

CHAPTER 15

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

ARTICLE I

SEPTIC TANKS

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 8, February 4, 1961, as amended by Ordinance No. 8A, March 2, 1968, Ordinance No. 8B, June 7, 1975 and Ordinance No. 2007-06-07, June 13, 2007.

§ 15-101. Purpose

This Chapter provides for the regulation of individual sewage disposal systems, sets forth definitions, and requires permits for installations.

§ 15-102. Definitions

- A. **Installer:** Any person who engages in the business of installation of systems.
- B. **Sewage Enforcement Officer:** The person or persons duly appointed by the Board of Supervisors to inspect and approve septic tank installation.
- C. **Sewage:** Refuse and foul matter, solid and liquid, excreted as well as waste and/or water discharged from any source whatsoever, but not limited to bathroom, kitchen, laundry or other facilities.
- D. **System:** All or part of a device or devices intended to treat or dispose of the sewage from a single residence, mobile home, building, plant or occupied parcel of land.

§ 15-103. Permits

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to install or cause to be installed a system on any piece or parcel of ground under his ownership, care or control, unless said person has previously applied for and obtained a permit from the Board of Supervisors.
- B. It shall be unlawful to construct a "system" where a public sewer is within a reasonable distance of the residence, mobile home, building, plant or occupied parcel of land.

§ 15-104. Installers

Installation of systems may be by:

- A. Installers, who assume responsibility for obtaining permits for each installation, performance, layout of design of system and certification of installation in accordance with the standards of this Article.
- B. Any person who complies with the regulations of this Article.

§ 15-105. Inspection Fees

Where such sewage is directed or caused to flow into a system, a permit shall be procured prior to the time of the installation of the same and a fee shall be paid as may be established by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

§ 15-106. Applications

All such applicants, at the time of filing of the application, shall submit a plan accompanied by specifications showing the location, lot lines and dimensions, size and kind of material to be used, which plans and specifications shall be subject to approval of the Board of Supervisors of Center Township, and/or its approved representative.

§ 15-107. New Construction

- A. New construction must be on a minimum one-half (1/2) acre lot to use a septic tank system unless other minimums are established by the Township's Zoning regulations. On existing lots of record where the area is less than one-half (1/2) acre, location and installation of the system shall be such that it will function in a sanitary manner and will not create a health nuisance or endanger the safety of any domestic water supply.
- B. All septic tanks hereafter to be constructed shall comply with the following requirements and specifications:
 - 1. Three (3) bedrooms or less, a tank of nine hundred (900) gallon capacity shall be required. The tanks shall be set on solid ground.
 - 2. For all other uses, the capacity of the tanks shall be increased pro-rata for the proper disposal of sewage, waste matter, used water or other similar matter, and the capacity of the tank shall be determined and fixed by the political subdivision, to-wit, Center Township Supervisors, as necessary for proper disposal. The subsurface disposal field, or absorption ditch shall contain a minimum area of five hundred and twenty-five

(525) square feet. Under no circumstances shall rain water from roofing drains, french drains and garage drains be connected into the system and/or septic tanks subsurface disposal field. Septic tanks shall not be permitted closer than eight feet (8') from any house.

- C. Absorption ditches in which the distribution tile shall be laid must not exceed thirty-six inches (36") in width and shall be deep enough to prevent freezing and also not be closer than six feet (6') to the center of the next absorption ditch. Fall shall not exceed one inch (1") in twenty feet (20').
1. There shall be ten inches (10") of broken stone, or other approved materials, at the bottom.
 2. The tile shall then be laid and covered with enough broken stone to make a layer two inches (2") above the top of the tile.
 3. Four inch (4") approved tile is to be used. The tile is to be laid one fourth inch (1/4") apart and the joints are to be covered with strips of tar paper.
 4. Upon the top layer of stones shall be laid a covering of three (3) ply tar paper (extra heavy).
 5. Four inches (4") of straw shall then be placed over the tar paper and the ditch shall then be backfilled with earth.
- D. Inspection:
1. All absorption ditches and septic tanks shall be left open until passed upon and approved by the Board of Supervisors or its authorized representative.
 2. The inspection shall commence within twenty-four (24) hours after notification.
- E. Location of the disposal field shall be such as to provide not less than the stated distances from the following:
1. Property lines - ten feet (10')
 2. Any water supply - fifty feet (50')
 3. Dwellings - ten feet (10')

4. Streams - twenty-five feet (25')
- F. Distribution box shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the necessary field. Lateral lines shall be constructed at the head of each disposal field.
1. Each field lateral line shall be connected separately to the distribution box and shall be subdivided.
 2. The invert of all outlets shall be level and the inlet invert shall be at least one inch (1") above the outlets.
 3. The outlet inverts shall be from four to six inches (4"-6") above the floor, permitting water retention to act in lieu of a baffle for the purpose of securing equal distribution.
- G. Each inspection must be certified to the Township in writing on forms provided by the Township to the Township Secretary by the inspector.

§ 15-108. Existing Systems

Repair or replacement of malfunctioning or inadequate sewage systems shall require permits the same as new installations, but the specifications, if found not practical, shall be individually determined by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.

§ 15-109. Seepage Pits

The use of seepage pits is permitted with septic tanks when such use is found necessary because of soil conditions or topography except in limestone areas or where shallow wells furnish the water supply.

§ 15-110. Complaints

- A. Complaints of malfunctioning or inadequate sewage systems must be in writing to the Township Secretary who shall forward the complaint to the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer for investigation. (Ord. No. 2007-06-07, 06/13/2007, §6)
- B. In the event that an existing septic tank system does not function in a sanitary manner so as to create a public health problem, upon any filed complaint, in writing, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Board of Supervisors to give written notice to the offending person to make the necessary changes within thirty (30) days, in order to make said septic tank conform to the requirements and specifications of this Article. Upon failure so to comply within the

said thirty (30) day period, such persons shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this Article.

§ 15-111. Violations and Penalties

Any person violating the provisions of this Article shall be liable upon conviction thereof before a District Magistrate and be fined a sum not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each and every offense, or in default of the payment of the fine and costs, such person willfully in default, shall be committed to the Butler County Prison for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Each and every day that any violation of the provisions hereof exist or continue shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and shall be subject to separate and distinct penalties hereunder.