

**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**SEWER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANDATORY CONNECTION, NOW OR HEREAFTER, OF PREMISES TO THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OR NEW BUFFALO. BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CONNECTION THERTO AND FOR CHARGES FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SERVICES HEREAFTER OCCUPIES OR PLATTED: AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE TO SAID SYSTEM AND TO THE USE THEREOF FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE.

THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO, ORDAINS:

Section 1.01 Whenever used in this Ordinance, except when otherwise indicated by the context:

- (a) The term “Municipality” shall be construed to mean the Township of New Buffalo and the term “County” shall be construed to mean the County Of Berrien, both in the State of Michigan.
- (b) The term “Legislative Body” shall be construed to mean the Township Board of said Township of New Buffalo, the legislative and governing body thereof.
- (c) The term “sewage disposal system” and “system” shall be construed to mean the collecting portion of the Berrien County Sewage Disposal System No. 7 (Galien River Sanitary District) within the corporate boundaries of the Municipality, established and construed by the County under contract with the Municipality and other members of said Sanitary District dated November 13, 1975, and leased to the Municipality, and all extensions, enlargements and improvements thereto.
- (d) The term “sewage disposal services” shall be deemed to refer to the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage emanating from premises now or hereafter connected, directly, or indirectly, to the sewage disposal system.
- (e) The term “unit” or “units” shall be related to the quantity of sanitary sewage ordinarily arising from the occupancy of a residence building by a single family of ordinary size, as shall from time to time be defined by the Municipality.
- (f) The term “direct connection fee” shall be deemed to mean the amount charged at the time and in the amount hereinafter provided, to premises in the Municipality for connection to a part of the system financed by municipal bonds. The term “indirect connection fee” shall be deemed to mean the

amount charged at the time and in the amount hereinafter provided, to premises in the Municipality for connection to a part of the system not financed by municipal bonds.

- (g) The term “debt service charge” shall be charged to each premises connected directly or indirectly to the system, said charge being payable for the fair share of capital improvements of the system such as the treatment plant and collecting facilities.
- (h) The term “charges for sewage disposal services” or “charges” shall be deemed to mean the amount charged to each premises in the Municipality connected to the system for sewage disposal services.
- (i) The term “inspection and approval fee” shall be deemed to mean the amount charges to each applicant by the Municipality at the time an application is made to the Municipality to connect, directly or indirectly, said premises to the system to cover the cost of inspecting and approving the physical connection to the system or other sewer line and the issuance of a connection permit.
- (j) The term “premises” shall mean any parcel of land and structure or structures thereon connected or connecting to the system or required to be connected to the system.
- (k) The term “available public sanitary sewer” shall be construed to mean a public sanitary sewer system, whether publicly or privately financed, located in a right of way, easement, highway, street or public way which crosses, adjoins or abuts upon the premises and passing not more than 200 feet at the nearest point from a structure in which sanitary sewage originates, provided that in the event a state agency shall require connection to the system, the aforesaid restriction of 200 feet shall be inapplicable and the term “available public sanitary sewer” shall include the public sanitary sewer system at the nearest point from a structure in which sanitary sewage originates.
- (l) The term “structure in which sanitary sewage originates” or “structure” shall be construed to mean a building in which toilet, kitchen, laundry, bathing or other facilities which generate water carried sanitary sewage, are used or are available for use of household, commercial, industrial or other purposes

Section 2.01 Public sanitary sewage systems are essential to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and the Municipality. Septic tank disposal systems are subject to failure due to soil conditions or other reasons. Failure or potential failure of septic tank disposal systems pose a threat to the public health, safety and welfare; presents a potential for ill health, transmission of disease, mortality and potential economic blight and constitutes a threat to the quality of surface waters of the state and the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare and necessary in the public interest which is declared as a matter of legislative determination.

Section 2.02 Structures in which sanitary sewage originates located in the Municipality in the area served by the system for which there is an available public sanitary sewer of the system shall not be used or occupied, after the effective date

hereof, unless said structures are connected to the sewage disposal systems: Provided, that structures within the Municipality in which sanitary sewage is originating on the effective date hereof or in which sanitary sewage originates before availability of the system or any part thereof to serve said structures shall be connected to said system within ninety (90) days after publication of a notice by the Municipality in the New Buffalo Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality of the availability of the system. Plats for premises in the area served by the system subdivided into three or more lots or parcels, after the effective date hereof, parcels shall be improved by the erection of a structure thereon unless lateral sewers to serve all of said lots or parcels and to connect same to the system are available as part of the system or shall be installed at private cost (or the estimated cost thereof deposited with the Municipality) in the manner, size and location approved by the Municipality. Where a structure in which sanitary sewage originates has not been connected to an available public sanitary sewer within the time period provided above, the Municipality shall require the connection to be made forthwith after notice, which may be by first class or certified mail or posting on the property, to the owner of the property on which the structure is located. The notice shall give the approximate location of the public sanitary sewer system which is available for connection of the structure involved and shall advise the owner of the requirements and of the enforcement provisions of this ordinance and other applicable laws.

