

READING TOWNSHIP
ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE 2015-01

AN ORDINANCE OF READING TOWNSHIP
AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF ORDINANCE 2014-01, GOVERNING FLOODPLAINS IN
THE TOWNSHIP OF READING CODE OF ORDINANCES

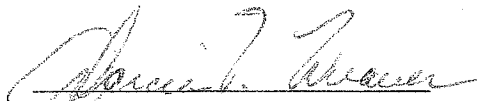
SECTION 1. Chapter 8, entitled "Floodplains" of Ordinance 2014-01, being the Reading Township Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as set forth in the attachment labeled as Exhibit A. Deletions are indicated by strikeouts. Additions are indicated in bolded larger type.

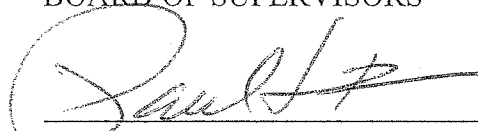
SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided for by law.

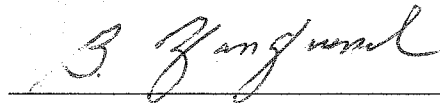
ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 15th day of June 2015.

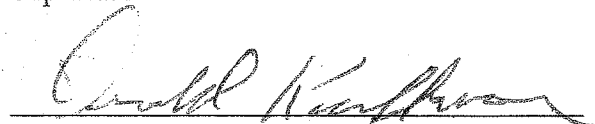
ATTEST:

READING TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


Secretary


Supervisor


Supervisor


Supervisor

Chapter 8
Floodplains

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Statutory Authorization

§8-101.

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Part 1
Statutory Authorization

§8-101. Statutory Authorization

The Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has, by the passage of the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act of 1978 [Title 32 Purdon's Statutes Sections 679.101 et. seq. (Act 166 of 1978) (32 P.S. Section 679.101 et. seq.)], delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt floodplain management regulations to promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Reading does hereby order as follows.

~~Part 1~~ **PART 2**

General Provisions

~~§8-101.~~ **§8-201.** Intent.

The intent of this Part is to:

- A. Promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community.
- B. Encourage the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future.
- C. Minimize danger to public health by protecting water supply and natural drainage.
- D. Reduce financial burdens imposed on the community, its governmental units, and its residents, by preventing excessive development in areas subject to flooding.
- E. Comply with Federal and State floodplain management requirements.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §1.00)

~~§8-102.~~ **§8-202.** Applicability.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, business or corporation to undertake, or cause to be undertaken, any construction or development anywhere within the Township unless a building permit has been obtained from the Building Permit Officer.

2. A building permit shall not be required for minor repairs to existing buildings or structures.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §1.01)

~~§8-103.~~ **§8-203.** Abrogation and Greater Restrictions.

This Chapter supersedes any other conflicting provisions which may be in effect in identified floodplain areas. However, any other ordinance provisions shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that those provisions are more restrictive. If there is any conflict between any of the provisions of this Chapter, the more restrictive shall apply.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §1.02)

~~§8-104.~~ **§8-204.** Severability.

If any Section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Part shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Chapter, which shall remain in full force and effect, and for this purpose the provisions of this Chapter are hereby declared to be severable.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §1.03)

~~§8-105.~~ **§8-205.** Warning and Disclaimer of Liability.

1. The degree of flood protection sought by the provisions of this Chapter is

considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on acceptable engineering methods of study. Larger floods may occur. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes, such as ice jams and bridge openings restricted by debris. This Chapter does not imply that areas outside any identified floodplain areas or that land uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages.

2. This Chapter shall not create liability on the part of Reading Township or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this Chapter or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §1.04)

Part 2 **Part 3**

Administration

§8-301. Designation of the Floodplain Administrator

The Zoning/ Code Enforcement Officer is hereby appointed to administer and enforce this ordinance and is referred to herein as the Floodplain Administrator. The Floodplain Administrator may: (A) Fulfill the duties and responsibilities set forth in these regulations, (B) Delegate duties and responsibilities set forth in these regulations to qualified technical personnel, plan examiners, inspectors, and other employees, or (C) Enter into a written agreement or written contract with another agency or private sector entity to administer specific provisions of these regulations. Administration of any part of these regulations by another entity shall not relieve the community of its responsibilities pursuant to the participation requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 44 C.F.R. Section 59.22.

In the absence of a designated Floodplain Administrator, the Floodplain Administrator duties are to be fulfilled by the Reading Township Board of Supervisors.

~~§8-201.~~ **§8-302.** Building Permits Required.

Building permits shall be required before any construction or development is undertaken within any area of Reading Township.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.00)

~~§8-202.~~ **§8-303.** Issuance of Building Permit.

1. The Building Permit Officer shall issue a building permit only after it has been determined that the proposed work to be undertaken will be in conformance with the requirements of this and all other applicable codes and ordinances.

2. Prior to the issuance of any building permit, the Building Permit Officer shall review the application for the permit to determine if all other necessary government permits required by State and Federal laws have been obtained, such as those required by the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, 35 P.S. §750.1 *et seq.*; the Pennsylvania

Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, 32 P.S. §693.1 *et seq.*; the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Act, 35 P.S. §691.1 *et seq.*; and the U.S. Clean Water Act, §404, 33 U.S.C. §1344. No permit shall be issued until this determination has been made.

3. In the case of existing structures, prior to the issuance of any development/building permit, the Development/Building Permit Officer shall review the history of repairs to the subject building, so that any repetitive loss issues can be addressed before the permit is issued.

4. No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse until all adjacent municipalities which may be affected by such action have been notified by Reading Township and until all required permits or approvals have been first obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development shall be notified by Reading Township prior to any alteration or relocation of any watercourse.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.01)

~~§8-203.~~ **§8-304.** Application Procedures and Requirements.

1. Application for such a building permit shall be made, in writing, to the Building Permit Officer on forms supplied by Reading Township. Such application shall contain the following:

- A. Name and address of applicant.
- B. Name and address of owner of land on which proposed construction is to occur.
- C. Name and address of contractor.
- D. Site location including address.
- E. Listing of other permits required.
- F. Brief description of proposed work and estimated cost, including a breakout of the flood-related cost and the market value of the building before the flood damage occurred.
- G. A plan of the site showing the exact size and location of the proposed construction, as well as, any existing buildings or structures.

