

## **ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS**

### **18.1 GENERAL**

Amendments or supplements to this Ordinance may be made from time to time in the manner provided by law.

### **18.2 INITIATING APPLICATIONS**

- A. The Township Board and/or the Planning Commission may, from time to time, initiate an action to amend, modify, supplement or revise the district boundaries or the provisions and regulations herein established whenever it determines that the public necessity and convenience or the general health, safety or welfare of the public would benefit from such an amendment.
- B. Any resident or land owner of the Township may bring before the Planning Commission a proposed amendment or change, by filing a petition signed by all persons having an interest in such premises, requesting the adoption of any specified amendment or change or regulation under this Ordinance. If the proposed amendment pertains to rezoning, such application or petition shall be accompanied by a development plan as provided for in this Article.

### **18.3 CONTENTS OF APPLICATION**

Any resident or land owner initiated application requesting a proposed amendment or change shall contain the following:

- a) The legal description of the premises involved, including area in square feet if less than one (1) acre or in acres if greater than one (1) acre;
- b) The Zoning District in which such premises are presently situated;
- c) The Zoning District into which the applicant(s) desire such premises to be situated;
- d) The proposed text to be added and/or the existing text to be deleted, if any;
- e) The signatures of all persons having an interest in such premises.

### **18.4 CONTENTS OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

If the proposed amendment pertains to rezoning, the petition shall be accompanied by a development plan that shall include the following:

- a) A topographic map showing existing and proposed contour lines at five (5) foot intervals;
- b) A plot plan that shall show the following:
  - 1. Location of all existing buildings;
  - 2. All existing non-enclosed uses;
  - 3. Existing drainage patterns and structures;
  - 4. Existing parking;
  - 5. Loading and traffic handling facilities;

6. Existing screening and other landscaping;
  7. All existing exterior lighting and signs;
  8. Sewage disposal systems;
  9. Water supply systems.
- c) Such other information, or more detailed information, determined by the Planning Commission to be necessary for a full and proper review of the application.
  - d) Any portion(s) of the development plan may be waived by the Planning Commission if, due to the nature of the proposed use, such information would be unnecessary and serve no useful purpose.

## **18.5 PROCEDURE**

- A. Before submitting its recommendation of a tentative rezoning plan to the Township Board, the Planning Commission shall hold at least one (1) public hearing in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.
- B. When an application for rezoning has been filed in proper form and with the required data, the Township Clerk and Zoning Administrator shall place the said application upon the next available Planning Commission agenda for hearing and cause notices stating the time, place, and object of the hearing to be served.
- C. The Planning Commission shall recommend to the Township Board modification, rejection, or the adoption of said proposal either in its original or changed form.
- D. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission shall submit the proposed amendment or supplement to the County Planning Commission for its review.
- E. The Township Board may, on its own initiative or as otherwise required by the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, hold one (1) or more further public hearings on the proposed amendment. If the Township Board holds an additional hearing, the Township Planning Commission members may be required to attend, at the discretion of the Township Board.
- F. The Township Board shall adopt or deny the proposed amendment, with or without any amendments or recommendations that have been previously considered and/or recommended by the Township or County Planning Commissions.
- G. Within fifteen (15) days of adoption, a notice to that effect shall be published in a newspaper that circulates in the Township and a copy of the amendment filed with the Township Clerk.

## 18.6 CONDITIONAL REZONING

### A. Intent.

It is recognized that there are certain instances where it would be in the best interests of the Township, as well as advantageous to property owners seeking a change in zoning boundaries, if certain conditions could be proposed by property owners as part of a request for a rezoning. It is the intent of this Section to provide a process consistent with the provisions of Section 405 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Public Act 110 of 2006) by which an owner seeking a rezoning may voluntarily propose conditions regarding the use and/or development of land as part of the rezoning request.

