

CHAPTER 7

SEWER ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE

7.1 Definitions. Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

- (1) "B.O.D." (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five days of 20N C., expressed in parts per million by weight.
- (2) "Board of Public Works" as used herein refers to the Kent County Board of Public Works.
- (3) "Building drain" shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the sewage discharge inside the walls of a building and conveys it to the building sewer. It shall end five feet outside the inner face of the building wall.
- (4) "Building sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.
- (5) "Cesspool" is an underground pit into which raw household sewage or other untreated liquid waste is discharged and from which the liquid seeps into the surrounding soil or is otherwise removed.
- (6) "Combined sewer" shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.
- (7) "STEP System" shall mean a septic tank and effluent pumping system into which a building sewer directly discharges and shall be considered a part of the public sewer.
- (8) "Department of Public Works" as used herein refers to the Kent County Department of Public Works.
- (9) "Engineer" shall mean the engineer of the Kent County Department of Public Works or his duly authorized representative.
- (10) "Garbage" shall mean solid wastes from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.
- (11) "Grease trap" is a tank of suitable size and material located in a sewer line and so designed to remove grease and oily wastes from the sewage.
- (12) "Industrial wastes" shall mean the liquid wastes from industrial processes as distinct from sanitary or household sewage.
- (13) "Natural outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or ground water.

- (14) "Nuisance" shall mean any disposal of sewage within Oakfield Township contrary to this chapter including but not limited to any condition where sewage or the effluent from any sewage disposal facility or toilet device is exposed to the surface of the ground or is permitted to drain on or to the surface of the ground, into any ditch, storm sewer, lake or stream, or when the odor, appearance, or presence of this material has an obnoxious or detrimental effect on or to the senses and/or health of persons, or when it shall obstruct the comfortable use or sale of adjacent property.
- (15) "Owner" shall mean the property owner being serviced by the system.
- (16) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation or group.
- (17) "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.
- (18) "Properly shredded garbage" shall mean the wastes from the preparation cooking and dispensing of food that have shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half inch in any dimension.
- (19) "Public sewer" shall mean the sewer which is owned and controlled by the public authority.
- (20) "Sanitary sewer" shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground waters are not admitted.
- (21) "Seepage pit" (or dry well) is a cistern or underground enclosure constructed of concrete blocks, bricks, or similar material loosely laid with open joints so as to allow the septic tank overflow or effluent to be absorbed directly into the surrounding soil.
- (22) "Septic tank" is a water-tight receptacle receiving sewage and having an inlet and outlet designed to permit the separation of solids in suspension from such wastes and to permit such retained solids to undergo decomposition therein.
- (23) "Sewage" shall mean a combination of water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface and storm waters as may be present.
- (24) "Sewage disposal facilities" shall mean a privy cesspool, seepage pit, septic tank, subsurface, disposal system, or other devices used in the disposal or sewage of human excreta.
- (25) "Sewage works" shall mean all facilities for the collection, pumping, treating and disposal of sewage and industrial wastes.
- (26) "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

- (27) "Shall" is mandatory; "May" is permissive.
- (28) "Storm sewer" or "storm drain" shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage but excludes sewage and polluted industrial wastes.
- (29) "Sub-surface disposal field" shall mean a facility for the distribution of septic tank overflow or effluent below the ground surface through a line, or a series of branch lines, of drain tile laid with open joints to allow the overflow or effluent to be absorbed by the surrounding soil throughout the entire field.
- (30) "Suspended solids" shall mean solids that either float on the surface or, or are in suspension in, water, sewage, or other liquids.
- (31) "Toilet device" is a privy, outhouse, septic tank or septic toilet, chemical closet, or other device used for the disposal of human excreta.
- (32) "Treatment plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices ad structures used for treating sewage.
- (33) "Watercourse" shall mean a channel, natural or artificial, in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.
- (34) "Industrial User" shall mean any nongovernmental user of publicly owned sanitary sewage treatment works discharges more than 25,000 gallons per day of sanitary waste, or a volume of processed waste, or a combined processed and sanitary waste equivalent to 25,000 gallons per day of sanitary waste.
- (35) "mg/l" shall mean milligrams per liter.

USE OF PUBLIC SEWERS REQUIRED

7.2 Use of Sewers Required. Property owners abutting the newly constructed sanitary sewer and who are part of the Assessment District have been given a ten year period subsequent to the availability of sanitary sewer service before it becomes mandatory for the owners of record to connect to the sewer.

