

ARTICLE XVIII

SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 18.01 PURPOSE

The intent of this Article is to recognize that there are certain conditions concerning land uses that warrant specific exceptions, regulations or standards in addition to the requirements of the Zoning District in which they are permitted to be located.

SECTION 18.02 EXISTING USES OF LANDS, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The provisions of this Ordinance shall not be retroactive. At the discretion of the owners, the lawful use of any dwelling, building or structure, and of any land or premises as existing and lawful at the time of enactment of this Ordinance may be continued even though such use does not conform with the provisions of this Ordinance, or in the case of an amendment, then at the time of the amendment.

SECTION 18.03 SCOPE OF ORDINANCE

Except as provided by Sections 18.02 all land and premises shall be used, and all buildings and structures shall be located, erected and used in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance following the effective date herein.

SECTION 18.04 AREA LIMITATIONS

In conforming to land and yard requirements, no area shall be counted as accessory to more than one (1) dwelling or main building.

SECTION 18.05 DWELLING LOTS OR SITES

Every dwelling, cottage, cabin, occupied trailer coach or mobile home, erected outside of a mobile home or trailer coach park shall be located on a lot or site, and no more than one (1) such dwelling shall be erected on such lot or site, except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance.

SECTION 18.06 ACCESSORY BUILDING PROVISIONS

Accessory buildings, except as otherwise permitted in this Ordinance, shall be subject to the following regulations:

- A. Where the accessory building is structurally attached to a main building, it shall be subject to, and must conform to, all regulations of this Ordinance applicable to the main building.
- B. Accessory buildings shall not be erected in any required yard, except a rear yard.

- C. An accessory building not exceeding one (1) story or twenty (20) feet in height may occupy not more than twenty-five (25) percent of a required rear yard, plus forty (40) percent of any non-required rear yard.
- D. No detached accessory building shall be located closer than ten (10) feet to any main building nor shall it be located closer than fifteen (15) feet to any side or rear lot line. In those instances where the rear lot line is in common with an alley right-of-way the accessory building shall not be closer than five (5) feet to such rear lot line. In no instance shall an accessory building be located within a dedicated easement or right-of-way.
- E. No detached accessory building in the MDR, LDR, HDR, MFR, OSC and NSC districts shall exceed one (1) story of twenty (20) feet in height. Accessory buildings in all other districts may be constructed to equal the permitted maximum height of structures in said districts.
- F. When an accessory building is located on a corner lot, the side lot line which is substantially a continuation of the front lot line of the lot to its rear, said building shall not project beyond the front yard line required on the lot in the rear of such corner lot. When an accessory building is located on a corner lot, the side lot line of which is substantially a continuation of the side lot line of the lot to its rear, said building shall not project beyond the side yard line of the lot in the rear of such corner lot.
- G. An accessory building shall not be placed on any lot or parcel unless there is a principal building on the same lot or parcel. The following situations are exempt from this provision:
 - 1. An accessory building may be constructed on a parcel prior to the construction of a principal building so long as a permit has been obtained for the principal building and so long as construction on the principal building commences within six months of the issuance of the permit for the accessory building.
 - 2. Where a principal building is located on a lot smaller than 10,000 square feet in a platted subdivision, an accessory building may be constructed on a vacant lot within 300 feet of the lot on which the principal building is located so long as the two lots are placed in the same tax bill and an instrument is recorded prohibiting the separate sale of the accessory lot.
 - 3. An accessory building may remain on a parcel where the principal building has been removed so long as it remains in good repair, is used solely for residential storage and is not used for commercial any purpose.
 - 4. An agricultural use building as defined by the state building code is not an accessory building when located in a zoning district where agriculture is a permitted use. Such buildings can be considered a principal use.

SECTION 18.07 USE OF YARD SPACE

No yard surrounding a dwelling, building or structure utilized for dwelling purposes, except farm dwellings, shall be used, occupied or obstructed by accessory buildings or structures, either permanently or temporarily; provided however, that a side or rear yard may be used for the parking of not more than five (5) passenger automobiles in active service, and no yard surrounding a dwelling shall be used for the location, parking, disposition, storage, deposit, or dismantle in whole or in part of junked vehicles, machinery, second-hand building materials, or other discarded, disused or rubbish-like materials or structures.

SECTION 18.08 LOT-BUILDING RELATIONSHIP

Every building erected, altered, or moved shall be located on a lot as defined herein, and there shall be no more than one (1) principal building and its permitted accessory structures located on each lot.

SECTION 18.09 ACCESSORY BUILDING AS DWELLING

No building or structure on the same lot with a principal building shall be used for dwelling purposes, except as specifically permitted in this Ordinance.

SECTION 18.10 BASEMENT AS DWELLING

No basement structure shall be used for human occupancy unless a completed story is situated immediately above the basement structure and is used as a dwelling, except underground homes designed and built in accordance with the Construction Code in effect in the Township.