2. If any proposed construction or development is located entirely or partially within any identified floodplain area, applicants for building permits shall provide all the necessary information in sufficient detail and clarity to enable the Building Permit Officer to determine that:

- A. All such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage and conform with the requirements of this and all other applicable codes and ordinances.
- B. All utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
- C. Adequate drainage is provided so as to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

3. Applicants shall file the following minimum information plus any other pertinent information as may be required by the Building Permit Officer to make the above

determination:

A. A completed building permit application form.

B. A plan of the entire site, clearly and legibly drawn at a scale of 1 inch being equal to 100 feet or less, showing the following:

- (1) North arrow, scale, and date.
- (2) Topographic contour lines, if available.
- (3) All property and lot lines including dimensions, and the size of the site expressed in acres or square feet.
- (4) The location of all existing and proposed buildings, structures, and other improvements, including the location of any existing or proposed subdivision and land development.
- (5) The location of all existing streets, drives, and other access ways.
- (6) The location of any existing bodies of water or watercourses, identified floodplain areas, and, if available, information pertaining to the floodway, and the flow of water including direction and velocities.

C. Plans of all proposed buildings, structures and other improvements, drawn at suitable scale showing the following:

- (1) The proposed lowest floor elevation of any proposed building based upon National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.
- (2) The elevation of the 100-year flood.
- (3) Information concerning flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with a 100-year flood.
- (4) Detailed information concerning any proposed floodproofing measures.
- (5) Supplemental information as may be necessary under 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and §§1612.5.1, 104.7 and 109.3 of the 2003 IBC and §§R106.1.3 and R104.7 of the 2003 IRC.

D. The following data and documentation:

- (1) Documentation, certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, to show that the cumulative effect of any proposed development within an FE (Special Floodplain Area), when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the elevation of the 100-year flood more than 1 foot at any point.
- (2) A document, certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, which states that the proposed construction or development has been adequately designed to withstand the pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces associated with the 100-year flood.
- (3) Such statement shall include a description of the type and extent of flood proofing measures which have been incorporated into the design of the structure and/or the development.
- (4) Detailed information needed to determine compliance with §8-404.F, "Storage," and §8-405, "Development Which May Endanger Human Life," including:
 - (a) The amount, location and purpose of any materials or substances referred to in §§8-8-9

404.F and 8-405 which are intended to be used, produced, stored or otherwise maintained on site.

(b) A description of the safeguards incorporated into the design of the proposed structure to prevent leaks or spills of the dangerous materials or substances listed in §8-405 during a 100-year flood.

(5) The appropriate component of the Department of Environmental Protection's "Planning Module for Land Development."

(6) Where any excavation of grading is proposed, a plan meeting the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection, to implement and maintain erosion and sedimentation control. [*Ord. 2008-7*]

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.02, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2009, §1*)

~~§8-204.~~**§8-305.** Review by Adams County Conservation District.

A copy of all applications and plans for any proposed construction or development in any identified floodplain area to be considered for approval shall be submitted by the Building Permit Officer to the Adams County Conservation District for review and comment prior to the issuance of a building permit. The recommendations of the Adams County Conservation District shall be considered by the Building Permit officer for possible incorporation into the proposed plan.

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.03*)

~~§8-205.~~**§8-306.** Review of Application by Others.

A copy of all plans and applications for any proposed construction or development in any identified floodplain area to be considered for approval may be submitted by the Building Permit Officer to any other appropriate agencies and/or individuals (e.g., Planning Commission, Township Engineer, etc.) for review and comment. In a period of time not to exceed 45 days from the date of application.

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.04*)

~~§8-206.~~**§8-307.** Changes.

After the issuance of a building permit by the Building Permit Officer, no changes of any kind shall be made to the application, permit or any of the plans, specifications or other documents submitted with the application without the written consent or approval of the Building Permit Officer. Requests for any such change shall be in writing, and shall be submitted by the applicant to Building Permit Officer for consideration.

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.05*)

~~§8-207.~~**§8-308.** Placards.

In addition to the building permit, the Building Permit Officer shall issue a placard which shall be displayed on the premises during the time construction is in progress. This placard shall show the number of the building permit the date of its issuance and

be signed by the Building Permit Officer.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.06)

~~§8-208.~~ **§8-309.** Start of Construction.

1. Work on the proposed construction and/or development shall begin within 6 months and shall be completed within 12 months after the date of issuance of the building permit or the permit shall expire unless a time extension is granted, in writing, by the Building Permit Officer. Construction and/or development shall be considered to have started with the preparation of land, land clearing, grading, filling, excavation of basement, footings, piers, or foundations, erection of temporary forms, the installation of piling under proposed subsurface footings, or the installation of sewer, gas and water pipes, or electrical or other service lines from the street.

2. Time extensions shall be granted only if a written request is submitted by the applicant, which sets forth sufficient and reasonable cause for the Building Permit Officer to approve such a request.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.07)

~~§8-209.~~ **§8-310.** Inspection and Revocation.

1. During the construction period, the Building Permit Officer or other authorized official shall inspect the premises to determine that the work is progressing in compliance with the information provided on the permit application and with all applicable municipal laws and ordinances. He shall make as many inspections during and upon completion of the work as are necessary.

2. In the discharge of his duties, the Building Permit Officer shall have the authority to enter any building, structure, premises or development in the identified floodplain area, upon presentation of proper credentials, at any reasonable hour to enforce the provisions of this Part.

3. In the event the Building Permit Officer discovers that the work does not comply with the permit application or any applicable laws and ordinances, or that there has been a false statement or misrepresentation by any applicant, the Building Permit Officer shall revoke the building permit and report such fact to the Board of Supervisors for whatever action it considers necessary.

4. A record of all such inspections and violations of this Part shall be maintained.

5. The requirements of the 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, and the IBC (§§109.3.3, 1612.5.1, 104.7 and 103.8) and the 2003 IRC (§§R106.1.3, 109.1.3 and R104.7) or latest revisions thereof pertaining to elevation certificates and record retention shall be considered.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.08)

~~§8-210.~~ **§8-311.** Fees.

Applications for a building permit shall be accompanied by a fee, payable to the Township. The fee shall be in accordance with the current Reading Township Fee

Schedule.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.09)

~~§8-211.~~ **§8-312.** Enforcement.

1. *Notices.* Whenever the Building Permit Officer or other authorized Township representative determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a violation of any provisions of this Part, or of any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, the Building Permit Officer shall give notice of such alleged violation as hereinafter provided. Such notice shall (A) be in writing; (B) include a statement of the reasons for its issuance; (C) allow a reasonable time not to exceed a period of 30 days for the performance of any act it requires; (D) be served upon the property owner or his agent as the case may require by personal service or certified mail. If service cannot be made in this manner, then service shall be made by posting the property; (E) contain an outline of remedial action which, if taken, will effect compliance with the provisions of this Part.

