards are met, the Planning Commission shall recommend approval of the plat to the Township Board. If all standards are not met, the Planning Commission shall recommend denial of the plat, noting which standards were not met.

SECTION 909. ACTIONS SUMMARY TABLE

The following table is a summary of the basic requirements for the various administrative actions to be carried out under this Zoning Ordinance. It supplements the preceding text, but it is not a substitute for it. Note that a fee, as established by the Township Board, is required for each of the actions listed. However, as previously described in Sec. 901(4)(C), the Township Board may waive any of these fees at its discretion.

**Zoning Ordinance Actions Table
Summary of Procedural Requirements for Zoning Decisions**

Type of Action	Who May Initiate Action?	What Body Makes the Decision?	Is a Public Hearing Required?	Published Notices – Number of Days Before Hearing	Mailed Notice to All Owners and Occupants Within 300 feet – Days Before Hearing	Where Can Applicant Appeal a Denial ?
Variance	Applicant or Zoning Admin.	Zoning Board of Appeals	Yes	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	Circuit Court
Interpretation	Applicant or Zoning Admin.	Zoning Board of Appeals	Yes	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	Circuit Court
Administrative Review, including appeal of Zoning Administrator’s Decision	Any aggrieved party ⁽¹⁾	Zoning Board of Appeals	Yes	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	Circuit Court
Site Plan Review (See Sec. 907(1) for when this is required)	Applicant or Zoning Admin.	Planning Commission	Not required	Not required	Not required	Circuit Court
Special Use Permit	Applicant or Zoning Admin.	Planning Commission	Yes	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	Circuit Court
Text or Map Amendment (Rezoning)	Applicant, Zoning Admin, Planning Commission, or Township Board	Step 1: Planning Commission recommends to Township Board	Yes	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	No appeal until after Twp Board action
		Step 2: Twp. Board acts on amendment	If requested by any property owner by certified mail to Clerk.	Not less than 15 days.	Not less than 15 days.	Circuit Court or may resubmit to Twp after one year
Fee Waiver	Applicant	Township Board	No	Not required	Not required	None

Note: (1) Includes any state, county, or township officer, board, bureau, or department.