SECTION 18.11 DAMAGED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Any building that has been partially destroyed by fire or is in such a state of disrepair as to be uninhabitable and a hazard to the public health and safety shall either be entirely removed or repaired within twelve (12) months from the date of the occurrence of the damage.

SECTION 18.12 REQUIRED WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Shall meet the requirements established by the County Sanitation Code of the Department of Health.

SECTION 18.13 ACCESS TO A PUBLIC ROAD OR HIGHWAY

Any lot of record created prior to the effective date of this Ordinance without any frontage on a public road right-of-way shall not be occupied, except where access to a public road right-of-way is provided by a public or private easement or other right-of-way no less than sixty-six (66) feet in width.

SECTION 18.14 FRONTAGE ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ROAD OR HIGHWAY

In any zoning district, every use, building or structure established after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be on a lot or parcel that fronts upon a public or private road right-of-way that meets all of the requirements for road construction as specified by the County Road Commission. Also refer to the Township Ordinance which "Regulates the Construction, Maintenance and Use of Public and Private Roads and Streets within South Haven Township".
[1999]

SECTION 18.15 FENCES

A. VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTIONS

No fence, wall, hedge, screen, sign, structure, vegetation or planting shall be higher four (4) feet above road grade on any corner lot or parcel in any zoning district requiring front and side yards within the triangular area formed by the intersecting road right-of-way lines and a straight line joining the two road lines at points which are thirty (30) feet distant from the point of intersection, measured along the road right-of-way lines.

B. FENCES, WALLS AND SCREENS

1. The erection, construction, or alteration of any fence or other type of protective barrier shall be approved through permit by the Zoning Administrator as to their conforming to the requirements of the zoning districts wherein they are required because of land use development.
2. Fences in a RD and AR Districts are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance, except when required for specific principal or accessory uses and special uses.
3. Any existing fence not in conformance with this Ordinance shall not be altered or modified, except to make it more conforming.
4. Fences which are not specifically required otherwise under the regulations for the individual zoning districts, shall conform to the following requirements:
 - a. No fence shall hereafter be erected along the line dividing lots or parcels of land or located within any required side or rear yard in excess of six (6) feet in height above the grade of the surrounding land, except as provided in Section 18.15, B, 4, c.
 - b. Barbed wire, spikes, nails or any other sharp point or instrument of any kind on top or on the sides of any fence, electric current or charge in said fences is prohibited. Barbed wire cradles may be placed on top of fences enclosing public utility buildings or whenever deemed necessary in the interests of public safety.

- c. In an "I" Industrial District and "HC" Heavy Commercial District, no fence shall exceed twelve (12) feet in height. In an "CSC" Community Service Commercial District, no fence shall exceed eight (8) feet in height.
- d. Fences on all lots in MDR, LDR, HDR, and MFR Residential Districts which extend toward the front of the lot, within twenty-five (25) feet of the right-of-way line, shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.
- e. No fence or structure shall be erected, established or maintained on any corner lot except as provided in Section 18.15, A.
- f. Fences shall be constructed of materials commonly used in conventional fence construction, such as wood, vinyl or plastic, and metal. All fences shall be constructed with posts imbedded in the ground and horizontal top bar securely fastened.
- g. Exempt Fences: Temporary snow fences shall be exempt from these regulations so long as they are removed in the spring. Garden fences of a decorative nature shall also be exempt.

C. WALLS AND PROTECTIVE SCREENING

In order to provide adequate protective screening for residential areas adjacent to or near nonresidential areas, the following regulations shall apply:

- 1. Where a OSC, NSC, CSC, HSC, HC and I District abuts directly upon an MDR, LDR, HDR, and MFR residentially zoned district, or residentially used property in any district, a landscaped greenbelt as defined below, shall be provided and maintained along its entire length by the users of the said business, commercial, or industrial zoned property. In addition, the latter mentioned districts shall be screened from such contiguous, residentially zoned district by either a building which houses a permitted use, or else by a solid masonry wall four (4) to six (6) feet in height above grade, between said greenbelt area and the business, commercial or industrial use. Such greenbelt shall be a strip of land not less than twenty (20) feet in width which is planted and maintained with evergreens such as spruce, pines or firs from 5 to 6 feet in height, so as to create a permanent buffer; or a hedge of evergreens not less than four (4) feet in height, so as to create a permanent buffer. These plants shall be planted and shall reach such required height within five (5) years of approval of the site plan or development by the Township. The remainder of the landscaped area which is not planted with the aforementioned stock shall be in well-kept lawn. All landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition, neat and orderly in appearance. Such walls for shielding off-street parking or storage areas shall not be required when such areas are located more than 200 feet from such abutting residential use or district.

2. Required walls shall be located up to the property line, except as otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.
3. Required walls shall have no openings for vehicular traffic or other purposes, except as otherwise approved by the Planning Commission. Masonry walls, however, may be constructed with small dispersed openings which do not collectively exceed twenty (20) percent of the wall surface in area. The arrangements of such openings shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator.
4. The Planning Commission may require an alternative type of visual screen in lieu of the masonry wall specified in C.1. above, if it is determined that another type of screen would be more in keeping with the character of the residential area being screened. *[amended 2020]*

SECTION 18.16 ROAD CLOSURES

Whenever any road, alley, or other public way is vacated by official action, the zoning district adjoining each side of such public way shall automatically be extended to the center of such vacation, and all area included therein shall henceforth be subject to all appropriate regulations of that district within which such area is located.