2. *Penalties.* Any person who fails to comply with any or all of the requirements or provisions of this Part or who fails or refuses to comply with any notice, order of direction of the Building Permit Officer or any other authorized employee of the municipality shall be guilty of a summary offense and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine to Reading Township of not less than \$25 nor more than \$600 plus costs of prosecution. In default of such payment, such person shall be imprisoned in county prison for a period not to exceed 10 days. Each day during which any violation of this Part continues shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to the above penalties all other actions are hereby reserved including an action in equity for the proper enforcement of this Part. The imposition of a fine or penalty for any violation of, or noncompliance with, this Part shall not excuse the violation or noncompliance or permit it to continue and all such persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations and noncompliances within a reasonable time. Any development initiated or any structure or building constructed, reconstructed, enlarged, altered, or relocated, in noncompliance with this Part may be declared by the Township to be a public nuisance and abatable as such.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.10, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2009, §2)

~~§8-212.~~ **§8-313.** Appeals.

1. Any person aggrieved by any action or decision of the Building Permit Officer concerning the administration of the provisions of this Part, may appeal to the Board of Supervisors. Such appeal must be filed, in writing, within 30 days after the decision, determination or action of the Building Permit Officer.

2. Upon receipt of such appeal the Board of Supervisors shall set a time and place, within not less than 10 nor more than 30 days, for the purpose of considering the appeal. Notice of the time and place at which the appeal will be considered shall be given to all parties.

3. Any person aggrieved by any decision of the Board of Supervisors may seek relief therefrom by appeal to court, as provided by the laws of this Commonwealth including

the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act, 32 P.S. §679.101 *et seq.*
(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §2.11*)

Part 3 **Part 4**

Identification of Floodplain Areas

~~§8-301.~~ **§8-401.** Identification.

The identified floodplain area shall be those areas of Reading Township which are subject to the 100-year flood as identified in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) dated June 15, 1981 and the accompanying maps prepared for Reading Township by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or the most recent revision thereof. (Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §3.00)

~~§8-302.~~ **§8-402.** Description of Floodplain Areas.

The identified floodplain area shall consist of the following specific areas:

FW (Floodway Area)—the areas identified as “Floodway” in the AE Zone in the Flood Insurance Study prepared by the FEMA. The term shall also include floodway areas which have been identified in other available studies or sources of information for those floodplain areas where no floodway has been identified in the Flood Insurance Study.

FF (Flood-Fringe Area)—the remaining portions of the 100-year floodplain in those areas identified as an AE Zone in the Flood Insurance study, where a floodway has been delineated.

The basis for the outermost boundary of this area shall be the 100-year flood elevations as shown in the flood profiles contained in the Flood Insurance Study.

FA (General Floodplain Area)—the areas identified as Zone A in the FIS for which no 100-year flood elevations have been provided. When available, information from other Federal, State, and other acceptable sources shall be used to determine the 100-year elevation, as well as a floodway area, if possible. When no other information is available, the 100-year elevation shall be determined by using a point on the boundary of the identified floodplain area which is nearest the construction site in question.

FE (Special Floodplain Area)—the areas identified as Zone AE in the Flood Insurance Study, where 100-year flood elevations have been provided, but no floodway has been delineated. [Ord. 2008-7]

In lieu of the above, the Township may require the applicant to determine the elevation with hydrologic and hydraulic engineering techniques. Hydrologic and hydraulic analyses shall be undertaken only by professional engineers or others of demonstrated qualifications, who shall certify that the technical methods used correctly reflect currently accepted technical concepts. Studies, analyses, computations, etc., shall be submitted in sufficient detail to allow a thorough technical review by Reading Township.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §3.01, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2008, §3)

~~§8-303.~~ **§8-403.** Changes in Identification of Area.

The identified floodplain area may be revised or modified by the Board of Supervisors where studies or information provided by a qualified agency or person documents the need for such revision. However, prior to any such change, approval must be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §3.02)

~~§8-304.~~ **§8-404.** Boundary Disputes.

Should a dispute concerning any identified floodplain boundary arise, an initial determination shall be made by Reading Township Planning Commission and any party aggrieved by this decision or determination may appeal to the Board of Supervisors. The burden of proof shall be on the appellant.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §3.03)

~~Part 4~~ **Part 5**

Technical Provisions

~~§8-401.~~ **§8-501.** General.

1. No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse until all adjacent municipalities which may be affected by such action have been notified by the Township, and until all required permits or approvals have been first obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development shall be notified prior to any alteration or relocation of any watercourse.

2. Any new construction, development, uses or activities allowed within any identified floodplain area, shall be undertaken in strict compliance with the provisions contained in this Part and any other applicable codes, ordinances and regulations.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.00)

~~§8-402.~~ **§8-502.** Special Requirements for FW and FA Areas.

1. With any FW (Floodway Area), the following provisions apply:

A. Any new construction, development, use, activity, or encroachment that would cause any increase in flood heights shall be prohibited.

B. No new construction or development shall be allowed, unless a permit is obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.

2. Within any FA (General Floodplain Area), the following provisions apply:

A. No new construction or development shall be located within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse.

B. Any new construction or development, which would cause any increase in flood heights, shall be prohibited within any floodway area.

3. Within any FE (Special Floodplain Area) or FA (General Floodplain Area), the following provisions apply:

A. No new construction or development shall be located within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse, unless a permit is obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.

B. No new construction or development shall be located within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse.

C. Any new construction or development which would cause any increase in flood heights shall be prohibited within any floodway area.

[Ord. 2008-7]

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.01, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2008, §4)

§8-403. **§8-503.** Elevation and Floodproofing Requirements.

1. *Residential Structures.* Within any identified floodplain area, any new construction or substantial improvement of a residential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation. The design and construction standards and specifications contained in the 2003 IBC (§§1612.4, 1603.1.6 and 3403.1) and in the 2003 IRC (§§R323.1.4, R323.2.1, and R323.2.2) and ASCE 24 (§§2.4 and 2.5, Chap. 5) and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, shall be utilized.

A. In AE, A1-30, and AH Zones, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation.

B. In A Zones, where there are no Base Flood Elevations specified on the FIRM, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation determined in accordance with Section 4.02.C of this ordinance.

C. In AO Zones, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) at or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified on the FIRM.

D. The design and construction standards and specifications contained in the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) and in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) or the most recent revisions thereof and ASCE 24 and 34 PA Code (Chapters 401-405 as amended) shall be utilized, where they are more restrictive.

