

## MONTCALM COUNTY

### AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE CONDITIONS OF PLACEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES WITHIN THE COUNTY, EXCEPT MANUFACTURED HOMES LOCATED WITHIN MANUFACTURED HOUSING PARKS AND EXCEPT THOSE STRUCTURES SUBJECT TO LOCAL MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH IMPOSE CONDITIONS OF PLACEMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

ADOPTED 9/22/2003  
AMENDED 5/24/04  
AMENED 5/9/05

#### THE COUNTY OF MONTCALM, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

##### **Section 1.**      **Name.**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Montcalm County "Construction Ordinance."

##### **Section 2.**      **Purpose.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and property of Montcalm County (the "County") by establishing minimum allowable setbacks for the construction of all structures on private parcels of land and to provide minimum standards for the use of such structures. All construction shall comply with this Ordinance except mobile homes located within a mobile home park or structures subject to local municipal ordinances regulating the same conditions of placement as this Ordinance.

##### **Section 3.**      **Definitions.**

- A. "Accessory Structure" means a subordinate structure on the same premises with a main building, or a portion of a main building or structure, occupied by or devoted exclusively as a use incidental and subordinate to the principal use of the land or structure. Where an accessory structure is attached to a main building in a substantial manner, such as a wall or roof, the accessory structure shall be considered a part of the main structure.
- B. "Dwelling" means a structure designed primarily for residential use, including a structure erected on-site, a mobile home, or a pre-manufactured or pre-cut structure, above or below ground.
- C. "Structure" means anything constructed or erected, which requires permanent location on the ground or attachment to something having such location.
- D. "Municipality" means a city, village, or township in Montcalm County.

##### **Section 4.**      **Applicability.**

This Ordinance shall not apply to the construction of any structure located in a municipality having an ordinance(s) that similarly regulates the conditions of placement of structures. This Ordinance shall apply to the construction of any structure that requires a building permit in accordance with the Stille-Derossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, and the State Construction Code promulgated thereunder. Any new construction shall comply with this Ordinance and State Construction Code.

This Ordinance shall not apply to any mobile home located within a mobile home park as defined and as governed by the Mobile Home Commission Act, Act 98 of the Public Acts of 1987, as amended and the regulations promulgated pursuant to that Act.

**Section 5. Placement Requirements for Structures.**

All structures within the County, except as provided in Section 4, shall meet the requirements of this section as follows:

A. Existing Platted Areas

1. Structures shall be constructed with setbacks that shall be not less than a minimum of 6 feet from all property lines and 10 feet from the road right-of-ways and/or waterfronts.

Exception: detached accessory structures for residential use shall be allowed to construct no less than three (3) feet from the side or back property line providing all of the following conditions are complied with:

- a. Construction within three feet of the property line shall comply with the fire resistance requirements as stated in the Michigan Residential Code.
- b. Walls constructed within three feet of the property line shall not be greater than nine (9) feet in height at the eave.
- c. Eaves shall not overhang more than twelve inches.
- d. Construction shall be placed behind any existing dwelling on the lot.
- e. Construction shall not in any way prohibit or restrict access of emergency personnel to any adjacent properties.
- f. All adjacent dwellings shall be a minimum of nine (9) feet from accessory structures constructed under this exception.
- g. Any request to construct under this exception shall require that the site be visually inspected and approval received by the Building Official prior to performing construction.

[Section 5.A.1 was amended on 5/24/04 by Ordinance 2004-3]

2. Existing platted areas shall provide a minimum of one parking space on each parcel of land containing a dwelling or an adjoining parcel of same ownership. This parking space shall be a minimum of 12 feet by 20 feet and shall be accessed from an adjoining road right-of-way.
3. In addition, existing platted areas shall comply with Part 91, "Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control," of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended.
4. Existing structures encroaching on the setback minimums shall not perform any new construction any nearer the property lines. All existing dwellings shall be required to comply with section R102.7 and Appendix E, section AE102 of the Michigan Residential Code 2000.
5. In case of a discrepancy, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner who is performing the construction to provide a legal survey to approve the exact location of existing property lines and comply with the minimum setbacks.

B. New Construction or New Platted Areas

1. All structures shall be constructed with a minimum front yard setback of 25 feet from the line separating the parcel from the public or private road right-of-way, a minimum rear yard setback of 25 feet from the property line and minimum side yard setbacks of 6 feet each from the property line.
2. Any parcel located at the intersection of two or more road right-of-ways, i.e., a "corner lot," shall maintain a setback of 25 feet from each line separating the parcel from the road right-of-way.
3. Existing structures encroaching on the setback minimums shall not perform any new construction any nearer the property lines. All existing dwellings shall be required to comply with section R102.7 and Appendix E, section AE102 of the Michigan Residential Code 2000.

4. In case of a discrepancy, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner who is performing the construction to provide a legal survey to approve the exact location of existing property lines and comply with the minimum setbacks.

