

SECTION V. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

V. SIGNS

1. Findings, Purpose, and Intent.

- a. Findings. Douglas County Alexandria Township hereby finds as follows:
 - (1.) Exterior signs have a substantial impact on the character and quality of the community.
 - (2.) Signs provide an important medium through which individuals may convey a variety of messages.
 - (3.) Signs can create traffic hazards, aesthetic concerns, and detriments to property values, thereby threatening the public health, safety, and welfare.

2. Purpose and Intent. It is not the purpose or intent of these sign standards to regulate the message displayed on any sign; nor is it the purpose or intent of this Ordinance to regulate any building design or any display not defined as a sign, or any sign which cannot be viewed from the outside of a building. The purpose and intent of this Section is to:

- a. Regulate the number, location, size, type, illumination, and other physical characteristics of signs within the County in order to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.
- b. Maintain, enhance, and improve the aesthetic environment of the County by preventing visual clutter that is harmful to the appearance of the community.
- c. Improve the visual appearance of the CountyTownship while providing for effective means of communication, consistent with constitutional guarantees and the CountyTownship's goals of public safety and aesthetics.
- d. Allow a wide variety of sign types in commercial zones, and a more limited variety of signs in other zones, subject to the standards set forth in this sign ordinance.
- e. Allow certain small, unobtrusive signs incidental to the principal use of a site in all zones when in compliance with the requirements of this sign ordinance.
- f. Prohibit signs whose location, size, type, illumination or other physical characteristics negatively affect the environment and where the communication can be accomplished by means having a lesser impact on the environment and the public health, safety and welfare.
- g. Provide for fair and consistent enforcement of the sign regulations set forth herein under the zoning authority of the CountyTownship.

3. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this Sign Ordinance, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Abandoned sign - any sign and/or its supporting sign structure which remains without a message or whose display surface remains blank for a period of one (1) year or more, or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which no longer applies, shall be deemed to have been abandoned. Signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change in ownership or management of such business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of one (1) year or more. Any sign remaining after demolition of a principal structure shall be deemed to be abandoned. Signs which are present because of being legally established nonconforming signs or signs which have required a conditional use permit or a variance shall also be subject to the definition of abandoned sign.

Awning – see “Canopy”

Balloon sign - a sign consisting of a bag made of lightweight material supported by helium, hot, or pressurized air which is greater than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter.

Billboard – see “Off-Premise highway sign”

Cabinet sign - any wall sign that is not of channel or individually mounted letter construction.

Canopy - a roof-like cover, including an awning, often of fabric, plastic, metal or glass, which projects from the wall or roof of a building- usually over a door, entrance, or window; or a freestanding or projecting cover above an outdoor service area, such as at a gasoline service station. A marquee is not a canopy.

Canopy sign - any sign attached to the underside or constructed upon a canopy or awning.

Changeable copy sign, Non-electronic - A non-electronic sign or portion of a sign which is characterized by interchangeable letters and figures.

Changeable copy sign, Electronic – An electronic sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign. Such signs include, but are not limited to, signs using cathode-ray tubes (CRT), light-emitting diode (LED) displays (including organic LED screens), plasma displays, liquid-crystal displays (LCD), projection screens or other similar technologies.

Commercial Speech – speech advertising a business, profession, commodity, service or entertainment.

Digital sign – see “Changeable copy sign, Electronic”

Directional Sign – A sign whose message is intended to guide the circulation of persons and motorists within a site or to a particular off-site location.

Flag - any fabric or similar lightweight material attached at one end of the material, usually to a staff or pole - which is itself either freestanding or attached to a building, awning, canopy or other structure - so as to allow movement of the material by

atmospheric changes and which contains distinctive colors, patterns, symbols, emblems, insignia, or other symbolic devices.

Freestanding sign - any sign which has supporting framework that is placed on, or anchored in, the ground and which is independent from any building or other structure.

Hanging sign - any sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal plane surface and is connected to this surface and/or to the surface of structural elements supporting that surface.

Illuminated sign - any sign which contains or uses an element designed to emanate light or any sign which has lighting directed upon it to increase its visibility.