### B. Application and Offer of Conditions.

1. An owner of land may voluntarily offer, in writing, conditions relating to the use and/or development of land for which a rezoning is requested. This offer may be made either at the time the application for rezoning is filed or may be made at a later time during the rezoning process.
2. The required application and process for considering a rezoning request with conditions shall be the same as that for considering rezoning requests made without any offer of conditions, except as modified by the requirements of this Section.
3. The owner's offer of conditions may not purport to authorize uses or developments not permitted in the requested new zoning district.
4. The owner's offer of conditions shall bear a reasonable and rational relationship to the property for which rezoning is requested.
5. Any use or development proposed as part of an offer of conditions that would require a special land use permit under the terms of this Ordinance may only be commenced if a special land use permit for such use or development is ultimately granted in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
6. Any use or development proposed as part of an offer of conditions that would require a variance under the terms of this Ordinance may only be commenced if a variance for such use or development is ultimately granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
7. Any use or development proposed as part of an offer of conditions that would require site plan approval under the terms of this Ordinance may only be commenced if site plan approval for such use or development is ultimately granted in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

8. The offer of conditions may be amended during the process of rezoning consideration provided that any amended or additional conditions are entered voluntarily by the owner. An owner may withdraw all or part of its offer of conditions any time prior to final rezoning action of the Township Board provided that, if such withdrawal occurs subsequent to the Planning Commission's public hearing on the original rezoning request, then the rezoning application shall be referred to the Planning Commission for a new public hearing with appropriate notice and a new recommendation.
- C. **Planning Commission Review.**  
The Planning Commission, after public hearing and consideration of the factors for rezoning set forth in Section 18.7 of this Ordinance, may recommend approval, approval with recommended changes or denial of the rezoning; provided, however, that any recommended changes to the offer of conditions are acceptable to and thereafter offered by the owner.
- D. **Township Board Review.**  
After receipt of the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Township Board shall deliberate upon the requested rezoning and may approve or deny the conditional rezoning request. The Township Board's deliberations shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration of the factors for rezoning set forth in Section 18.7 of this Ordinance.
- E. **Approval.**
1. If the Township Board finds the rezoning request and offer of conditions acceptable, the offered conditions shall be incorporated into a formal written Statement of Conditions acceptable to the owner and conforming in form to the provisions of this Section. The Statement of Conditions shall be incorporated by attachment or otherwise as an inseparable part of the ordinance adopted by the Township Board to accomplish the requested rezoning.
  2. The Statement of Conditions shall:
    - a. Be in a form recordable with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the subject land is located or, in the alternative, be accompanied by a recordable Affidavit or Memorandum prepared and signed by the owner giving notice of the Statement of Conditions in a manner acceptable to the Township Board.
    - b. Contain a legal description of the land to which it pertains.
    - c. Contain a statement acknowledging that the Statement of Conditions runs with the land and is binding upon successor owners of the land.

- d. Incorporate by attachment or reference any diagram, plans or other documents submitted or approved by the owner that are necessary to illustrate the implementation of the Statement of Conditions. If any such documents are incorporated by reference, the reference shall specify where the document may be examined.
  - e. Contain a statement acknowledging that the Statement of Conditions or an Affidavit or Memorandum giving notice thereof may be recorded by the Township with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the land referenced in the Statement of Conditions is located.
  - f. Contain the notarized signatures of all of the owners of the subject land preceded by a statement attesting to the fact that they voluntarily offer and consent to the provisions contained within the Statement of Conditions.
3. Upon the rezoning taking effect, the Zoning Map shall be amended to reflect the new zoning classification along with a designation that the land was rezoned with a Statement of Conditions. The Township Clerk shall maintain a listing of all lands rezoned with a Statement of Conditions.
  4. The approved Statement of Conditions or an Affidavit or Memorandum giving notice thereof shall be filed by the Township with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the land is located. The Township Board shall have authority to waive this requirement if it determines that, given the nature of the conditions and/or the time frame within which the conditions are to be satisfied, the recording of such a document would be of no material benefit to the Township or to any subsequent owner of the land.
  5. Upon the rezoning taking effect, the use of the land so rezoned shall conform thereafter to all of the requirements regulating use and development within the new zoning district as modified by any more restrictive provisions contained in the Statement of Conditions.
- F. Compliance with Conditions.
1. Any person who establishes a development or commences a use upon land that has been rezoned with conditions shall continuously operate and maintain the development or use in compliance with all of the conditions set forth in the Statement of Conditions. Any failure to comply with a condition contained within the Statement of Conditions shall constitute a violation of this Zoning Ordinance and be punishable accordingly. Additionally, any such violation shall be deemed a nuisance per se and subject to judicial abatement as provided by law.