**Section 6. Additional Placement Requirements for Dwellings.**

All structures that are defined as "dwellings" by this Ordinance shall meet the requirements of this section as follows:

- A. No single parcel of property shall be allowed to have more than one dwelling on that parcel whether or not the dwellings are occupied.
- B. A single parcel of property containing two or more dwellings shall be allowed to continue as a non-conformity until such time as the owner wishes to perform the construction, alteration, addition, removal, replacement or relocation of any structure, or perform any work which requires a building permit as required by the State Construction Code. At that time, the owner shall be required to comply with this Ordinance.
- C. Before a building permit may be issued for construction of a new dwelling, the property owner shall apply with the Montcalm County Central Dispatch for an address for the dwelling and shall submit the address given to the County Building Official.
- D. Each dwelling, and any additions to a dwelling, shall be firmly attached to a permanent frost-free foundation constructed on the site in accordance with all building and other pertinent construction codes applicable to residential dwellings within the County and as provided by this section. If a dwelling is a mobile home, the dwelling shall be installed pursuant to the manufacturer's instructions specifying the location and required minimum imposed load capacity of pillars in the location and the minimum imposed load capacity of any other stabilizing devices. In the absence of the manufacturer's installation instructions of a mobile home, the installation of the mobile home shall be in accordance with Appendix E of the Michigan Residential Code.

**Section 7. Building Permit Required.**

The construction of any structure shall not be commenced until the building permit has been obtained in accordance with the State Construction Code, the requirements and standards referenced within this Ordinance, and any other applicable County Ordinance standards and requirements. The County Building Official shall be the County Official authorized to issue a Building Permit.

**Section 8. Board of Appeals.**

- A. **Application for Appeal.** Any person directly affected by a denial of a building permit request shall have the right to appeal to the Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee of the Board of Commissioners (hereafter "Board"), provided that a written application for appeal is filed within twenty (20) days after the day of the building permit denial. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the Ordinance has been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this Ordinance do not fully apply, the requirements of this Ordinance are adequately satisfied by other means, or that the strict application of any requirement of this Ordinance would cause an undue hardship. All appeals shall be accompanied by payment of such fees as shall from time to time be established by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners.
- B. **Notice of Meeting.** The Board shall meet upon notice from the chairman, within twenty (20) days of the filing of an appeal, or at stated periodic meetings.
- C. **Open Hearing.** All hearings before the Board shall be open to the public and all meetings and notices of meetings of the Board and its committees shall comply with the Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.261 *et seq.*). The appellant, the appellant's representative, the Building Official and any person whose interests are affected shall be given an opportunity to be heard. A quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the Board membership.

1. **Procedure.** The Board shall adopt and make available to the public, through the secretary, procedures under which a hearing will be conducted. The procedures shall not require compliance with strict rules of evidence, but shall mandate that only relevant information be received.
- D. **Postponed Hearing.** When the full Board is not present to hear an appeal, either the appellant or the appellant's representative shall have the right to request a postponement of the hearing.
- E. **Board Decision.** The Board shall modify or reverse the decision of the Building Official only by a concurring vote of a majority of the total number of appointed Board members.
1. **Records and Copies.** The decision of the Board shall be recorded. Copies shall be furnished to appellant and to the building official.
  2. **Administration.** The building official shall take immediate action in accordance with the decision of the Board.

[Section 8 was added on 5/24/04 by Ordinance 2004-3]

**Section 9. Violation, Penalties, Civil Infraction.**

- (a) Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this Ordinance, or the terms or conditions of a permit, is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, and shall be subject to payment of a civil fine of not less than \$50, plus costs and other sanctions, for each infraction (as authorized by Section 10b of Act No. 156 of the Public Acts of 1851, as amended). Repeat offenses under this Ordinance shall be subject to increased fines as provided by this Section. As used in this Section, "repeat offense" means a second (or any subsequent) violation of the same requirement or provision of this Ordinance (i) committed by a person within any 90-day period and (ii) for which the person admits responsibility or is determined to be responsible. The increase fine for a repeat offense under this Ordinance shall be as follows:
- (1) The fine for any offense that is a first repeat offense shall be not less than \$250, plus costs.
  - (2) The fine for any offense which is a second repeat offense, or any subsequent repeat offense, shall be not less than \$500 each, plus costs.
- (b) Each day on which any violation of this Ordinance occurs or continues constitutes a separate offense subject to separate sanctions. Failure to answer a citation or notice to appear in court for a municipal civil infraction is a misdemeanor violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, plus other costs, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days, or both fine and imprisonment.
- (c) Failure to comply with an order, judgment or default in payment of a civil fine, costs, damage, or expenses so ordered may result in enforcement actions, including but not limited to imprisonment, collections, placement of liens or other remedies as permitted by Chapter 87 of Act 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, as amended.
- (d) A municipal infraction is not a lesser included offense of a criminal offense or an ordinance violation that is not a civil infraction.
- (e) Nothing in this Section 8 shall be construed to limit the remedies available to the County in the event of a violation by a person of this Ordinance or a permit, including seeking injunctive relief to compel compliance.
- (f) The County Building Official or his or her designee is hereby designated as the authorized County official to issue municipal civil infraction citations directing alleged violators to appear in court.

[Section 9 was renumbered from Section 8 on 5/24/04 by Ordinance 2004-3]

[Section 8 amended on 5/9/05]