Legally established nonconforming sign - any sign and its support structure lawfully erected prior to the effective date of this ordinance which fails to conform to the requirements of this ordinance. A sign which was erected in accordance with a variance granted prior to the adoption of this ordinance and which does not comply with this ordinance shall be deemed to be a legal nonconforming sign. A sign which was unlawfully erected shall be deemed to be an illegal sign.

Marquee sign - any sign painted, mounted, constructed or attached in any manner, on a marquee.

Monument sign - any freestanding sign with its sign face mounted on the ground or mounted on a base at least as wide as the sign.

Motion sign – any sign which in part or in total rotates, moves, or creates the appearance of movement through changing light or color effect or intermittent illumination or animation, or appears to quiver or vibrate in light or while reflecting heat waves.

Non-commercial speech – dissemination of messages not classified as Commercial Speech which include, but are not limited to, messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service and informational topics.

Off-premise sign – a commercial speech sign which directs the attention of the public to a business, service or product sold or offered at a location not on the same parcel where such business sign is located. For purposes of this sign ordinance, easements and other appurtenances shall be considered to be outside such parcel of land and any sign located or proposed to be located in an easement or other appurtenance shall be considered an off-premise sign.

Off-premise directional sign - an off-premise sign which serves to direct potential customers or visitors to a specific business, service or location located within two (2) miles of the sign location.

Off-premise highway sign – an off-premise sign that is located within 100 feet of the right-of-way of a highway, whether federal, state or county, having a posted or statutory speed limit of 55 or greater miles per hour and whose messaging is directed toward motorists on the highway.

On-Premise sign - a commercial speech sign which directs the attention of the public to a business, service or product sold or offered at the same parcel where such business sign is located. For purposes of this sign ordinance, easements and other appurtenances shall be considered to be outside such parcel of land and any sign located or proposed to be located in an easement or other appurtenance shall be considered an off-premise sign.

On-Premise directional sign – A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the property upon which it is located, intended to facilitate the movement of pedestrians and vehicles within the site and identify the location and nature of businesses, services or other activities located on the premise.

On-premise messages – identify or advertise an establishment, person, activity, goods, products or services located on the premises where the sign is installed.

Pole sign - any freestanding sign which has its supportive structure(s) anchored in the ground and which has a sign face elevated above ground level by pole(s) or beam(s) and with the area below the sign face open.

Portable sign - any sign which is manifestly designed to be transported by vehicle or moved by hand, including those placed or mounted on a vehicle, by trailer or on its own wheels, even though the wheels of such sign may be removed and the remaining chassis or support is converted to another sign or attached temporarily or permanently to the ground. Portable signs include sandwich and other signs designed to be easily carried or worn by a person, signs pulled, placed in or on a vehicle and signs on the side of semi-trailers, box trucks or other such equipment.

Principal building or structure - the building or structure in which the primary use of the lot is conducted. Lots with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings or structures, but storage buildings, garages, and other clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.

Projecting sign - any sign which is affixed to a building, wall, awning or canopy in such a manner that it displays more than one (1) sign surface or where its leading edge extends more than twelve (12) inches beyond the surface of such building or wall face.

Roof line - the upper-most edge of the roof or in the case of an extended facade or parapet, the upper-most height of said facade.

Roof sign, Constructed - any sign erected and constructed wholly on and above the roof of a building.

Roof sign, Painted – any sign painted on the roof surface of a building

Sign – any letter, word or symbol, poster, picture, statuary, reading matter or representation in the nature of advertisement, announcement, message or visual communication, whether painted, posted, printed, affixed or constructed, including all associated brackets, braces, supports, wires and structures, which is displayed in the public view for informational or communicative purposes.

Sign face - the surface of the sign upon, against, or through which the message of the sign is exhibited.

Sign structure - any structure including the supports, uprights, bracing and framework which supports or is capable of supporting any sign.

Wall sign - any sign attached parallel to the outside wall of a building, painted on the wall surface, or erected and confined within the limits of an outside wall of any building or structure, which is supported by such wall or building, and which displays only one (1) sign surface.