7.3 Unlawful Disposal. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner upon public or private property within the Township of Oakfield or in any area under the jurisdiction of said Township; any human or animal excrement, garbage or other objectionable waste; provided the foregoing shall not prevent any person from maintaining or spreading farm manure in such a manner as to not constitute a nuisance.

7.4 Unlawful Discharge. It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet or watercourse within the Township of Oakfield, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said Township, any sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this chapter.

7.5 Unlawful Sanitary Facilities. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage or industrial wastes.

7.6 Required Connection. Notwithstanding the conditions for connection to the sanitary sewer as understood by those participating in the Special Assessment District, the Township Board, for reasons of public health, welfare and/or the public interest, may direct the owners of houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes situated within the Township and abutting upon any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is or may hereafter be located a public sanitary sewer where sewer is within 200 feet of the property line of such property, within 90 days after receiving written notice from the Township, to install suitable toilet facilities therein and to connect such facilities directly to such public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

7.7 Private Systems. Where a public sanitary sewer is not available so that the provisions of Section 6.2 of this Code do not apply, the building sewer shall be connected to a private sewage disposal system which shall comply with all regulations of the Township and the regulations of all other governmental agencies having jurisdiction.

7.8 Connection and Abandonment. At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property previously served by a private sewage disposal system, a direct connection shall be made to such public sewer in compliance with Section 7.6, and any septic tanks (except when it complies with Section 7.15, cesspools and similar private sewage facilities shall be filled with sand and gravel and abandoned.

7.9 Maintenance of Private Systems. The owner shall operate and maintain such private sewage disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times with no expense to the Township.

7.10 Other Laws and Regulations. No statement contained in this article shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements that may be imposed by the Township Health Officer, or by any other governmental unit or body having jurisdiction or to which the Oakfield Township Board has delegated such jurisdiction.

BUILDING SEWERS AND CONNECTIONS

7.11 Permit Required. No person shall uncover and make any connections with or openings into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written service permit from the Township.

7.12 Types of Permits. There shall be two classes of building sewer permits: (a) residential and commercial service, and (b) service to establishments producing industrial wastes. In either case, the owner or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the Township. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent by the Kent County Department of Public Works. Permit and inspection fees be paid to the Township at the time application is filed, and shall be in such amounts as the Township shall from time to time ordain.

7.13 Installation of System. All costs and expenses incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer and the septic tank and effluent pumping system (STEP) as part of the public sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the Township from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer or STEP System.

7.14 Separate Sewers; Exception. A separate and independent sewer shall be provided for each building, except that, where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no private sewer is available nor can one be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, courtyard or driveway, the sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.

7.15 Existing Sewers. Old building sewers and septic tanks may be used when connecting to the habitable structures only when, on examination and test by the engineer, they are found to meet all requirements of this chapter.

7.16 Materials. The building sewer shall be cast iron soil pipe ASTM A74, vitrified clay sewer pipe ASTM C-7000, cement asbestos pipe ASTM 428, class 2400, or plastic pipe, Schedule 40 only (.237" wall thickness for 4" I.D. and .280" wall thickness for 6" I.D.) of the following manufacture:

- (1) Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) Type 1, Grade 2, (not approved for acid wastes).
 - (a) ASTM D-2661
- (2) Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Type 1, Grade 1 (PVC 1120) or Type 1, Grade 2 (PVC 1220)
 - (a) ASTM D-2665 and
 - (b) ASTM D-1785

except that in filled or unstable ground the pipe shall be ductile iron pipe, class 50.

7.17 Size. The size of the building sewer shall not be less than six inches unless cast iron or plastic is used in which case four inch may be used. The slope shall not be less than one-eighth inch per lineal foot.

7.18 Elevation and Grade. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. No building sewer shall be laid parallel to and within three feet of any bearing wall, which might thereby be weakened. The depth shall be sufficient to afford protection from frost. The building sewer shall be laid at uniform grade and in straight alignment insofar as possible. Changes in direction shall be made only with properly curved pipe or longradius fittings. Each bend of over 45N shall have a clean-out.