SECTION 18.17 HEIGHT REGULATIONS

The height requirements established by this Ordinance shall apply uniformly in each zoning district to every building and structure except that the following structures and appurtenances shall be exempt from the height requirements of this Ordinance: spires, belfries, penthouses and domes not used for human occupancy, chimneys, ventilators, skylights, water tanks, bulkheads, utility poles, power lines, radio, television and other communication broadcasting and receiving antennae not directly linked to residential structures, silos, wind-driven electricity generators, parapets and other necessary mechanical appurtenances; provided, their location shall conform where applicable to the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission, other public authorities having jurisdiction and any regulations established by authorized federal state, county and township agencies. Any proposed structure greater than thirty-five (35) feet in height shall be referred to the Airport Board for review and recommendation prior to approval.

SECTION 18.18 *RESERVED*

SECTION 18.19 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- A. This shall include the erection, construction, alteration or maintenance by public utilities, municipal departments, or other governmental agencies of underground or overhead gas, electrical communication, steam, or water transmission or distribution systems or collection, supply or disposal systems; including electric power stations, relay stations, gas regulator stations, pumping stations, poles, wires, mains, drains, sewers, pipes, conduits, cables, towers, fire alarm boxes, police or other call boxes, traffic signals,

hydrants and other similar facilities, equipment and accessories in connection therewith reasonably necessary for furnishing adequate service by such utilities or agencies, or for the public health or safety or general welfare; but not including offices and buildings or yards used for bulk storage, fabrication, or manufacture of materials used by such utilities or municipal departments or other governmental agencies. No such building constructed as a part of an essential service, shall be used for human occupancy.

- B. The surface of land used for pipeline right-of-ways shall be restored and maintained as near as possible to its original conditions prior to the construction of the pipeline.
- C. Essential services may be located in all districts and shall meet the requirements of the District in which they are located for all buildings, structures and areas used for offices, power generators, power transformers, storage, fabrication or manufacture of materials necessary to the provision of essential services.

SECTION 18.20 PRIVATE POOLS, JACUZZIES AND HOT TUBS

(whole section amended 10-2023)

Private pools, jacuzzies and hot tubs are permitted as an accessory use, provided they meet the following requirements:

- A. A pool is defined as any body of water having a depth of twenty-four (24) inches or more of water at any one point.
- B. There shall be a distance of not less than twenty (20) feet between the adjoining property line and outside of the pool wall, jacuzzies or hot tub.
- C. There shall be a distance of not less than five (5) feet between the outside of the pool, not including jacuzzies or hot tubs, wall and any building located on the same lot.
- D. No pool, jacuzzies or hot tub shall be located less than fifty (50) feet from any front lot line.
- E. If electrical service drop conductors or other utility wires cross under or over a proposed pool area, the applicant shall make satisfactory arrangements with the utility involved for the relocation of wires before a permit shall be issued for the construction of a pool.
- F. No pool, jacuzzies or hot tub shall be located in an easement.
- G. An in-ground pool, in-ground jacuzzies or in-ground hot tub area shall be completely enclosed by a fence not less than four (4) feet in height with a self-closing and self-latching gate. However, if the entire premises or yard with the pool is enclosed with a four (4) feet or higher fence, then another fence is not required around the pool, jacuzzies or hot tub.

- H. A fence is not required to enclose the pool area of an above-ground pool, but the pool must be equipped with a removable ladder.
- I. A fence is not required to enclose an above ground jacuzzies or hot tub area, but shall be covered with a latch and lockable top.

SECTION 18.21 HOME OCCUPATIONS

Home occupations shall be permitted in all detached single family residential dwellings and include such customary home occupations as: hairdressing, millinery, dressmaking, bookkeeping and accounting service, real estate and insurance sales; professional office and other similar occupations and other home occupations including incidental retail sales not to exceed 25% of the gross sales of the business, legally operating in detached single family homes at the time of adoption of this Zoning Ordinance.

- A. The non-residential use shall be only incidental to the primary residential use.
- B. The occupation shall utilize no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the ground floor or basement floor area of the principal structure or an accessory building.
- C. Only normal domestic or household equipment and equipment characteristic of small workshops, businesses and professional offices shall be used to accommodate the home occupation.
- D. The home occupation shall involve no employees other than members of the immediate family.
- E. All activities shall be carried on indoors. No outdoor activities or storage shall be permitted.
- F. No alterations, additions, or changes to a principal structure which will change the residential character of the dwelling structure shall be permitted in order to accommodate or facilitate a home occupation.
- G. There shall be no external evidence of such occupations, except a small announcement sign not to exceed two (2) square feet in area in an MDR, LDR, HDR, and MFR District, and ten (10) square feet in area shall be permitted in the RD and AR Districts and is not required to be attached to the principal structure.
- H. The permission for home occupations as provided herein is intended to secure flexibility in the application of the requirements of this Ordinance; but such permission is not intended to allow the essential residential character of Residential Districts, in terms of use and appearance, to be changed by the occurrence of home occupations.