2. *Nonresidential Structures.*

~~A. Within any identified floodplain area, any new construction or substantial improvement of a nonresidential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation, or be designed and constructed so that the space enclosed by such structure shall remain either completely or essentially dry during any flood up to that height.~~

~~B. Any nonresidential structure, or part thereof, having a lowest floor which is not elevated to at least 1½ feet above the 100-year flood elevation, shall be floodproofed in a completely or essentially dry manner in accordance with the W1 or W2 space classification standards contained in the publication entitled "Flood Proofing Regulations" published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (June 1972, as amended March 1992) or~~
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with some other equivalent standard. All plans and specifications for such floodproofing shall be accompanied by a statement certified by a registered professional engineer or architect which states that the proposed design and methods of construction are in conformance with the above referenced standards.

C. — The design and construction standards and specifications contained in the IBC (§§1603.1.2, 1603.1.6, 1605.2.2, 1606.5, 1612.5.1 and 3403.1. and ASCE 24 (§2.4 and Chap. 7) and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, shall be utilized.

A. In AE, A1-30 and AH Zones, any new construction or substantial improvement of a non-residential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation, or be designed and constructed so that the space enclosed below the regulatory flood elevation:

(1) is floodproofed so that the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and,
(2) has structural components with the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy:

B. In A Zones, where there no Base Flood Elevations are specified on the FIRM, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated or completely floodproofed up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation determined in accordance with Section 4.02.C of this ordinance.

C. In AO Zones, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have their lowest floor elevated or completely floodproofed above the highest adjacent grade to at least as high as the depth number specified on the FIRM.

D. Any non-residential structure, or part thereof, made watertight below the regulatory flood elevation shall be floodproofed in accordance with the WI or W2 space classification standards contained in the publication entitled "Flood-Proofing Regulations" published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (June 1972, as amended March 1992) or with some other equivalent standard. All plans and specifications for such floodproofing shall be accompanied by a statement certified by a registered professional engineer or architect

which states that the proposed design and methods of construction are in conformance with the above referenced standards.

E. The design and construction standards and specifications contained in the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) and in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) or the most recent revisions thereof and ASCE 24 and 34 PA Code (Chapters 401-405 as amended) shall be utilized, where they are more restrictive.

3. *Space below the Lowest Floor.*

~~A. Fully enclosed space below the lowest floor (including basement) is prohibited.~~

A. Fully enclosed space below the lowest floor (excluding basements) which will be used solely for the parking of a vehicle, building access, or incidental storage in an area other than a basement, shall be designed and constructed to allow for the automatic entry and exit of flood waters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on exterior walls.

The term "fully enclosed space" also includes crawl spaces.

B. Partially enclosed space below the lowest floor (including basement) which will be used solely for the parking of a vehicle, building access, or incidental storage in an area other than a basement, shall be designed and constructed to allow for the automatic entry and exit of flood waters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on exterior walls. The term "partially enclosed space" also includes crawl spaces. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:

(1) A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than 1 square inch for every square foot of enclosed space.

(2) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than 1 foot above grade.

(3) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, etc. or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

C. Consideration may be given to the requirements of 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and the 2003 IRC (§§R323.2.2 and R323.1.4) and the 2003 IBC (§§1612.4, 1612.5, 1202.3.2 and 1203.3.3.)

4. *Accessory Structures.* Structures accessory to a principal building need not be elevated or floodproofed to remain dry, but shall comply, at a minimum, with the following requirements:

A. The structure shall not be designed or used for human habitation, but shall be limited to the parking of vehicles, or to the storage of tools, material, and equipment related to the principal use or activity.

- B. Floor area shall not exceed ~~600~~ **500** square feet.
 - C. The structure will have a low damage potential.
 - D. The structure will be located on the site so as to cause the least obstruction to the flow of flood waters.
 - E. Power lines, wiring, and outlets will be at least 1½ feet above the 100-year flood elevation.
 - F. Permanently affixed utility equipment and appliances such as furnaces, heaters, washers, dryers, etc., are prohibited.
 - G. Sanitary facilities are prohibited.
 - H. The structure shall be adequately anchored to prevent flotation or movement and shall be designed to automatically provide for the entry and exit of floodwater for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on the walls. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - (1) A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than 1 square inch for every square foot of enclosed space.
 - (2) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than 1 foot above grade.
 - (3) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, etc., or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of flood waters.
- (Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.02)

~~§8-404.~~ **§8-504.** Design and Construction Standards.

The following minimum standards shall apply for all construction and development proposed within any identified floodplain area:

A. *Fill*. If fill is used, it shall:

- (1) Extend laterally at least 15 feet beyond the building line from all points.
- (2) Consist of soil or small rock materials only. Sanitary landfills shall not be permitted.
- (3) Be compacted to provide the necessary permeability and resistance to erosion, scouring, or settling.
- (4) Be no steeper than one vertical to two horizontal feet unless substantiated data, justifying steeper slopes are submitted to, and approved by the Building Permit Officer.
- (5) Be used to the extent to which it does not adversely affect adjacent properties. The provisions contained in the 2003 IBC (§§1801.1 and 1803.4) shall be utilized.

B. *Drainage Facilities*. Storm drainage facilities shall be designed to convey the flow of storm water runoff in a safe and efficient manner. The system shall insure proper drainage along streets, and provide positive drainage away from buildings. The system shall also be designed to prevent the discharge of excess runoff onto adjacent properties. The provisions contained in the 2003 IBC (Appendix G401.5) shall be utilized.

C. *Water and Sanitary Sewer Facilities and Systems*.

- (1) All new or replacement water and sanitary sewer facilities and systems shall be

located, designed and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages and the infiltration of flood waters.

(2) Sanitary sewer facilities and systems shall be designed to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into flood waters.

(3) No part of any on-site sewage system shall be located within any identified flood-plain area except in strict compliance with all State and local regulations for such systems. If any such system is permitted, it shall be located so as to avoid impairment to it, or contamination from it, during a flood.

(4) The design and construction provisions of the UCC and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and contained in the 2003 IBC (Appendix G. §§401.3 and 401.4), the 2003 IRC (§ 323.1.6), the ASCE 24-98 (§8.3), FEMA #348, Protecting Building Utilities From Flood Damages, and The International Private Sewage Disposal Code, Chapter 3, shall be utilized.

D. *Other Utilities.* All other utilities such as gas lines, electrical and telephone systems shall be located, elevated (where possible) and constructed to minimize the chance of impairment during a flood.