7.19 Pumping. In all buildings in which a building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the building sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such drain shall be lifted by approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

7.20 Excavations. All excavations which are made for the installation of building sewers shall be done in complete conformance with the requirements and standards of the Township Building Inspector and the Kent County Department of Public Works. Pipe laying and backfill shall be performed in accordance with the applicable provisions of ASTM specification C-12 or ASTM 2321 for plastic pipe, except that no backfill shall be placed until the work has been inspected and approved by the engineer or his representative. Cinders shall not be used for backfill.

7.21 Joints. All joints shall be tight. Joints for Hub and Spigot pipe shall be "Dual-tite" or other slip-type joints employing a rubber sealing ring or gasket approved by the Department of Public Works. Joints for hubless pipe shall consist of a neoprene sealing sleeve with a stainless steel corrugated shield and two stainless steel bands, as approved by the Department of Public Works. Paint, varnish and putty shall not be permitted on the jointing material until after testing. Joints for clay and cement asbestos shall be resilient compression joints.

7.22 Guarding of Excavation. All excavating for building sewer and STEP system installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in as manner satisfactory to the Township and the County Road Commission.

7.23 Capacity of Prerequisite. No connection will be allowed unless there is capacity available in downstream sewers, pump stations, interceptors, forcemains and treatment plant, including capacity for B.O.D. and suspended solids in the treatment plant.

7.24 Testing. All building sewers may be tested by exfiltration or air testing if so determined by the engineer. The test shall be made with a minimum head of six feet of water or 3.5 PSI of air. The exfiltration rate shall not exceed 150 gallons per inch of pipe diameter per mile of pipe per day. The test will be made by the installer in the presence of the engineer. Certification of the test shall be a requirement for approval of the installation.

7.25 Inspection; Connection. The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the Township when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of the engineer or his representative.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

7.26 Installation by County. At the time of original construction, the County shall install the collecting sewers and designate a point of access as part of the public sewer system for each STEP System for each premises served by the public sewer.

7.27 Installation by Owner. At the time of connection to and as part of the public sewer, the owner shall install, at his expense in strict accordance with County regulations and specifications, the building sewer to the STEP system, and the service lead forcemain connecting to the designated access point at the collecting sewer, together with all appurtenances. At the time of connection to the collection system, the STEP system and service lead forcemain shall become part of the public sewer and shall be operated, maintained, and replaced, if necessary, by the County. The owner shall maintain at his expense, the building sewer. The owner shall also provide power for the pump and pay power costs for operating the pump. The County shall have a right of access to the STEP system and service lead forcemain for purposes of operation and maintenance.

7.28 Hold Harmless. The Township or County shall not be held responsible for claims made against it by reason of the breaking of any mains or service laterals, or by reason of any other interruption of the service caused by the breaking of machinery, stoppages or necessary repairs; and no person shall be entitled to damages nor have any portion of a payment refunded for any interruption.

7.29 Inspection. The premises receiving sanitary sewer service shall, at all reasonable hours, be subject to inspection by duly authorized personnel of the County of Township.

USE OF THE PUBLIC SEWER

7.30 Unpolluted Waters; Prohibition. No person shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water, unpolluted air conditioning water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. No footing drains shall be connected to sanitary sewers. All footing drain water shall be discharged to storm sewers or dry wells.

7.31 Discharge of Unpolluted Waters. Storm water and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to sewers specifically designated as storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the Kent County Road Commission, Kent County Drain Commissioner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and/or other interested governmental agencies. Industrial cooling water unpolluted air conditioning water, or unpolluted process waters may be discharged to a storm sewer or natural outlet upon approval of the Kent County Road Commission, and, where appropriate, upon approval of the Kent County Drain Commissioner and/or other interested governmental agencies.

7.32 Prohibited Discharges. No persons shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

- (1) Any effluent having a temperature higher than 140 degrees F.
- (2) Any effluent which contains more than 50 mg/l of animal fat, vegetable fat, oil, or grease, or any combination thereof.
- (3) Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil or other inflammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.
- (4) Any grease, oil or other substance that will become solid or viscous at temperatures 60 degrees Celsius and below after entering the system.
- (5) Any substance from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food and from the handling, storage and sale of produce which has not been shredded to such a degree that all particles shall be carried freely under flow conditions normally prevailing in the public sanitary or combined sewer, with no particle larger than one half inch of any dimension.
- (6) Any other substance capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage disposal system including but not limited to mineral oil, grease, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, plastic, wood, paunch manure, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, asphalt, tar and manure.