- I. Retail sales are permitted as a home occupation provided they meet the requirements of the above. Section A-H and the provisions of Article XV, "Special Uses."

SECTION 18.22 TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Temporary buildings and structures, including mobile homes, tool cribs, storage trailers, shipping containers and informational, for sale and similar signs are permitted during the period of construction and sales involving change of ownership or rental occupancy. Such buildings, structures and signs shall be removed upon completion or abandonment of construction, sale or rental activities and prior to occupancy and use of the building or structure for permitted uses. Prior to the issuance of a permit for temporary buildings and structures the applicant must deposit to the credit of the Township a removal performance guarantee, cash or check deposit or a letter of credit from an incorporated financial institution or bonding company licensed to do business in the State of Michigan. The removal performance guarantee shall be based upon a firm bid by a licensed contractor subject to the discretion of the Zoning Administrator or the Township Supervisor. Temporary signs having an area of less than 24 sq.ft. shall be excluded from this provision.

[text amended 1999 and 2010]

SECTION 18.23 SOLID WASTE RECEPTACLE AREAS

Truck-lifted or transported receptacle areas: all such receptacle areas shall be enclosed by a six (6) foot high wooden or masonry wall to prevent the unsightly deposit or collection of solid waste and prevent children and pets from having access to these areas.

SECTION 18.24 EXTERIOR LIGHTING

All sources of lighting for parking areas or for the external illumination of buildings or grounds or for the illumination of signs, shall be directed away from and shall be shielded from adjacent residential districts, and shall also be so arranged as to not affect driver visibility adversely on adjacent public roads and highways. Lighting of parking areas is required when the number of parking spaces is more than five (5).

SECTION 18.25 DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES AND GATES

In driveway entrances or gateway structures; including, but not limited to, walls, columns and gates marking driveway entrances to private or public uses may be permitted; and may be located in a required yard, except as provided in Section 18.15 "Visibility at Intersections," provided that such entranceway structures shall comply with all codes and ordinances of the Township and County and shall be approved by the Zoning Administrator.

SECTION 18.26 FRONTAGE ACCESS ROADS OR SERVICE DRIVES

Ingress and egress from frontage access, shared driveways, private roads, or service roads for all uses permitted in all zoning districts fronting on M-43, M-140, Blue Star Highway and Phoenix Road (CR388) shall be required in order to promote efficient use of thoroughfares and to decrease hazardous traffic conditions, the following regulations shall apply to the use of all land fronting upon these major thoroughfares, except for existing uses located upon existing lots and parcels. If there are limited prospects for immediate development of adjacent lots or parcels, the Township Board may upon request from an applicant require the posting of an acceptable financial guarantee from the applicant equal to the amount of the estimated cost of the frontage access road. However, upon the application for development and use of an adjacent lot or parcel having the same or connecting frontage, the applicant will be required to build the frontage access road. *[amended 2017]*

- A. Connecting service roads shall be required between parking areas on adjacent land uses.
- B. Owners of all property shall submit to the Township a properly executed and witnessed license agreement which gives the Township Board the authority to open and close service roads and driveways whenever necessary in order to guarantee to the satisfaction of the Township Board a safe and efficient movement to traffic. The said license shall be recorded in the office of the County Register of Deeds. Acceptance of the said license shall, in no way, obligate the Township to build, repair, maintain or clear the said service roads or parking areas and no public funds may be spent by the Township Board to build, repair, maintain, or close the said service roads and/or parking areas. The intent of this subsection is to allow the Township to enforce its traffic ordinance or promote traffic safety on the said service roads and parking areas, and otherwise facilitate the safe and efficient movement of traffic thereon.
- C. No less than two (2) driveways at least 20 feet in width shall be available to such coordinated parking areas and service road systems; provided that said driveways shall be at least 300 feet apart and have appropriate designated acceleration and deceleration lanes; provided further, this requirement may be waived by the Township Planning Commission where the needs of a particular use do not require it and when traffic hazards will not be increased by such a waiver.
- D. All requirements shall apply only to the full width of the developed portion of a lot or parcel or when developed adjacent to an existing use. The purpose of this subsection is to minimize the length of service roads in relation to the actual developed area of a lot or parcel and the number of parking spaces, and to promote their construction as they are needed.
- E. Parking lots, driveways and service roads shall at least be surfaced with processed road gravel and maintained in a usable dust free condition.
- F. Parking area layout shall follow standards prescribed in this Ordinance.