E. *Streets.* The finished elevation of all new streets shall be no more than 1 foot below the regulatory flood elevation.

F. *Storage.* All materials that are buoyant, flammable, explosive or, in times of flooding, could be injurious to human, animal, or plant life, and not listed in §8-406, "Development Which May Endanger Human Life," shall be stored at or above the regulatory flood elevation and/or flood proofed to the maximum extent possible.

G. *Placement of Buildings and Structures.* All buildings and structures shall be designed, located, and constructed so as to offer the minimum obstruction to the flow of water and shall be designed to have a minimum effect upon the flow and height of flood water.

H. *Anchoring.*

(1) All buildings and structures shall be firmly anchored in accordance with accepted engineering practices to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.

(2) All air ducts, large pipes, storage tanks, and other similar objects or components located below the regulatory flood elevation shall be securely anchored or affixed to prevent flotation.

(3) The design and construction requirements of the UCC pertaining to this subsection as referred to in 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and contained in the 2003 IBC (§§1605.2.2, 1605.3.1.2, 1612.4 and Appendix G501.3), the IRC (§§R301.1 and R323.1.1) and ASCE 24-98 (§5.6) shall be utilized.

I. *Floors, Walls and Ceilings.*

(1) Wood flooring used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be installed to accommodate a lateral expansion of the flooring, perpendicular to the flooring grain without causing structural damage to the building.

(2) Plywood used at or below the regulatory flood Elevation shall be of a "marine" or "water-resistant" variety.

- (3) Walls and ceilings at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be designed and constructed of materials that are “water-resistant” and will withstand inundation.
- (4) Windows, doors, and other components at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be made of metal or other “water-resistant” material.
- (5) The provisions of the UCC pertaining to this subsection and referenced in the 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and contained in the 2003 IBC (§§801.1.3, 1403.2, 1403.4, 1403.6 and 1404.2), the 2003 IRC (§§R323.1.7 and R501.3) and ASCE 24-98 (Chapter 6).

J. Paints and Adhesives.

- (1) Paints and other finishes used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be of “marine” or “water-resistant” quality.
- (2) Adhesives used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be of a “marine” or “water-resistant” variety.
- (3) All wooden components (doors, trim, cabinets, etc.) shall be finished with a “marine” or “water-resistant” paint or other finishing material.
- (4) The standards and specifications contained in 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, the 2003 IBC (§§801.1.3, 1403.7 and Appendix G) and the 2003 IRC (§R323.1.7).

K. Electrical Components.

- (1) Electrical distribution panels shall be at least 3 feet above the 100-year flood elevation.
- (2) Separate electrical circuits shall serve lower levels and shall be dropped from above.
- (3) The provisions pertaining to the above provisions and referenced in the UCC and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended and contained in the 2003 IBC (§1612.4), the IRC (§R323.1.5), the 2000 IFGC (§§R301.5 and R1601.3.8) and ASCE 24 (Chapter 8) shall be utilized.

L. *Equipment.*

- (1) Water heaters, furnaces, air conditioning and ventilating units, and other electrical, mechanical or utility equipment or apparatus shall not be located below the regulatory flood elevation.
- (2) The provisions pertaining to the above provision and referenced in the UCC and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and contained in the 2003 IBC (§1612.4), the 2003 IRC (§R323.1.5) the 2000 IFGC (§§ R301.5 and R1601.3.8) and ASCE 24 (Chapter 8) shall be utilized.

M. *Fuel Supply Systems.* All gas and oil supply systems shall be designed to prevent the infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharges from the system into flood waters. Additional provisions shall be made for the drainage of these systems in the event that flood water infiltration occurs.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.03)

~~§8-405.~~ **§8-505.** Uniform Construction Code Coordination.

The Standards and Specifications contained 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amend-
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ed, and not limited to the following provisions shall apply to the above and other Sections and subsections of this Part, to the extent that they are more restrictive and/or supplement the requirements of this Part:

International Building Code (IBC) 2003 or the latest edition thereof:

§§801, 1202, 1403, 1603, 1605, 1612, 3402, and Appendix G.

International Residential Building Code (IRC) 2003 or the latest edition thereof:

§§R104, R105, R109, R323, Appendix AE101, Appendix E and Appendix J.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.03N)

§8-406. **§8-506.** Development Which May Endanger Human Life.

1. In accordance with the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act, 32 P.S. §679.101 *et seq.*, and the regulations adopted by the Department of Community and Economic Development as required by the Act, any new or substantially improved structure which:

- A. Will be used for the production or storage of any of the following dangerous materials or substances.
- B. Will be used for any activity requiring the maintenance of a supply of more than 550 gallons, or other comparable volume, of any of the following dangerous materials or substances on the premises.
- C. Will involve the production, storage, or use of any amount of radioactive substances.

Shall be subject to the provisions of this Section, in addition to all other applicable provisions. The following list of materials and substances are considered dangerous to human life:

- A. Acetone.
- B. Ammonia.
- C. Benzene.
- D. Calcium carbide.
- E. Carbon disulfide.
- F. Celluloid.
- G. Chlorine.
- H. Hydrochloric acid.
- I. Hydrocyanic acid.
- J. Magnesium.
- K. Nitric acid and oxides of nitrogen.
- L. Petroleum products (gasoline, fuel oil, etc.).
- M. Phosphorus.
- N. Potassium.
- O. Sodium.
- P. Sulphur and sulphur products.
- Q. Pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides).

R. Radioactive substances, insofar as such substances are not otherwise regulated.

2. Within any FW (Floodway Area), any structure of the kind described in subsection .1, above, shall be prohibited.

3. Within any FE (Special Floodplain Area) or FA (General Floodplain Area), any substantially improved structure of the kind described in subsection .1, above, shall be prohibited within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse. [Ord. 2008-7]

4. Where permitted within any floodplain area, any new or substantially improved structure of the kind described in subsection .1, above, shall be:

A. Elevated or designed and constructed to remain completely dry up to at least 1½ feet above the 100-year flood; and,

B. Designed to prevent pollution from the structure or activity during the course of a 100-year flood.

Any such structure, or part thereof, that will be built below the Regulatory Flood Elevation shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the standards for completely dry floodproofing contained in the publication "Flood-Proofing Regulations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, June 1972 as amended March 1992), or with some other equivalent watertight standard.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.04; as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2008, §5)

~~§8-407.~~ **§8-507.** Special Requirements for Manufactured Homes.