Water-Oriented Business Sign – A sign which is directed and placed by a permitted or legal nonconforming business so as to be visible to boaters, swimmers or other recreational users of a waterbody.

Window sign - any sign, pictures, symbol, or combination thereof, designed to communicate information about an activity, business, commodity, event, sale, or service, that is placed inside a window or upon the window panes or glass and is visible from the exterior of the window.

4. Permits Required. No sign, unless specifically exempted by this ordinance, shall be erected, altered, reconstructed, or moved without first securing a sign permit from the [CountyTownship](#). The content of the sign shall not be reviewed or considered in determining whether to approve or deny a sign permit.
5. Exemptions. The following signs shall not require a permit. These exemptions, however, shall not be construed as relieving the owner of the sign from the responsibility of its erection and maintenance, and its compliance with the provisions of this ordinance or any other law or ordinance regulating the same.
 - a. The changing of the display surface on a previously approved or legal nonconforming painted or printed sign provided that no structural changes are made and the sign face does not increase in size.
 - b. Up to three (3) unilluminated signs per parcel which are each six (6) square feet or less in size.
 - c. Personal/Decorative Signs: Unilluminated signs of any size which are 1) attached to a building and do not extend above an eave, and 2) are clearly for non-commercial purposes, and 3) are for personal enjoyment and not intended to draw attention from the general public.
 - d. Public and Traffic Signs: Any public sign (directional, safety, danger, trespassing, traffic, warning, public information or public organization) erected by, or on the order of, a duly constituted public office of City, Township, County, State, or Federal governments.
 - e. Integral Signs: Names of buildings, dates of erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets and the like when carved into stone, concrete or similar

material or made of bronze, aluminum or other permanent type construction and made an integral part of the structure.

- f. Private Traffic Direction Signs: Signs directing traffic movement onto a premise or within a premise, not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area for each sign.
- g. The established or official flag, pennant or insignia of any nation, organization of nations, state, province, county, city, any religious, civic or fraternal organization, or educational institution: provided, however, that a flag used in connection with commercial promotion or as an advertising device shall be regulated as a sign under this ordinance. Exempt flags may be of any height or size.
- h. Roof signs, Painted
- i. Canopies or awnings which are supported by a building, extend no further than three feet from the façade of the building, and which have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above ground level. Signs which are painted on, hanging from, or otherwise affixed to a canopy or awning shall be subject to the requirements of a wall sign.
- j. Temporary signs not exceeding the time limits listed under Section 7 of this ordinance.

6. Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited signs:

- a. Any sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles any official traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or emergency vehicle signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic or which hides from view or interferes with effectiveness of any official traffic-control device or any railroad sign or signal. Private traffic direction signs shall not be subject to this prohibition.
- b. Signs attached to public street/traffic signs, utility poles, bridges, towers, or similar public structures or property. Signs in violation of this subdivision may be removed by authorized personnel at the [CountyTownship](#)'s discretion, without advance notice to the sign owner.
- c. Any other structure, banner, balloon, trailer, building, portable device, or anything visible from a public road which is used as an advertising device is prohibited unless specifically authorized by this ordinance.
- d. No sign shall be permitted to obstruct any door, fire escape, stairway or other opening intended to provide ingress or egress of any building or structure.
- e. Signs which use highly reflective surfaces and that may create a blinding effect when exposed to light.
- f. Signs shall not be permitted within public right-of-way or easements nor shall a sign extend into the airspace over such a right-of-way or easement, except with the express permission of the regulatory authority.
- g. Signs which are affixed to wireless telecommunication or other tower structures, except as are necessary or required for safety and/or maintenance.