5. Only easily removeable signs are allowed. No sign shall be placed to cause sight obstruction for traffic.
 6. Any lighting shall be directed and controlled so as not to create a nuisance to neighboring property.
 7. Clean up agreement shall state the site will be cleaned up and all waste removed after the event.
 8. For temporary events involving the preparation of food, the applicant shall present a valid Van Buren County Health permit for the specific use, valid for the time period applied for.
- C. Any application for a Temporary-Use event that the Zoning Administrator qualifies is of such a nature to exceed the requirements in this Section will be directed to the Planning Commission for review and approval.

18.28.1 Temporary-Use Dwellings

The Zoning Administrator may issue a permit for the use of a recreational vehicle, mobile home, or a building as a temporary dwelling during the construction or rehabilitation of a primary residence, subject to the following regulations:

1. A zoning and building permit have been obtained for rehabilitation or a permanent dwelling.
2. The temporary dwelling shall not be located in any required setback area.
3. The temporary dwelling shall only be occupied by the owner of the property or an employee of the owner of the property.
4. Sanitary waste shall be disposed of properly. In no case shall waste be disposed of on the ground or in a body of water (stream creek, pond, lake) temporary dwelling being used during rehabilitation shall be hooked to existing well and septic systems, approved by the Van Buren County Health Department or public water, sewer department.
5. Temporary dwelling may be used for a period of time to not exceed 12 months. The Zoning Administrator may permit an extension to not exceed 6 months if:
 - a. temporary dwelling is connected to septic and well or public water, sewer
 - b. the permanent dwelling or rehabilitation shall be substantially under construction
 - c. the reason for extension is due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the owner
6. Other than a recreational vehicle or mobile home, a building shall meet minimum safety standard under the Building Code, including but not limited to: approved smoke detection, approved egress window/door, approved sanitation (bathroom facilities, kitchen facilities)

SECTION 18.29 *RESERVED*

SECTION 18.30 *RESERVED*

SECTION 18.31 *RESERVED (Amended 10-2023)*

SECTION 18.32 **BUILDING GRADES**

The finished surface of the ground areas outside the walls of any building constructed or altered shall be so designed that surface waters shall flow away from the building walls in such a direction and collection that inconvenience or damage to adjacent properties shall not occur.

SECTION 18.33 MOVING BUILDINGS

Buildings may not be relocated within or moved into the Township unless the building design and construction are compatible with the general architectural character of other structures located in the immediate area of the proposed site. Permits shall be required from the Zoning Administrator for such buildings to be moved.

SECTION 18.34 TELEVISION SATELLITE RECEIVING DISHES

All television satellite receiving dishes are designated accessory uses to the principal uses permitted on each lot or parcel in each respective zoning district, and are governed by the same requirements as any other accessory use permitted in each zoning district. Satellite dishes shall not be located in the front yard of the principal structure.

SECTION 18.35 USE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES TO TEMPORARILY DELAY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

If in the judgment of the Planning Commission, during the course of Site Plan Review Procedures, it appears prudent to permit the delay of constructing certain provisions as required in this Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission may grant such a delay to a specific future date provided that the applicant/owner submits a satisfactory performance guarantee to the Township Board. The performance guarantee shall remain in effect prior to or coincident with the issuance of the zoning permit and shall remain in effect until the requirements so delayed are fully completed and approved by the Zoning Administrator.

SECTION 18.36 HOUSEHOLD PETS

Small domesticated household pets, such as dogs, cats and birds are limited to the maximum number existing in dwelling units in the Township which is generally no more than two (2); however, if more than 2 are desired, as long as all other county, State and Federal laws are complied with, and an additional area of land equal to one-sixth (1/6) acre per animal is provided, additional domesticated household pets will be permitted up to a maximum of four (4), except that there shall be no limit on such pets in the RD and AR Zoning Districts on lots or parcels of five (5) acres or more. Small caged birds and animals, such as parakeets, canaries, gerbils, white mice, guinea pigs, etc., which are kept only as household or family pets shall be excluded from this limitation.

SECTION 18.37 NON-COMMERCIAL DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Large domestic animals which are used essentially for pet, contest, riding, educational or other special purpose as individual animal specimens are permitted at the rate of one (1) on a minimum of three (3) acres for the first animal and one (1) acre for each additional animal are permitted in RD, AR, MDR, and LDR Districts.

SECTION 18.38 MOBILE HOME AS AN ACCESSORY USE FOR THE SICK AND THE INDIGENT

Mobile homes shall be permitted on lots and parcels upon which a single family dwelling is located for the purpose of housing the sick and indigent relatives of the family occupying the principal single family dwelling located on the same lot or parcel, providing the following conditions are met:

- A. The lot has a principal single family dwelling located upon it.
- B. The lot is a legal lot of record.
- C. The occupants have direct family relationship to those persons occupying the principal dwelling.
- D. The occupants have a need as determined by their acquisition of a physician's certification prescribing the need for such housing during the period of illness or infirmity.
- E. Mobile homes used for this purpose shall be limited to only one (1) per single family residential lot or one (1) per each forty (40) acres of a farm parcel.
- F. Mobile homes used for this purpose shall have immediate and unlimited access to all facilities located in the principal dwelling on the farm or single family residential lot for the maintenance of proper health and sanitation, including potable water and sanitary disposal facilities for solid and liquid wastes.
- G. All accessory mobile homes shall be located within the appropriate setback lines for the yard in which they are located, except that no accessory mobile home shall be located in a front yard of a principal dwelling.
- H. Zoning Permits shall be approved by the Planning Commission and reviewed annually thereafter for continued need and compliance.
- I. Zoning Permits issued for such use shall terminate at such time that any one or combination of the above conditions cease to be met.