1. Within any FW (Floodway Area), manufactured homes shall be prohibited.

2. Within any FA (General Floodplain Area) or FE (Special Floodplain Area) manufactured homes shall be prohibited within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse. [Ord. 2008-7]

3. Where permitted within any floodplain area, all manufactured homes, and any improvements thereto, shall be:

A. Placed on a permanent foundation.

B. Elevated so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is 1½ feet or more above the elevation of the 100-year flood.

C. Anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.

D. Installation of manufactured homes shall be done in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions as provided by the manufacturer. Where the applicant cannot provide the above information, the requirements of Appendix E of the 2003 International Residential Building Code or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Permanent Foundations for Manufactured Housing," 1984 Edition, draft or latest revision thereto shall apply and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405.

E. Consideration shall be given to the installation requirements of the 2003 IBC (Appendix G, §501.1-3) and the 2003 IRC (§§R323.2, R323.3, R102.7.1, R105.3.1.1 and Appendix AE101, 604 and 605) or the most recent revisions thereto and 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended where appropriate and/or applicable to units where the manufacturers' standards for anchoring cannot be provided or were not established for

the units(s) proposed installation.

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §4.07, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2008, §6*)

§8-508. Alteration or Relocation of Watercourse

No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse until all adjacent municipalities which may be affected by such action have been notified by the municipality, and until all required permits or approvals have first been obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.

No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse unless it can be shown that the activity will not reduce or impede the flood carrying capacity of the watercourse in any way.

In addition, FEMA and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, shall be notified prior to any alteration or relocation of any watercourse

§8-509. Special Requirements for Recreational Vehicles

Recreational vehicles in Zones A, A1-30, AH and AE must either:

be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and

be fully licensed and ready for highway use,

or meet the permit requirements for manufactured homes in

§8-507.

~~Part 5~~ **Part 6**

Activities Requiring Special Permits

~~§8-501.~~ **§8-601.** General.

In accordance with the administrative regulations promulgated by the Department of Community and Economic Development to implement the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act, the following activities shall be prohibited within any identified floodplain area unless a special permit has been issued by Reading Township:

A. The commencement of any of the following activities; or the construction enlargement, or expansion of any structure used, or intended to be used, for any of the following activities:

- (1) Hospitals.
- (2) Nursing homes.
- (3) Jails or prisons.

B. The commencement of, or any construction of, a new manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision, or substantial improvement to an existing manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §5.00)

~~§8-502.~~ **§8-602.** Application Requirements for Special Permits.

Applicants for special permits shall provide five copies of the following items:

- A. A written request including a completed building permit application form.
- B. A small scale map showing the vicinity in which the proposed site is located.
- C. A plan of the entire site, clearly and legibly drawn at a scale of 1 inch being equal to 100 feet or less, showing the following:
 - (1) North arrow, scale and date.
 - (2) Topography based upon the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, showing existing and proposed contours at intervals of 2 feet.
 - (3) All property and lot lines including dimensions, and the size of the site expressed in acres or square feet.
 - (4) The location of all existing streets, drives, other access ways, and parking areas, with information concerning widths, pavement types and construction, and elevations.
 - (5) The location of any existing bodies of water or watercourses, buildings, structures and other public or private facilities, including railroad tracks and facilities, and any other natural and man-made features affecting, or affected by, the proposed activity or development.
 - (6) The location of the floodplain boundary line, information and spot elevations concerning the 100-year flood elevations, and information concerning the flow of water including direction and velocities.

(7) The location of all proposed buildings, structures, utilities, and any other improvements.

(8) Any other information which the municipality considers necessary for adequate review of the application.

D. Plans of all proposed buildings, structures and other improvements, clearly and legibly drawn at suitable scale showing the following:

(1) Sufficiently detailed architectural or engineering drawings, including floor plans, sections, and exterior building elevations, as appropriate.

(2) For any proposed building, the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) and, as required, the elevation of any other floor.

(3) Complete information concerning flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces, and other factors associated with the 100-year flood.

(4) Detailed information concerning any proposed floodproofing measures.

(5) Cross section drawings for all proposed streets, drives, other accessways, and parking areas, showing all rights-of-way and pavement widths.

(6) Profile drawings for all proposed streets, drives, and vehicular accessways including existing and proposed grades.

(7) Plans and profiles of all proposed sanitary and storm sewer systems, water supply systems, and any other utilities and facilities.

E. The following data and documentation:

(1) Certification from the applicant that the site upon which the activity or development is proposed is an existing separate and single parcel, owned by the applicant or the client he represents.

(2) Certification from a registered professional engineer, architect, or landscape architect that the proposed construction has been adequately designed to protect against damage from the 100-year flood.

(3) A statement, certified by a registered professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or other qualified person which contains a complete and accurate description of the nature and extent of pollution that might possibly occur from the development during the course of a 100-year flood, including a statement concerning the effects such pollution may have on human life.

(4) A statement certified by a registered professional engineer, architect, or landscape architect, which contains a complete and accurate description of the effects the proposed development will have on 100-year flood elevations and flows.

(5) A statement, certified by a registered professional engineer, architect, or landscape architect, which contains a complete and accurate description of the kinds and amounts of any loose buoyant materials or debris that may possibly exist or be located on the site below the 100-year flood elevation and the effects such materials and debris may have on 100-year flood elevations and flows.

(6) The appropriate component of the Department of Environmental Protection's "Planning Module for Land Development."

(7) Where any excavation or grading is proposed, a plan meeting the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection to implement and maintain erosion and sedimentation control.

(8) Any other applicable permits such as, but not limited to, a permit for any activity regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection under §302 of Act 1978-166, 32 P.S. §679.302.

(9) An evacuation plan which fully explains the manner in which the site will be safely evacuated before or during the course of a 100-year flood.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §5.01)

~~§8-503.~~ **§8-603.** Application Review Procedures.

Upon receipt of an application for a special permit by Reading Township the following procedures shall apply in addition to those of Part 2:

A. Within 3 working days following receipt of the application, a complete copy of the application and all accompanying documentation shall be forwarded to the County Planning Commission by registered or certified mail for its review and recommendations. Copies of the application shall also be forwarded to Reading Township Planning Commission and Reading Township Engineer for review and comment.

B. If an application is received that is incomplete, Reading Township shall notify the applicant in writing, stating in what respect the application is deficient.

C. If Reading Township decides to disapprove an application, it shall notify the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for the disapproval.

D. If Reading Township approves an application, it shall file written notification, together with the application and all pertinent information, with the Department of Community and Economic Development, by registered or certified mail, within five working days after the date of approval.

E. Before issuing the special permit, Reading Township shall allow the Department of Community and Economic Development 30 days, after receipt of the notification by the Department, to review the application and decision made by Reading Township.