- h. Portable signs (unless exempted as a temporary sign), motion signs and inflatable signs in all zoning districts except Commercial/Industrial districts.
7. Temporary Signs. All temporary signs, whether permitted or exempt, shall meet the following specifications and any applicable requirements of section 8 (General Provisions) of this ordinance.
- a. General:
 - (1.) Height: Shall not exceed 15 feet, except when attached to the wall of a building.
 - (2.) Setbacks: May be placed up to, but not extend over, a property line, except where greater setbacks are required from a lake or stream by this ordinance.
 - (3.) Anchoring: Shall be securely anchored to the ground or to a structure so as to prevent damage or displacement during winds of 80 miles per hour or greater.
 - (4.) Temporary signs shall be allowed as either a on-premise sign or an off-premise directional sign (located within two miles of the business, service or location being advertised).
 - b. The following shall be considered temporary signs when located on a property for twelve (12) months or less:
 - (1.) Signs advertising a new subdivision or development
 - (2.) Real estate signs, pertaining to the sale or lease of a building or property, including off-site directional signs
 - (3.) Unilluminated signs identifying an engineer, architect, contractor or product engaged in or used in the construction of a building
 - c. The following shall be considered temporary signs when located on a property for no more than forty-five (45) days in any six-month period:
 - (1.) Signs announcing any public, charitable, educational or religious event or function
 - (2.) Signs announcing a temporary seasonal event, sale, or service such as for the sale of Christmas trees, pumpkins, corn mazes, or fruit picking or for boat storage, located within two (2) miles of the property where the event is to take place
 - d. Portable signs shall be considered temporary signs when located on a property for no more than fourteen (14) days in any ninety (90) day period:
 - e. Non-commercial speech signs shall be considered temporary signs when located on a property from August 1 to ten (10) days following a general election and thirteen (13) weeks prior to any special or township election until ten (10) days after said election:
 - f. Temporary signs that have not been removed within the specified period may be ordered removed by the CountyTownship, unless permitted as a permanent sign, where allowed.

8. General Provisions.

- a. On-Premise/Off-Premise signs. Unless specifically noted otherwise, all non-exempt signs referred to in this ordinance shall be considered on-premise signs.
- b. Spacing. Signs located within twenty-five (25) feet of any other sign may be considered one sign for the purposes of this ordinance if they are placed in such a way as to circumvent the size limitations imposed on any one sign, as determined by the CountyTownship.
- c. Setbacks. All sign setbacks as required by this ordinance shall be measured to the furthest horizontal extent of the sign.
- d. Height. All maximum heights as required by this ordinance shall be measured to the furthest vertical extent of the sign.
- e. Sign Area Calculation. The area within the frame shall be used to calculate the square footage (rounded to the nearest foot), regardless of whether or not more than one side is used. If such letters or graphics are mounted directly on a wall or fascia or in such way as to be without a frame, square footage shall be calculated as the area within the periphery around such letters or graphics in a plane figure bounded by straight lines connecting the outermost points thereof. Symbols, flags, pictures, wording, figures, or other forms of graphics painted on or attached to windows, walls, awnings, free-standing structures, suspended by balloons or kites or on persons, animals, or vehicles are considered a sign and are included in calculating the overall square footage. Double-faced signs which have a 90 degree angle or less between the two faces need only count one face for the purpose of calculating area. Three or more faces on a sign shall be counted against the maximum size allowed.
- f. Illumination. Where allowed, illumination for signs, whether internal or external, shall be so constructed and maintained so that the source of light is diffused and not directly visible by a motorist or pedestrian viewing the sign.
- g. No sign shall be placed in such a way that it creates a safety hazard by obstructing lines of sight for motorists or pedestrians or physically blocks a pedestrian corridor.
- h. Electronic Changeable Copy Signs — Electronic changeable copy signs are not allowed anywhere within the Township. ~~Where allowed, electronic changeable copy signs shall meet the following requirements, in addition to any other requirements that would otherwise apply:~~
 - ~~(1.) Any electronic changeable copy sign capable of displaying pictures, graphics, video or scrolling words/numbers, whether such displays are permitted or not, shall be limited to a total of thirty two (32) square feet of display area. In commercial and industrial zoning districts, display areas may be allowed up to the maximum size sign permitted in that zoning district.~~
 - ~~(2.) Messages or graphics displayed on an electronic changeable copy sign must be presented in a static manner, with the message changing no more than once every five (5) seconds. The images and messages displayed must be complete~~

~~in themselves, without continuation in content to the next image or message or to any other sign.~~