SECTION 18.39 CROSS-SECTIONS AND FLOOR AREA REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING STRUCTURES

All single family dwelling structures located outside of Mobile Home Parks, shall have at least one (1) cross-section through the dwelling structure which is at least twelve (12) feet wide and shall have at least one (1) portion of the ground floor having a twelve (12) foot by twenty-four (24) foot area in all Districts.

SECTION 18.40 *Reserved*

SECTION 18.41 SETBACKS FROM ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Setbacks from M-43, M-140, and CR-388 (Phoenix Road) shall be at least fifty (50) feet and setbacks for all other roads shall be at least thirty-five (35) feet, or as specified in the Master Plan for Roads and Highways, whichever is the greater. The right-of-way width of the Blue Star Memorial Highway shall be established for zoning purposes at 120 feet, and all required setbacks in those portions of the Blue Star Memorial Highway which exceed 120 feet in width shall only be required to set back 110 feet from the centerline of the Blue Star Memorial Highway, except that in no case shall any buildings or structures be located in any portion of the Blue Star Memorial Highway right-of-way regardless of its width in excess of the 120 feet prescribed for it by this section.

SECTION 18.42 AIRPORT ZONING REQUIREMENTS

When an "Airport Approach and Take-off Plan" is prepared for the South Haven Airport it shall be made a part of this Zoning Ordinance. It shall govern the heights of all building structures, trees and the land, building and structural uses and activities located upon all lots and parcels affected by the "Airport Approach and Take-off Plan" which would obstruct the air space required for the safe flight of aircraft on landing or taking off at the airport or is otherwise hazardous or creates hazards to such safe landing or taking off of aircraft as determined by the South Haven Airport Authority. See Article XIVA, "Airport Overlay District."

SECTION 18.43 LAND DIVISIONS

All land divisions shall be made in accordance with Ordinance No. 49, South Haven Charter Township Subdivision Ordinance. Land divisions involving more than two (2) resultant lots or parcels and which would create land-locked lots or parcels shall not be permitted unless a sixty-six (66) foot wide road easement is provided to the otherwise land-locked lots or parcels.

SECTION 18.44 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS

All public and private roads in South Haven Township shall be regulated by Ordinance No. 33, and entitled as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS AND STREETS, THE USE THEREOF, THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS AND STREETS, WITHIN SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP, THE APPROVAL OR ROAD CONSTRUCTION, TO PROVIDE FOR AND REGULATE PERMANENT ACCESS EASEMENTS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AGREEMENTS FOR USE, SECURITY FOR CONSTRUCTION, AND FEES TO DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS INCIDENT THERETO."

SECTION 18.45. GUEST HOUSES.

One single-family guest house may be located on any parcel in the AR, LDR, MDR and HDR districts provided that the parcel shall contain no less than 1.5 times the minimum width and area. Each guest house shall be located at least thirty (30) feet from the principal structure, be built at least to the same construction code standards as the principal structure, and additionally shall meet the following provisions: *[amended 2017]*

- A. A guest house shall be used only by members of the family occupying the principal residential structure located on a lot or parcel, including the following:
 - 1. Blood related members of the family occupying the principal dwelling;
 - 2. Legally adopted members of the family occupying the principal dwelling;
 - 3. Other family members as included in the definition family contained within this ordinance.
- B. Household servants, property caretakers and nursing and other professionals and paraprofessionals retained to assist members of the family occupying the principal dwelling.
- C. High school and college exchange students for the period of time they qualify as exchange students.
- D. Occasional and temporary guests of the family occupying the principal dwelling, whose stays shall not exceed thirty (30) days out of each calendar year unless a Temporary Transient Use permit is granted in accordance with Section 18.28 of this Ordinance. The site plan review provision of Section 18.28 does not apply.
- E. At no time shall a guest house be considered a separate dwelling unit. A guest house shall not be used for income purposes, and no monthly or other time period rental or lease agreement or monetary charge for occupancy shall be permitted, except as provided by definition of family contained in this Ordinance.
- F. The construction of a guest house shall meet all applicable requirements for accessory buildings. Additionally, a guest house shall have a minimum floor area of at least six hundred eighty (680) square feet, but not more than fifty (50) percent of the floor area of the principal dwelling.
- G. Each guest house shall be provided with emergency vehicle access which has been reviewed and approved by the authorized fire code official.

