

TOWNSHIP OF BOSTON

COUNTY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 99-2, AS AMENDED

BOSTON TOWNSHIP LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE

THE TOWNSHIP OF BOSTON ORDAINS:

Section 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

1.1 This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Boston Township Land Division Ordinance.

1.2 The purpose of this ordinance is to carry out the provisions of the Land Division Act, Michigan Public Act 288 of 1967, as amended (the "Act"), in order to prevent the creation of parcels of land which do not comply with the Act or with applicable Township ordinances; to provide for the orderly development of land and otherwise to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Township by establishing minimum requirements for review and approval of certain land divisions within the Township.

1.3 This Ordinance shall amend and replace Ordinance No. 99-2, as amended, in its entirety. This Ordinance shall not be construed to repeal, abrogate, rescind or otherwise to impair or interfere with provisions of other ordinances of the Township.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Certain words and phrases used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings stated in this section. Other words and phrases, if defined by the Act, shall have the meanings stated in the Act.

2.2 "Administrator" means the Township Supervisor, or such other person as may be designated by the Township Supervisor.

2.3 "Division" or "land division" means the partitioning or splitting of a parcel or tract of land by the proprietor thereof or by his or her heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors or assigns for the purpose of sale, or lease of more than one year, or of building development that results in one or more parcels of less than 40 acres or the equivalent (as defined in the Act), and that satisfies the requirements of Sections 108 and 109 of the Act. Division does not include a property transfer between two or more adjacent parcels, if the land taken from one parcel is added to an adjacent parcel.

2.4 “Exempt split” means the partitioning or splitting of a parcel or tract of land by the proprietor thereof or by his or her heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors or assigns that does not result in one or more parcels of less than 40 acres or the equivalent.

2.5 “Parcel” means a contiguous area of land which can be described as stated in Section 102(g) of the Act.

2.6 “Parent parcel” or “parent tract” means a parcel or tract, respectively, lawfully in existence on March 31, 1997.

2.7 “Private road” means a private road which complies with the requirements of the Township Private Road Ordinance.

2.8 “Resulting parcel(s)” means one or more parcels which result from a land division.

2.9 “Tract” means two or more parcels that share a common property line and are under the same ownership.

Section 3. LAND DIVISION APPROVAL REQUIRED

Any division of land, including any partitioning or splitting of land, within the Township which requires the approval of the Township in order to qualify as a land division under the Act shall satisfy the requirements of Sections 4, 5 and 7 and the other applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. APPLICATION FOR LAND DIVISION APPROVAL

4.1. A proposed land division shall be filed with the Administrator and shall include the following:

- (a) A completed application, on such written form as the Township may provide, including any exhibits described therein.
- (b) Proof of an ownership interest in the land which is the subject of the proposed division, or written consent to the application, signed by the owner of such land.
- (c) A land title search, abstract of title, or other evidence of land title acceptable to the Administrator which is sufficient to establish that the parent parcel or parent tract of the land which is the subject of the proposed division was lawfully in existence on March 31, 1997.
- (d) A copy of each deed or other instrument of conveyance which contains the statement required by Section 109(3) of the Act concerning the right to make further divisions.

- (e) A tentative parcel map showing the parent parcel or parent tract which is the subject of the application, and the area, parcel lines, public utility easements, and the manner of proposed access for each resulting parcel. The tentative parcel map, including the resulting parcels, shall be accurately and clearly drawn to scale by a qualified surveyor. A tentative parcel map shall include:
 - (1) Date, north arrow, scale, and the name of the person or firm responsible for the preparation of the tentative parcel map;
 - (2) Proposed boundary lines and the dimensions of each parcel;
 - (3) An adequate and accurate legal description of each resulting parcel;
 - (4) A drawing or written description of all previous land divisions from the same parent parcel or parent tract, identifying the number, area and date of such divisions;
 - (5) The location, dimensions and nature of proposed ingress to and egress from any existing public or private streets;
 - (6) The location of any public or private street, driveway or utility easement to be located within any resulting parcel. Copies of the instruments describing and granting such easements shall be submitted with the application; and
 - (7) If a resulting parcel is a development site (as defined in the Act), the location of all public utility easements serving the parcel.
 - (8) The Administrator may accept a tentative parcel map that does not meet each of the standards contained herein if the Administrator is able to determine that the application qualifies for approval based on the information submitted.
- (f) Other information reasonably required by the Administrator in order to determine whether the proposed land division qualifies for approval.
- (g) Payment of the application fee and other applicable fees and charges to cover the costs of review of the application and administration of this Ordinance and the Act established by resolution of the Township Board.

4.2. A proposed division shall not be considered filed with the Township, nor shall the time period stated in subsection 5.2 commence, until an application has been submitted, containing all information necessary to ascertain whether the requirements of Sections 108 and 109 of the Act have been met.

Section 5. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF LAND DIVISIONS

5.1 A proposed land division shall be approved by the Administrator upon satisfaction of all of the following requirements:

- (a) The application requirements of Section 4.
- (b) All resulting parcels to be created by the proposed land division(s) shall fully comply with the applicable lot area and lot width requirements of the Township. For purposes of this Ordinance, lot area and lot width shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) *Lot Area.* The minimum lot area for a parcel or lot shall be 12,000 square feet, excluding all lands located within a public or private road right-of-way.
 - (2) *Lot Width.* The minimum lot width for a parcel or lot shall be 65 feet. Lot width shall be measured along the edge of the public street or private street right-of-way located at the front of the lot or parcel, or along both rights-of-way in the case of a corner lot. If the front of the lot abuts a cul-de-sac, lot width shall be measured by the shortest straight line drawn between the side lot lines. The mid-point of such line must be located 50 feet back from the edge of the public street or private street right-of-way.
- (c) Each resulting parcel which is 10 acres or less in area shall have a depth which is not more than four times the width of the parcel. The width of the resulting parcel shall be measured as provided in subsection 5.1(b). The depth of a parcel shall be measured as the distance between the midpoints of straight lines connecting the foremost points of the side lot lines in front and the rearmost points of the lot lines in the rear. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrator may approve a land division that creates a resulting parcel with a depth-to-width ratio greater than 4-to-1 if the applicant demonstrates to the Administrator that there are exceptional topographical or physical conditions with respect to the parcel and that the greater ratio would be reasonably compatible with the surrounding lands. If the applicant's request for approval of a greater depth-to-width ratio is denied by the Administrator, the applicant may appeal the Administrator's decision pursuant to Section 5.4 of this Ordinance.
- (d) Each resulting parcel shall have a means of vehicular access to an existing street from an existing or proposed driveway or access easement. Such means of access shall comply with all applicable location standards of the governmental authority having jurisdiction of the existing street.

- (e) The proposed division, together with any previous division(s) of the same parent parcel or parent tract, shall not result in a number of resulting parcels that is greater than that permitted under Section 108 of the Act.
- (f) Each resulting parcel that is a development site (as defined in the Act) shall have adequate easements for public utilities from the resulting parcel to existing public utility facilities.

5.2 The Administrator shall approve or disapprove a proposed land division within 45 days after the complete filing of the proposed division with the Administrator, and shall provide the person who filed the application written notice whether the application is approved or disapproved and, if disapproved, all the reasons for the disapproval.

5.3 Any notice of approval of a division resulting in a parcel less than 1 acre in size shall contain a statement that the Township, its officers and employees are not liable if a building permit is not issued for the parcel for the reasons set forth in Section 109a of the Act, including requirements regarding suitability of on-site water supply and on-site sewage disposal, as described in Section 105(g) of the Act.

5.4 An applicant aggrieved by the decision of the Administrator may, within 30 days of the decision, file a written appeal of the decision to the Township Board, which shall consider and decide the appeal by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a public meeting. At least 10 days' written notice of the date, time and place of the meeting at which the appeal is to be considered shall be given to the applicant by regular, first-class mail, directed to the applicant's address as shown in the application or in the written appeal. The Township Board may affirm or reverse the decision of the Administrator, in whole or in part, and its decision shall be final.

5.5 The Administrator shall maintain a record of all land divisions approved by the Township.

Section 6. EXEMPT SPLITS AND OTHER DIVISIONS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

6.1 An exempt split is not subject to approval by the Township if all resulting parcels are accessible (as defined in the Act) or if either Section 6.3(a) or 6.3(b) of this ordinance applies.

6.2 The Township shall not permit the creation of an exempt split if one or more of the resulting parcels are not accessible unless either Section 6.3(a) or 6.3(b) of this ordinance applies to all such inaccessible parcels.

6.3 An exempt split or other partitioning or splitting of a parcel or tract that only results in parcels of 20 acres or more in size is not subject to approval by the Township if the parcel or tract is not accessible and either of the following applies:

- (a) The parcel or tract was in existence on March 31, 1997; or
- (b) The parcel or tract resulted from an exempt split or other partitioning or splitting under Section 109b of the Act.

Section 7. APPROVAL OF LAND DIVISIONS

7.1 All deeds and other recordable instruments of conveyance and all surveys effecting a division or divisions of land shall be submitted to the Administrator in order to determine their conformity with the approved tentative parcel map and with the requirements of Section 108 of the Act. The Administrator shall mark the date of approval of the proposed land division on all deeds, other recordable instruments of conveyance and surveys which are in conformity with the approved tentative parcel map and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this ordinance. Such documents shall be maintained by the Administrator in the Township record of the approved land division.

7.2 The approval of a land division is not a determination that the resulting parcels comply with other ordinances or regulations.

7.3 Any parcel created inconsistent with or in violation of this ordinance, where approval hereunder is required, shall not be eligible for issuance of building permits, or other land use or building approvals under other Township ordinances.

Section 8. PENALTIES AND OTHER REMEDIES

8.1 *Municipal Civil Infraction.* A violation of this ordinance, or a violation of any approval granted hereunder, is a municipal civil infraction, for which the fine shall be \$500 for the first offense, and not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,500 for subsequent offenses, in the discretion of the court, and in addition to all other costs, damages, expenses and actual attorney fees incurred by the Township in enforcing the ordinance. For purposes of this section, "subsequent offense" means a violation of this ordinance committed by the same person within 12 months of a previous violation of the ordinance for which said person admitted responsibility or was adjudicated to be responsible, provided, however, that offenses committed on subsequent days within a period of one week following issuance of a citation for a first offense shall be considered separate first offenses. Each day that such violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

8.2 *Injunctive Relief.* In addition, a violation of this ordinance or a violation of any approval granted hereunder is hereby declared to be a nuisance per se. The issuance of a municipal civil infraction and imposition of the foregoing municipal civil infraction penalties against a violator shall not prohibit the Township from also seeking injunctive relief against a violator, in order to abate the violation or to seek such other relief provided by law.

Section 9. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any provision or other part hereof is determined to be invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions or other parts of this ordinance.

TOWNSHIP OF BOSTON

Lori Spoelstra
Township Clerk

Ordinance No. 99-2, adopted January 13, 1999, and effective February 6, 1999
(notation amended September 14, 1999, and effective September 18, 1999)

Ordinance No. 02-5, adopted February 13, 2002, and effective March 21, 2002

Ordinance No. 04-01, adopted May 12, 2004, and effective May 22, 2004

Ordinance No. 09-07, adopted September 9, 2009, and effective October 19, 2009