- ~~(3.) Electronic changeable copy signs which scroll, flash, strobe, blink, pulse, fade, illuminate with varying light intensity or changing colors, or create the illusion of movement (including video displays) are prohibited.~~
- ~~(4.) Any electronic changeable copy sign designed for the sole purpose of displaying printable characters (letters, numbers, punctuation marks or symbols) in a static format shall be regulated as a non-electronic changeable copy sign, provided that the digital display may change its message not more than once per hour.~~
- ~~(5.) No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance as to impair the vision of a motor vehicle driver with average eyesight or to otherwise interfere with the driver's operation of a motor vehicle. Electronic changeable copy signs shall automatically dim by at least 50 percent between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour prior to sunrise.~~
- ~~(6.) No sign may be of such intensity or brilliance that it interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, device or signal.~~
- ~~(7.) Electronic changeable copy signs must be designed to freeze the display or turn the display completely off if it malfunctions.~~
- ~~(8.) Sign owners must immediately turn off an electronic changeable copy sign when notified by the county that it is not complying with the standards of this ordinance.~~

- i. Sign Lettering: All lettering or numbering shall be such that it is readable by a passing motorist at a glance. Unless otherwise required/allowed by this ordinance or by the requirements of a conditional or interim use permit, all letters, numbers and symbols (except periods, commas, dashes or other punctuation marks typically smaller than letters) shall be at least 6 inches in height (capital letters) and 4.5 inches in height (lowercase letters). This requirement shall not apply to signs identified in Section 5 (Exemptions) or Section 7 (Temporary Signs).
- j. Freestanding Canopies or Awnings: A freestanding canopy, such as above an outdoor service area, or a freestanding awning, when permanently or semi-permanently affixed to the ground, shall be permitted as a structure and are not considered signs for the purposes of this ordinance. Signs that are an integral part of, or which are attached to, a freestanding canopy or awning shall be regulated as a wall or projecting sign.

9. Fees.

Sign permit fees are as established by the adopted fee schedule.

10. Specific Regulations by Zoning District.

a. Urban Residential and Residential Shoreland Districts

(1.) Signs requiring an administrative permit

- (a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between six (6) and twelve (12) square feet in size
- (b) Up to one (1) freestanding sign no greater than twelve (12) square feet in size and six (6) feet in height that is related to an on-premise, licensed childcare business or other nonresidential program regulated under Minnesota Statutes 245A.14 or successor statutes.

(2.) Signs requiring a conditional use permit

- (a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between twelve (12) and thirty-two (32) square feet in size
- (b) Off-premise directional signs as follows (lesser sizes may be required by the CountyTownship in areas where normal and customary speeds are deemed to be slower than the posted or statutory speed limit):

Posted or Statutory Speed Limit	Maximum sign size
Less than 55 miles per hour	12 square feet
55 - 65 miles per hour	32 square feet

- (c) Freestanding signs up to sixteen (16) square feet in size and up to eight (8) feet in height related to an allowed or permitted business.
- (d) Two (2) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel

(3.) Prohibited signs

- (a) Signs larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in size.
- (b) Signs with a total height greater than eight (8) feet above the grade of the adjoining roadway, unless a wall sign placed on a permitted building.
- (c) Off-premise highway signs
- (d) Electronic changeable copy signs
- (e) Roof signs, Constructed
- (f) More than two (2) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel.
- (g) Signs identified in Section 6 of this ordinance.

(4.) Setbacks

- (a) Road: Two (2) feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive.

(b) Other property lines: 10 feet or a distance equal to 110% of the height of the sign, whichever is greater.

(c) Ordinary High Water Level (not applicable to wall signs):

i. General Development Lakes:

a) Unsewered: 37.5 feet

b) Sewered: 25 feet

ii. Recreational Development Lakes: 50 feet

iii. Natural Environment Lakes: 75 feet

(5.) Illumination

(a) Internal illumination: Not allowed

(b) External illumination: Allowed

b. Rural Residential District

(1.) Signs requiring an administrative permit

(a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between six (6) and thirty-two (32) square feet in size

(b) Up to one (1) freestanding sign no greater than sixteen (16) square feet in size and six (6) feet in height that is related to an on-premise, licensed childcare business or other nonresidential program regulated under Minnesota Statutes 245A.14 or successor statutes.