[section 18.45 added 1996]

SECTION 18.46 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

These provisions are adopted to satisfy the requirements of P.A. 177 of 2001 (commonly referred to as the Open Space Preservation Act). The Act requires that qualified townships provide for the

clustering of residential units on property provided that fifty percent (50%) or more of the land is preserved in permanent open space in those districts that have a density of three (3) units per acre or less (with public sewer) or two (2) units per acre or less (without public sewer). The clustering must be at the option of the land owner, but the Township retains authority to establish minimum standards applicable to clustered developments.

- A. In those residential zoned districts where the minimum lot size is 21,780 square feet or greater without municipal sewer and water, a land owner may choose to apply for a land division(s), plat or site condominium under the Open Space Preservation option described below. Provided that no more than the same number of dwelling units allowed on the entire land area of the tract, under the existing South Haven Township zoning district regulations, State laws and rules, may be created.
- B. To qualify for an Open Space Preservation land division, plat or site condominium option the land owner must:
 - 1. Sign and record an Open Space Preservation Agreement in the form of a conservation easement, plat dedication, deed, covenant or other legal document that runs with the land and is approved by the South Haven Township Board, whereby the land owner shall agree that at least 50% of the land owner's property shall remain in a perpetual undeveloped state. An "undeveloped state" shall mean; a natural state preserving natural resources, natural features, or scenic wooded conditions, agricultural use, open space; or a similar use or condition. Land in an undeveloped state does not include a golf course but may include a recreational trail, picnic area, children's play area, greenway, or linear park. Land in an undeveloped state may be, but is not required to be, dedicated to the use of the public.
 - 2. If the property is not served by a municipal sewer system, then before any divisions under one (1) acre in area are approved the land owner must obtain individual septic system permits from the County Health Department for non-mounded septic systems on each proposed lot. A State and County approved common septic system is an acceptable option with the approval of the Township Board, so long as the common septic system is not located in areas included within the required open space.
 - 3. No exercise of the Open Space Preservation option shall be effective until the Township Board has approved the document(s) required by this subsection, and these have been filed and are of record with the County Register of Deeds.
 - 4. All land divisions proposed under the Open Space Preservation option are subject to the Site Plan Review provisions of this ordinance.
- C. Minimum Lot Requirements.
Under the Open Space Preservation option, the minimum lot requirements shall be as follows:
 - 1. MINIMUM LOT WIDTH – shall be 80% of the minimum lot width required under the zoning ordinance for the zoning district.

For lots fronting on roads and highways identified in Section 18.41, if a private road or access drive would have been required under the ordinance than a private road or access drive shall be required for access to each created lot.

FOR CORNER LOTS, 80% OF THE MINIMUM LOT WIDTH – shall be met on both street frontages.

2. MINIMUM LOT DEPTH – shall be at least 100 feet excluding any right-of-way easement.
3. MINIMUM LOT AREA – shall be at least half the area required for the zoning district.
4. MAXIMUM LOT COVERAGE – shall be 35%.

D. Application

All applications for an Open Space Preservation option land division must be accompanied by a surveyor's drawing showing a layout of building sites which meet the ordinance requirements without applying the Open Space Preservation option. This shall be done in order to demonstrate that the number of sites shown on the application does not exceed the number that could be permitted without applying the Open Space Preservation option.

1. PLATS – Applicant shall inform the Township Clerk in writing at the time of application for tentative approval of the preliminary plat if the land owner chooses to exercise the Open Space Preservation option.
2. SITE CONDOMINIUMS – Applicant shall indicate on the Zoning Application form when submitting the preliminary site plan to the Zoning Administrator if the land owner chooses to exercise the Open Space Preservation option.
3. EXEMPT DIVISIONS UNDER THE STATE LAND DIVISION ACT – Applicant shall indicate on the Land Division Application form when submitting the application to the Zoning Administrator if the land owner chooses to exercise the Open Space Preservation option.

E. MANDATORY INCLUSION OF EXISTING REGULATED FLOODPLAINS, SAND DUNES, HIGH RISK EROSION AREAS, WETLANDS, AREAS UNDER OPEN WATERS, AND DRAINAGE RAVINES IN THE PRESERVATION OPEN SPACE.

The inclusion of existing regulated floodplains, wetlands, sand dunes, high risk erosion areas, areas of open water and drainage ravines in developable lots created under this Open Space Preservation section is hereby prohibited except where over 50% of the parent parcel is composed of such areas. When over 50% of the parent parcel contains such environmentally sensitive areas all proposed land divisions shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission which shall ensure that no more than the minimum impact possible is approved. Applications for land divisions which include regulated floodplains, wetlands, open water, sand dunes and high risk erosion areas shall include review(s) by the appropriate divisions(s) of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
[Section 18.46 effective January 1, 2003]