2. No permit or approval shall be granted under this Ordinance for any use or development that is contrary to an applicable Statement of Conditions.

G. Time Period for Establishing Development or Use.

Unless another time period is specified in the Ordinance rezoning the subject land, the approved development and/or use of the land pursuant to building and other required permits must be commenced upon the land within 18 months after the rezoning took effect and thereafter proceed diligently to completion. This time limitation may upon written request be extended by the Township Board if (1) it is demonstrated to the Township Board's reasonable satisfaction that there is a strong likelihood that the development and/or use will commence within the period of extension and proceed diligently thereafter to completion and (2) the Township Board finds that there has not been a change in circumstances that would render the current zoning with Statement of Conditions incompatible with other zones and uses in the surrounding area or otherwise inconsistent with sound zoning policy.

H. Reversion of Zoning.

If approved development and/or use of the rezoned land does not occur within the time frame specified under Subsection G above, then the land may revert to its former zoning classification as set forth in MCL 125.286i. The reversion process shall be initiated by the Township Board requesting that the Planning Commission proceed with consideration of rezoning of the land to its former zoning classification. The procedure for considering and making this reversionary rezoning shall thereafter be the same as applies to all other rezoning requests.

I. Subsequent Rezoning of Land.

When land that is rezoned with a Statement of Conditions is thereafter rezoned to a different zoning classification or to the same zoning classification but with a different or no Statement of Conditions, whether as a result of a reversion of zoning pursuant to Subsection H above or otherwise, the Statement of Conditions imposed under the former zoning classification shall cease to be in effect. Upon the owner's written request, the Township Clerk shall record with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the land is located a notice that the Statement of Conditions is no longer in effect.

J. Amendment of Conditions.

1. During the time period for commencement of an approved development or use specified pursuant to Subsection G above or during any extension thereof granted by the Township Board, the Township shall not add to or alter the conditions in the Statement of Conditions.

2. The Statement of Conditions may be amended thereafter in the same manner as was prescribed for the original rezoning and Statement of Conditions.

K. Township Right to Rezone.

Nothing in the Statement of Conditions nor in the provisions of this Section shall be deemed to prohibit the Township from rezoning all or any portion of land that is subject to a Statement of Conditions to another zoning classification. Any rezoning shall be conducted in compliance with this Ordinance and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Public Act 110 of 2006).

L. Failure to Offer Conditions.

The Township shall not require an owner to offer conditions as a requirement for rezoning. The lack of an offer of conditions shall not affect an owner's rights under this Ordinance.

### 18.7 FACTORS

In reviewing an application for the rezoning of land, whether the application be made with or without an offer of conditions, factors that should be considered by the Planning Commission and the Township Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Whether all of the uses allowed under the proposed rezoning would be compatible with other zones and uses in the surrounding area
2. Whether the uses allowed under the proposed rezoning would be equally or better suited to the area than uses allowed under the current zoning of the land
3. Whether there will be an adverse physical impact on surrounding properties
4. Whether there will be an adverse effect on property values in the adjacent area
5. Whether there have been changes in land use or other conditions in the immediate area or in the community in general which justify rezoning
6. Whether rezoning will create a deterrent to the improvement or development of adjacent property in accord with existing regulations
7. Whether rezoning will grant a special privilege to an individual property owner when contrasted with other property owners in the area or the general public
8. Whether there are substantial reasons why the property cannot be used in accordance with its present zoning classifications
9. Whether the rezoning is in conflict with the policies and uses proposed for the area as reflected in the master plan
10. Whether any public services and facilities would be significantly adversely impacted by a development or use allowed under the requested rezoning
11. Whether there are sites nearby already properly zoned that can be used for the intended purposes
12. Whether other local remedies are available

**18.8 RESUBMITTAL**

No application for a rezoning that has been denied by the Township Board shall be resubmitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last denial. The Planning Commission may, on the grounds of newly discovered evidence or proof of substantially changed conditions, waive this one (1) year period. The determination of the Planning Commission shall be final.

**18.9 CONFORMANCE TO COURT DECREE**

Any amendment initiated by the Township Board or Planning Commission for the purpose of conforming a provision of this ordinance to the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction may be adopted by the Township Board and amendments published without referring the same to any other board or agency.