(2.) Signs requiring a conditional use permit

(a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs greater than thirty-two (32) square feet in size

(b) Off-premise directional signs as follows (lesser sizes may be required by the [CountyTownship](#) in areas where normal and customary speeds are deemed to be slower than the posted or statutory speed limit):

Posted or Statutory Speed Limit	Maximum sign size
Less than 55 miles per hour	20 square feet
55 - 65 miles per hour	48 square feet

(c) Freestanding signs up to sixteen (16) square feet in size and up to fifteen (15) feet in height related to an allowed or permitted business.

(d) Two (2) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel.

(3.) Prohibited signs

(a) Signs larger than forty-eight (48) square feet in size.

- (b) Signs with a total height greater than fifteen (15) feet above the grade of the adjoining roadway, unless a wall sign placed on a permitted building.
- (c) Off-premise highway signs
- (d) Electronic changeable copy signs
- (e) Roof signs, Constructed.
- (f) More than two (2) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel.
- (g) Signs identified in Section 6 of this ordinance.

(4.) Setbacks

- (a) Road: Two (2) feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive. Other property lines: 10 feet or a distance equal to 110% of the height of the sign, whichever is greater.

(5.) Illumination

- (a) Internal illumination: Not allowed
- (b) External illumination: Allowed

c. Agricultural-Rural Conservation Residential District

(1.) Signs requiring an administrative permit

- (a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between six (6) and forty-eight (48) square feet in size
- (b) Up to one (1) off-premise, permanent directional sign up to twelve (12) square feet in size
- (c) Up to one (1) freestanding sign no greater than sixteen (16) square feet in size and eight (8) feet in height that is related to an on-premise, licensed childcare business or other nonresidential program regulated under Minnesota Statutes 245A.14 or successor statutes.

(2.) Signs requiring a conditional use permit

- (a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between forty-eight (48) and sixty-four (64) square feet in size
- (b) Off-premise directional signs as follows (lesser sizes may be required by the CountyTownship in areas where normal and customary speeds are deemed to be slower than the posted or statutory speed limit):

Posted or Statutory Speed Limit	Maximum sign size
Less than 55 miles per hour	24 square feet
55 - 65 miles per hour	48 square feet

(c) Freestanding signs up to thirty-two (32) square feet in size and up to fifteen (15) feet in height, and wall signs up to ten percent (10%) of a building façade which faces a street, related to an allowed or permitted business.

(d) Roof signs, Constructed

(e) More than one (1) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel.

~~(f) Electronic changeable copy signs up to 32 square feet in size.~~

(3.) Prohibited signs

(a) Electronic changeable copy signs

~~(a)(b)~~ Signs larger than sixty-four (64) square feet in size.

~~(b)(c)~~ Signs with a total height greater than fifteen (15) feet above the grade of the adjoining roadway, unless a wall sign placed on a permitted building.

~~(c)(d)~~ Off-premise highway signs

~~(d)(e)~~ More than two (2) freestanding, non-exempt signs per parcel.

~~(e)(f)~~ Signs identified in Section 6 of this ordinance.

(4.) Setbacks

(a) Road: Two (2) feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive.

(b) Other property lines: 10 feet or a distance equal to 110% of the height of the sign, whichever is greater.

(5.) Illumination

(a) Internal illumination: Not allowed

(b) External illumination: Allowed

d. Rural Commercial / Urban Commercial / Light Industrial Zones

(1.) Signs requiring an administrative permit

(a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs between six (6) and sixty-four (64) square feet in size or Wall signs up to ten percent (10%) of a building façade which faces a street. Such signs may be internally or externally illuminated.

(b) Up to two (2) permanent freestanding signs per property as follows:

i. Sign A: No greater than sixty-four (64) square feet in size and thirty five (35) feet in height.

ii. Sign B: No greater than sixty-four (64) square feet in size and fifteen (15) feet in height.

(c) Permanent off-premise directional signs advertising a business within two (2) miles of the sign not greater than thirty-two (32) square feet in size

(2.) Signs requiring a conditional use permit

(a) Wall, projecting or marquee signs greater than sixty-four (64) square feet in size or Wall signs up to ten percent (10%) of a building façade which faces a street.