SECTION 18.47 CEMETERIES, COLUMBARIUM CREMATORIES AND/OR MAUSOLEUMS

- A. Cemeteries and mausoleums are permitted in the Township. A Zoning Permit is required for establishment of a cemetery.
- B. No cemetery shall be established unless the water table is demonstrated to consistently exceed six (6) feet below grade. Proof shall consist of a map prepared by a professional hydrologist or hydrogeologist containing that person's professional seal.
- C. The minimum lot or parcel size shall be five (5) acres.
- D. A ten (10) foot wide buffer zone containing screening plant materials is required adjacent to all exterior lot lines adjacent to residential uses.
- E. All facilities for ground burial areas of the site shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Van Buren County Health Department and the State of Michigan.
- F. Crematories are permitted in the I (Industrial) district as an accessory use to a cemetery. Crematories are permitted in the CSC (Community Service Commercial) district as an accessory use to a funeral home. *[Section 18.47 effective January 1, 2009]*

SECTION 18.48 ON-SITE USE WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS LESS THAN 65 FEET IN HEIGHT.

An On-Site Use wind energy system is intended to serve an individual property only. On-Site Use Wind Energy Systems (including Anemometer Towers) with no towers or with tower height(s) less than 100 feet shall be a permitted use in all zoning classifications subject to the following regulations:

- A. A Zoning Permit Application shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator with a scaled site plan demonstrating compliance with these regulations.
- B. Property Setbacks: The distance between an On-Site Use Wind Energy System and the owner's property lines (and road right-of-way lines) shall be at least 1.1 times the height of the wind energy system structure including the blade in its vertical position. No portion of the structure, including guy wire anchors, shall extend closer than ten feet to the property line.
- C. Construction Codes, Towers, and Interconnection Standards: On-Site Use Wind Energy Systems including towers shall comply with all applicable state construction and electrical codes and building permit requirements. On-Site Use Wind Energy Systems including towers shall comply with Federal Aviation Administration requirements, the Michigan Airport Zoning Act (Public Act 23 of 1950, MCL 259.431 et seq.), the Michigan Tall Structures Act (Public Act 259 of 1959, MCL 259.481 et seq.), and Article

XIVA. AOA Airport Overlay Zone regulations. An interconnected On-Site Use wind energy system shall comply with Michigan Public Service Commission and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission standards. Off-grid systems are exempt from this last requirement.

- D. Safety: An On-Site Use wind energy system shall have automatic braking, governing, or a feathering system to prevent uncontrolled rotation or over speeding. All wind towers shall have lightning protection. If a tower is supported by guy wire anchors, the wires shall be clearly visible at a height of at least six feet above the guy wire anchors. The minimum vertical blade tip clearance from grade shall be 10 feet for a wind energy system employing a horizontal axis rotor.
[section 18.48 effective May 2009 amended December 2011]

SECTION 18.49 SOLAR PANELS (FOR PRIVATE USE).

The use of solar energy systems for private use may be permitted by right provided it complies with applicable County, State and Federal regulations and safety requirements, including the Michigan Building Code and the following requirements. A building permit shall be required for the installation of any Private Solar Energy Systems.

- A. Ground Mounted Private Solar Energy Systems
1. Up to 1,200 square feet of ground mounted Solar Energy System may be permitted to locate on a parcel as an accessory structure.
 2. A ground mounted Solar Energy System shall be located in the rear yard and shall meet the rear yard setback requirements applicable in the zoning district in which the Solar Energy System will be located.
 3. Ground mounted Solar Energy System shall be regulated as an accessory structure and shall meet all applicable accessory building requirements and limitations of the ordinance (see Section 18.06) and together with all other structures on the property shall not exceed the maximum lot coverage of the zoning district.
 4. No ground mounted Solar Energy System shall be permitted to exceed a height of fifteen (15) feet.
 5. All power transmission or other lines, wires or conduits from a ground mounted Solar Energy System to any building or other structure shall be located underground. If batteries are used as part of the ground mounted Solar Energy System, they must be placed in a secured container or enclosure.
 6. There shall be greenbelt screening around any ground mounted Solar Energy System and equipment associated with the system to obscure, to the greatest extent possible, the Solar Energy System from any adjacent residences. The greenbelt shall consist of shrubbery, trees, or other non-invasive, plant species that provide a visual screen. In lieu of a planting greenbelt, a decorative fence (meeting the requirements of this Ordinance applicable to fences) may be used.
 7. In the event that a ground mounted Solar Energy System has been abandoned (meaning not having been in operation for a period of one (1) year, it shall be removed by the property owner within six (6) months from the date of abandonment.

B. Roof or Building Mounted Private Solar Energy Systems

1. Shall be considered an accessory use in all zoning districts subject to the requirements of this section.
2. Shall not project more than two (2) feet above the roof line. However, the solar panel when installed shall not exceed the maximum height allowed in the Zoning District. The use of flat mount solar panels or solar shingles is preferred.
3. May be constructed on any roof surface of an existing structure.
4. Shall not be located within three (3) feet of any peak, eave or valley to maintain adequate accessibility.
5. In the event that a roof or building mounted Solar Energy System has been abandoned (meaning not having been in operation for a period of one (1) year, it shall be removed by the property owner within six (6) months form the date of abandonment.