F. If Reading Township does not receive any communication from the Department of Community and Economic Development during the 30-day review period, it may issue a special permit to the applicant.

G. If the Department of Community and Economic Development should decide to disapprove an application, it shall notify Reading Township and the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for the disapproval, and Reading Township shall not issue the special permit.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §5.02)

~~§8-504.~~ **§8-604.** Special Technical Requirements.

1. In addition to the requirements of Part 4 of this Chapter, the following minimum requirements shall also apply to any proposed development requiring a special permit. If there is any conflict between any of the following requirements and those in Part 4 of

this Chapter or in any other code, ordinance, or regulation, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

2. No application for a special permit shall be approved unless it can be determined that the structure or activity will be located, constructed and maintained in a manner which will:

A. Fully protect the health and safety of the general public and any occupants of the structure. At a minimum, all new structures shall be designed, located, and constructed so that:

(1) The structure will survive inundation by waters of the 100-year flood without any lateral movement or damage to either the structure itself, or to any of its equipment or contents below the 100-year flood elevation.

(2) The lowest floor (including basement) elevation will be at least 1½ feet above the 100-year flood elevation.

(3) The occupants of the structure can remain inside for an indefinite period of time and be safely evacuated at any time during the 100-year flood. [Ord. 2008-7]

B. Prevent any significant possibility of pollution, increased flood levels or flows, or debris endangering life and property.

All hydrologic and hydraulic analyses shall be undertaken only by professional engineers or others of demonstrated qualifications, who shall certify that the technical methods used correctly reflect currently accepted technical concepts. Studies, analyses, computations, etc. shall be submitted in sufficient detail to allow a thorough technical review by Reading Township and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §5.03, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2009, §7)

~~Part 6~~ **Part 7**

Existing Structures in Identified Floodplain Areas

~~§8-601.~~ **§8-701.** Existing Structures.

The provisions of this Part do not require any changes or improvements to be made to lawfully existing structures. However, when an improvement is made to any existing structure, the provisions of §8-602 shall apply.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §6.00)

~~§8-602.~~ **§8-702.** Improvements.

The following provisions shall apply whenever any improvement is made to an existing structure located within any identified floodplain area:

- A. No expansion or enlargement of an existing structure shall be allowed within any floodway area that would cause any increase in the elevation of the 100-year flood.
- B. Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement, of any kind to an existing structure, to an extent or amount of 50 percent or more of its market value, shall constitute a substantial improvement and shall be undertaken only in full compliance with provisions of this Part.

The above activity shall also address the requirements of the 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and the 2003 IBC (§§3402.1 and 1612.4) and the 2003 IRC (§§R105.3.1.1 and 323.1.4).

- C. Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure, to an extent or amount of less than 50 percent of its market value, shall be elevated and/or floodproofed to the greatest extent possible.

D. Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind that meets the definition of "repetitive loss" shall be undertaken only in full compliance with the provisions of this Part.

- E. The requirements of 34 Pa.Code, Chapters 401-405, as amended, and the 2003 IRC (§§R102.7.1, R105.3.1, R105.3.1.1 and Appendices E and J) or the latest revision thereof and the 2003 IBC (§§101.3, 3403.1 and Appendix G) or the latest revision thereof shall also be utilized in conjunction with the provisions of this Section.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §6.01)

~~Part 7~~ **Part 8**

Variances

~~§8-701.~~ **§8-801.** General.

If compliance with any of the requirements of this Part would result in an exceptional hardship to a prospective builder, developer or landowner, Reading Township Board of Supervisors may, upon request, grant relief from the strict application of the requirements.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §7.00)

~~§8-702.~~ **§8-802.** Variance Procedures and Conditions.

Requests for variances shall be considered by Reading Township in accordance with the procedures contained in §8-212 and the following:

A. No variance shall be granted for any construction, development, use, or activity within any floodway area that would cause any increase in the 100-year flood elevation. [Ord. 2008-7]

B. No variance shall be granted for any construction, development, use, or activity within any FE (Special Floodplain Area) area that would, together with all other existing and anticipated development, increase the 100-year flood elevation more than 1 foot at any point. [Ord. 2008-7]

C. Except for a possible modification of the 1½ foot freeboard requirement involved, no variance shall be granted for any of the other requirements pertaining specifically to development regulated by special permit (Part 5) or to development which may endanger human life (§8-406).

D. If granted, a variance shall involve only the least modification necessary to provide relief.

E. In granting any variance, the (Township, Borough, etc.) shall attach whatever reasonable conditions and safeguards it considers necessary in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to achieve the objectives of this Part.

F. Whenever a variance is granted, Reading Township shall notify the applicant in writing that:

(1) The granting of the variance may result in increased premium rates for flood insurance.

(2) Such variances may increase the risks to life and property.

G. In reviewing any request for a variance, the Reading Township shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

(1) That there is good and sufficient cause.

(2) That failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant.

(3) That the granting of the variance will (i) neither result in an unacceptable or prohibited increase in flood heights, additional threats to public safety, or extraordinary public expense, (ii) nor create nuisances, cause fraud on, or victimize the public, or conflict with any other applicable State or local ordinances and regulations.

H. A complete record of all variance requests and related actions shall be maintained by Reading Township. In addition, a report of all variances granted during the year shall be included in the annual report to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. [*Ord. 2008-7*]

I. The property owner bears the burden of proof with respect to any variance application. [*Ord. 2008-7*]

Notwithstanding any of the above, however, all structures shall be designed and constructed so as to have the capability of resisting the 100-year flood.

(*Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §7.01, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2009, §§8-10*)

~~Part 8~~ **Part 9**

Definitions

~~§8-901.~~ **§8-901.** General.

Unless specifically defined below, words and phrases used in this Part shall be interpreted so as to give this Part its most reasonable application.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §8.00)

~~§8-902.~~ **§8-902.** Specific Definitions.

Accessory use or structure—a use or structure on the same lot with, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate to, the principal use or structure.

Base flood - a flood which has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also called the "100-year flood" or one-percent (1%) annual chance flood).

Base flood discharge - the volume of water resulting from a Base Flood as it passes a given location within a given time, usually expressed in cubic feet per second (cfs).

Base flood elevation (BFE) - the elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Zones AE, AH, A1-30 that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a 1-percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Basement—means any area of the building having its floor below ground level on all sides.

Building—a combination of materials to form a permanent structure having walls and a roof. Included shall be all manufactured homes and trailers to be used for human habitation.