(b) Permanent off-premise directional signs advertising a business located within two (2) miles of the sign between 32 and 64 square feet in size (lesser sizes may be required by the CountyTownship in areas where normal and customary speeds are deemed to be slower than the posted or statutory speed limit):

~~(c)~~ Off-premise highway signs subject to the following limitations:

i. ~~—~~ Messaging area:

a) ~~—~~ 675 sq ft: Within 100 feet of the right-of-way of a highway having a posted or statutory speed limit of greater than 65 miles per hour

b) ~~—~~ 250 sq ft: All other areas within the Commercial or Industrial zoning districts.

ii. ~~—~~ Spacing:

a) ~~—~~ No closer than 300 feet to a road or railroad intersection

b) ~~—~~ No closer than 500 feet to another off-premise highway sign

~~(d)~~(c) Up to one (1) pole or monument sign no greater than one hundred (100) square feet in size when located along highways with a posted speed limit of greater than 65 miles per hour.

~~(e)~~(d) Illuminated freestanding signs

~~(f)~~ Electronic changeable copy signs

~~(g)~~(e) Non-Temporary Portable signs

~~(h)~~(f) Motion signs

~~(i)~~(g) Inflatable signs

~~(j)~~(h) Roof signs, Constructed

~~(k)~~(i) More than two (2) freestanding signs per parcel.

~~(l)~~(j) Signs with more than two faces

(3.) Prohibited signs

(a) Signs with a total height greater than thirty-five (35) feet above the grade of the adjoining roadway, unless a wall sign placed on a permitted building.

(b) Off-premise highway signs

~~(a)~~(c) Electronic changeable copy signs

~~(b)~~(d) Signs identified in Section 6 of this ordinance.

(4.) Setbacks and Height

(a) Road:

- i. Signs less than 10 feet in height: 2 feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive.
- ii. Signs from 10 to 20 feet in height: 10 feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive.
- iii. Signs greater than 20 feet in height: 20 feet from a road or railroad right-of-way or twenty (20) feet from the centerline of a traveled surface, whichever is more restrictive.

(b) Other property lines: 10 feet or a distance equal to 110% of the height of the sign, whichever is greater.

(c) Maximum height

- i. Along roads with a posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour or greater: 35 feet
- ii. Along roads with a posted speed limit of less than 40 miles per hour: 20 feet

11. Additional Provisions for Water-Oriented Business Signs

In addition to regulations applicable to the relevant zoning district, on shoreland properties where resorts, bait shops, restaurants or other permitted or legal nonconforming businesses exist, the following shall apply to signs located so as to be visible from a lake or stream:

a. Signs requiring an administrative permit

- (1.) Unilluminated wall signs no greater than twenty-four (24) square feet in size, or ten percent (10%) of a building façade which faces a waterbody, whichever is greater.
- (2.) Projecting signs no greater than twelve (12) square feet in size
- (3.) Up to one (1) unilluminated freestanding sign, no greater than thirty-two (32) square feet in size, per water frontage.

b. Signs requiring a conditional use permit

- (1.) Wall signs greater than twenty-four (24) square feet in size

- (2.) Hanging signs greater than (12) square feet in size.
- (3.) Illuminated signs
- (4.) Roof signs, Constructed
- c. Prohibited signs
 - (1.) Signs larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in size.
 - (2.) Off-premise directional sign
 - (3.) Electronic changeable copy signs
 - (4.) Portable signs
 - (5.) Motion signs
 - (6.) Inflatable signs
 - (7.) More than one (1) freestanding signs per parcel.
 - (8.) Signs with a total height greater than twenty-five (25) feet above the ordinary high water elevation, unless a wall sign placed on a permitted building.
- d. Setbacks
 - (1.) Ordinary High Water Mark: No sign may be placed within a shore impact zone, except wall signs on legal, nonconforming buildings.
 - (2.) Other property lines: 10 feet or a distance equal to 110% of the height of the sign, whichever is greater.
- e. Maximum height: 15 feet
- f. Maximum size: 32 square feet