- (7) Any effluent containing suspended solids greater than 350 mg/l.

The engineer upon review may approve discharges in excess of the limits set forth in subsections (1) through (7) subject to conditions either set forth in this chapter or special conditions he deems necessary in order to preserve and protect public health, safety and welfare, subject to conformance with the applicable state and federal law.

7.33 Order of Determination. Any person, firm or corporation whose operations entail the discharge of wastes containing toxic, poisonous or objectionable substances shall file with the Department of Public Works a written statement setting forth the nature of the operation contemplated or currently being carried on, the amount of water required to be used and its source, the proposed point of discharge of said waste into the sewage system of the County, the maximum amount to be discharged per second, and a fair statement setting forth the expected bacterial, physical, chemical or other known characteristics of the wastes. Within 30 days of receipt of said statement, the Board of Public Works shall make an Order of Determination setting forth the maximum limits for the substances listed in Section 7.31 and 7.32.

7.34 Review of Order. Any Order of Determination issued by the Board of Public Works may be reviewed annually, and the maximums set forth therein adjusted to compensate for increased flows in the entire sewer system, or increased contribution of toxic, poisonous or objectionable substances by other users of the County sewer system.

7.35 Enforcement of Order. Any Order of Determination issued in pursuance of this chapter shall be considered a part of this chapter for the specific industrial user or other establishment involved, and shall be enforceable in the same manner as this chapter.

7.36 Surcharges. If it is determined in the best interests of the Township in order to provide the necessary service to meet the contractual obligations of the Township with the County of Kent, pretreatment may be required, and an appropriate surcharge may be made against any user who does not otherwise meet the limitations of the chapter as written.

7.37 Grease, Oil and Sand Interceptors.

- (1) Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the engineer, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease in excessive amounts. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the Department of Public Works and shall be located so as to be readily accessible for cleaning and inspection.
- (2) Grease and oil interceptors shall be constructed of impervious materials capable of withstanding abrupt and extreme changes in temperature. They shall be of substantial construction water tight, and equipped with easily removable covers which, when bolted in place, shall be gas tight and water tight.
- (3) Where installed, all grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be maintained by the owner, at his expense, in continuous efficient operation at all times.

POWER AND AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS

7.38 Entry for Inspection. The engineer and other duly authorized employees of the Kent County Department of Public Works, and Oakfield Township bearing proper credentials and identification and who shall have reasonable cause to believe that there exists a condition which constitutes a violation of this chapter, or that it is necessary for the preservation of public health, shall be permitted at all reasonable hours to enter upon properties within the Township for the purpose of operating and maintaining the STEP units and for inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

7.39 Warrant. Whenever such entry is refused, the Township or the Kent County Department of Public Works may make complaint under oath to the proper court having jurisdiction thereof stating the facts of the cause so far as he has knowledge thereof. Under determination that such reasonable cause exists, such court may thereupon issue a warrant directed to the Kent County Sheriff commanding him to give such aid as may be necessary to make such entry for such purposes.

7.40 Enforcement. It shall be the duty of the building inspector, the Supervisor and the Township Board to enforce this chapter.

MISCELLANEOUS

7.41 Penalty. Any person who shall maliciously or willfully break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or equipment which is a part of any sewer system in Oakfield Township, or who shall violate any provision of this chapter shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction, as provided in this Code. Each day in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.

7.42 Indemnity. Any person shall violate any provision of this chapter shall be liable to the Township for any expense loss or damage occasioned to the Township by reason of such violation.

7.43 Restrictions Imposed by Other Township Ordinance and/or Statutes of the State of Michigan. If any provision of any other ordinance of the Township of Oakfield and/or the statutes of the State of Michigan imposes greater restrictions than herein set forth, then the provisions of such ordinances and/or statutes shall control.

7.44 Abatement of Nuisances. Nothing stated in this chapter may be construed to limit the power of the Township Board of Health to order the immediate and complete abatement of a condition which, in the opinion of the Township Board of Health, may constitute a public nuisance or menace to the public health.

7.45 Other Remedies. In addition to the remedies elsewhere provided herein, the provisions of this chapter shall be enforceable through the bringing of appropriate action for injunction, mandamus, or otherwise, in any court having jurisdiction. Any violation of this chapter is deemed to be a nuisance per se.

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RESEARCH REPORT

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