Completely dry space—a space which will remain totally dry during flooding; the structure is designed and constructed to prevent the passage of water and water vapor.

Development—any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to the construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, expansion, or alteration of buildings or other structures; the placement of manufactured homes; streets, and other paving; utilities; filling, grading and excavation; mining; dredging; drilling operations; storage of equipment or materials; and the subdivision of land.

Existing manufactured home park or subdivision - a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construc-

tion of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision – the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

Essentially dry space—a space which will remain dry during flooding, except for the passage of some water vapor or minor seepage; the structure is substantially impermeable to the passage of water.

Flood—a temporary inundation of normally dry land areas.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) - the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Flood Insurance Study (FIS) - the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the Flood Insurance Rate Map, the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

Floodplain area—a relatively flat or low land area which is subject to partial or complete inundation from an adjoining or nearby stream, river or watercourse; and/or any area subject to the unusual and rapid accumulation of surface waters from any source.

Floodproofing—means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

Floodway—the designated area of a floodplain required to carry and discharge flood waters of a given magnitude. For the purposes of 100-year magnitude.

Historic structure—any structure that is:

- A. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the

National Register.

B. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district.

C. Individually listed on a State inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior.

D. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

(1) By an approved State program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in States without approved programs.

Highest Adjacent Grade: The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Identified floodplain area—the floodplain area specifically identified in this Part as being inundated by the 100-year flood.

Land development—any of the following activities:

(1) The improvement of one lot or two or more contiguous lots, tracts, or parcels of land for any purpose involving:

(a) A group of two or more residential or nonresidential buildings, whether proposed initially or cumulatively, or a single nonresidential building on a lot or lots regardless of the number of occupants or tenure.

(b) The division or allocation of land or space, whether initially or cumulatively, between or among two or more existing or prospective occupants by means of, or for the purpose of streets, common areas, leaseholds, condominiums, building groups or other features.

(2) A subdivision of land.

Lowest floor—the lowest floor of the lowest fully enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished, flood resistant partially enclosed area, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, and incidental storage, in an area other than a basement area is not considered the lowest floor of a building, provided that such space is not designed and built so that the structure is in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this Chapter.

Manufactured home—a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis, and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term includes park trailers, travel trailers, recreational and other similar vehicles which are placed on a site for more than 180 consecutive days.

Manufactured home park or subdivision—a parcel of land under single ownership, which has been planned and improved for the placement of two or more manufactured homes for non-transient use.

Minor repair—the replacement of existing work with equivalent materials for the purpose of its routine maintenance and upkeep, but not including the cutting away of

any wall, partition or portion thereof, the removal or cutting of any structural beam or bearing support, or the removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the exitway requirements; nor shall minor repairs include addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any standpipe, water supply, sewer, drainage, drain leader, gas, oil, waste, vent, or similar piping, electric wiring or mechanical or other work affecting public health or general safety.

~~New construction—structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after March 19, 2006. [Ord. 2008-7].~~ **structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after [effective start date of this floodplain management ordinance] and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. Any construction started after March 13, 2006 and before [effective start date of this floodplain management ordinance] is subject to the ordinance in effect at the time the permit was issued, provided the start of construction was within 180 days of permit issuance.**

***New manufactured home park or subdivision* – a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.**

One hundred year flood—a flood that, on the average, is likely to occur once every 100 years (i.e., that has 1 percent chance of occurring each year, although the flood may occur in any year).

Person—an individual, partnership, public or private association or corporation, firm, trust, estate, municipality, governmental unit, public utility or any other legal entity whatsoever, which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.

***Post-FIRM Structure* - is a structure for which construction or substantial improvement occurred after December 31, 1974 or on or after the community's initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated 06/15/1981, whichever is later, and, as such, would be required to be compliant with the regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program.**

***Pre-FIRM Structure* - is a structure for which construction or substantial improvement occurred on or before December 31,**

1974 or before the community's initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated 06/15/1981, whichever is later, and, as such, would not be required to be compliant with the regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Recreational vehicle—a vehicle which is (A) built on a single chassis; (B) not more than 400 square feet, measured at the largest horizontal projections; (C) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light-duty truck; (D) not designed for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

Regulatory flood elevation—the 100-year flood elevation plus a freeboard safety factor of 1½ feet.

Repetitive loss—flood related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damages occurred.

Special permit—a special approval which is required for hospitals, nursing homes, jails, and new manufactured home parks and subdivisions and substantial improvements to such existing parks, when such development is located in all, or a designated portion of, a floodplain.

Special flood hazard area (SFHA) - means an area in the floodplain subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. It is shown on the FIRM as Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, or, AH.

Start of construction - includes substantial improvement and other proposed new development and means the date the Permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days after the date of the permit and shall be completed within twelve (12) months after the date of issuance of the permit unless a time extension is granted, in writing, by the Floodplain Administrator. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufacture home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the

installation of streets and walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

Structure—anything constructed or erected on the ground or attached to the ground including, but not limited to buildings, sheds, manufactured homes fences, and other similar items. This term includes any man-made object having an ascertainable stationary location on or in land or water whether or not affixed to land.

Subdivision—the division or redivision of a lot, tract, or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for distribution to heirs, or devisees, transfer of ownership or building or lot development; provided, however, that the subdivision by lease of land for agricultural purposes into parcels of more than 10 acres, not involving any new street or easement of access or any residential dwelling, shall be exempted.

Substantial additions to mobile home parks—any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of an existing manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision, where such repair, reconstructions, or improvement of the streets, utilities, and pads will equal or exceed 50 percent of the value of the street utilities, and pads before the repair, reconstruction, or improvement is started. [Ord. 2008-7]

Substantial damage—damage from any cause sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceeds 50 percent or more of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. [Ord. 2008-7]

Substantial improvement—any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred repetitive loss regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- A. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or;
- B. Any alteration of a “historic structure,” provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a “historic structure.”

[Ord. 2008-7]

Uniform Construction Code (UCC)—the Statewide building code, as amended adopted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1999 applicable to new construction in all municipalities whether administered by the municipality, a third party or the Department of Labor and Industry. Applicable to residential and commercial buildings, The Code adopted The International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Building Code (IBC), by reference, as the construction standard applicable with the Commonwealth floodplain construction. For coordination purposes, references to the above are made specifically to various sections of the IRC and the IBC.

(Ord. 2006-1, 3/13/2006, §8.01, as amended by Ord. 2008-7, 11/17/2008, §11)

Variance- A grant of relief by a community from the terms of a floodplain management regulation.

Violation - means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in 44 CFR §60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.