12. Non-Conforming Signs

It is recognized that signs exist within the zoning districts which were lawful before this sign ordinance was enacted, which would be prohibited, regulated or restricted under the terms of this chapter or future amendments. It is the intent of this sign ordinance that legal nonconforming signs and supporting structures shall not be enlarged upon, expanded or extended, nor be used as grounds for adding other signs or uses prohibited elsewhere in the same district. It is further the intent of this sign ordinance to permit legal nonconforming signs and supporting structures existing on the effective date of this sign ordinance, or amendments thereto, to continue as legal nonconforming signs or supporting structures provided such signs are safe, are maintained so as not to be unsightly, and the sign has not been abandoned or removed subject to the following provisions.

- a. No sign or supporting structure shall be enlarged or altered in a way which increases its nonconformity.
- b. Should such sign or sign structure be destroyed by any means to an extent greater than fifty (50) percent of its replacement cost and no permit has been applied for within 180 days of when the property was damaged, it shall not be reconstructed except in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance.

- c. Should such sign or supporting structure be moved for any reason for any distance whatsoever, it shall thereafter conform to the regulations for the zoning district in which it is located after it is moved.
- d. No existing sign devoted to a use not permitted by the zoning code in the zoning district in which it is located shall be enlarged, extended or moved except in changing the sign to a sign permitted in the zoning district in which is it located.

13. Inspection, Maintenance, Removal

a. Inspection

Any sign for which a permit is required may be inspected periodically by the CountyTownship for compliance with this Ordinance and all other applicable laws.

b. Maintenance

- (1.) The owner, lessee or manager of any monument sign and the owner of the land on which the same is located shall keep grass or weeds and other growth cut and debris and rubbish cleaned up and removed from the lot on which a sign is located.
- (2.) All signs shall contain current information. Outdated signs or signs with information that is outdated shall be removed by the property owner.
- (3.) Painting, repainting, cleaning and normal maintenance and repair of a sign or sign structure is required to protect the sign and prevent its deterioration and maintain its neat appearance. Such maintenance is allowed without permit unless a structural change is made.
- (4.) Any sign located in the CountyTownship which may now be or hereafter become out of order, rotten or unsafe, and every sign which shall hereafter be erected, altered, resurfaced, reconstructed or moved contrary to the provisions of this section, shall be removed or otherwise properly secured in accordance with the terms of this section by the owners thereof or by the owners of the grounds on which said sign shall stand, upon receipt of proper notice so to do, given by the issuing authority. No rotten or other unsafe sign shall be repaired or rebuilt except in accordance with the provisions of this section and upon a permit issued by the issuing authority.

c. Removal

- (1.) Abandoned signs shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business which it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises.
- (2.) Illegally erected signs shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located upon notice by the CountyTownship of its illegal status.
- (3.) If the owner or lessee fails to remove an abandoned or illegally erected sign, the CountyTownship shall remove it in accordance with this section. These

removal provisions shall not apply to abandoned signs where a succeeding owner or lessee conducts the same type of business and agrees to maintain the signs as provided in this Ordinance or changes copy on the signs to advertise the type of business being conducted on the premises and provided the signs comply with the other provisions of this Ordinance.

- (4.) Any sign which becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises or endangers the public safety must be taken down and removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure or land upon which the sign is located.
- (5.) The CountyTownship shall order the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this Ordinance. Ten (10) days notice in writing shall be given to the owner of such sign, or of the building, structure or premises on which such sign is located, to remove the sign or to bring it into compliance with the Ordinance. Upon failure to remove the sign or to comply with this notice, the CountyTownship may remove the sign. The CountyTownship may remove the sign immediately and without notice if it reasonably appears that the condition of the sign is such as to present an immediate threat to the safety of the public. Any costs of removal incurred by the CountyTownship shall be assessed to the owner of the property on which such sign is located and may be collected in the manner of ordinary fee collection or in the manner of taxes and all costs shall be assessed against the property. Signs located within the right-of-way of County or Township Roads may be removed by the County or Township at any time without notice.