Section 3.01 Owners of premises within the Municipality which are used or occupied by persons, firms or corporations and for which connection to the system is available shall pay the following fees and charges at the time or times specified herein, to-wit:

- (a) at the time application is made for a permit to connect, the sum of \$25.00 for inspection and approval fee;
- (b) for premises connecting to a publicly financed part of the system, a direct connecting fee of \$1,800 per unit for connections prior connections on or after July 1, 1978, such units to be as determined by the Municipality, which sums may be paid in cash, in whole or in part, in advance, without interest on or before the date of connection, or said sum, or any unpaid part thereof, may be paid in 25 equal annual installments, together with interest on the unpaid balance from time to time outstanding, at the maximum rate of 9%, but not to exceed 1% in excess of the average net interest cost of bonds sold to finance the system, from the date of connection, said interest to be paid annually;
- (c) for premises connecting to a privately financed part of the system, an indirect connection fee of \$600 per unit shall be paid in cash at the time of connection to the system;
- (d) a charge for sewage disposal services of \$9.44 per month per unit and a debt service charge of \$12.00 per month per unit, payable quarterly in advance commencing with the quarter in which connection is made or required to be made (with the understanding that the first payment will be prorated to the nearest full month) at the rate or rates per unit herein established.

Section 4.01 The number of units to be assigned to any particular premises used for other than single residence purposes shall be determined by the Township Board of the Municipality and its decision shall be final. Said Township Board, if the circumstances justify, may assign more than one unit to a single family dwelling. No less than one unit shall be assigned to each premises but units in excess of one may be computed and assigned to the nearest tenth. Once any premises has been connected to the system and has been assigned one or more units, subsequent changes in the character of the use or type of occupancy of said premises (including destruction, removal or abandonment of any or all improvements thereon) shall not abate the obligation to continue the payment of the fees and charges imposed against said premises pursuant to Section 3.01 hereof in the amount and for the period therein provided for the number of units assigned to said premises at the time of connection or for such lesser number of units as the changed character of the use or type of occupancy of the premises will justify but in no event for less than one unit.

Section 5.01 If subsequent changes at any time increase the amount of sanitary sewage emanating from any premises, the Municipality through its Township Board may increase the number of units assigned to said premises and thereupon the fees and charges specified in Section 3.01 hereof, as applicable, shall be paid for each additional unit so assigned at the time a construction or other permit is issued by the Municipality for such changes in use or occupancy or at the time such change in use occurs, if no permit is issued or required.

Section 6.01 Charges for sewage disposal services to each premises within the Municipality connected with the sewage disposal system, as determined herein by the Legislative Body of the Municipality as provided in the said contract with the County, may be amended by ordinance or resolution adopted and amended from time to time by the Legislative Body and subject to any obligations and limitations set forth in such agreement pertaining to the system between the Municipality and the County, or any amendments thereto. No free service shall be furnished by the system to the Municipality or to any person, firm or corporation, public or private, or to any public agency or instrumentality. Charges for services furnished by the system shall be billed and collected quarterly, the first such charges for each premises to be due and payable on the first day of the calendar quarter following by at least one month the date such premises are connected to the system and successive charges to be due and payable on the first day of each quarter annual period thereafter. Charges shall be billed at least one month before their due date.

Section 7.01 If any charges for sewage disposal services are not paid on or before the due date then a penalty of 10% shall be added thereto and commencing ninety (90) days after said due date such charges for sewage disposal services and said penalty shall draw interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum.

Section 7.02 If any installment of a connection fee is not paid on or before the due date, the total installment, including interest, shall draw interest at the rate of ½ of 1% per month until paid in addition to interest at the rate of 9% annum as above provided.

Section 8.01 Charges for sewage disposal services furnished by the system to any premises and the direct connection fee installments, and other installments permitted under this ordinance pertaining to any premise shall be a lien thereon as of the due date thereof, and on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year the Clerk of the Municipality shall certify any such charges which have been delinquent ninety (90) days or more, plus penalties and interest accrued thereon, to the Legislative Body who shall cause the same with an additional penalty of 6% of the aggregate amount to be entered upon the next tax roll of the Municipality against the premises to which such services shall have been rendered and against which such connection fee, an/or other charges have been placed and said unpaid charges and fees, with penalties and interest accrued thereon, shall be collected and said lien shall be enforced in the same manner as provided in respect to taxes assessed upon such roll.

Section 9.01 The system shall be operated upon the basis of a fiscal year beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

Section 10.01 The operation, maintenance and management of the system, which is a county system, shall be under the immediate supervision and control of the Legislative Body or of the County, acting through its Board of Public Works as the agent thereof, if it shall be so designated.

Section 11.01 This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Township of New Buffalo Sewer and Sewage Disposal Ordinance”.

Section 12.01 The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforceable through the bringing of appropriate action for injunction, mandamus, or otherwise, in any Court of jurisdiction. Any violation of this ordinance is deemed to be a nuisance per se.

Section 13.01 Any person, firm or corporation convicted of disposing of sewage in a manner contrary to the provisions of this ordinance, or failing to connect with an available public sewer as provided herein, or violating the provisions of this ordinance in any way other than non-payment of fees and charges, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to a fine of not to exceed \$100.00 or imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not exceeding 90 days or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the Court, together with costs of said prosecution.

Section 14.01 If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be held invalid, the same shall not affect any other part of this ordinance.

Section 15.01 All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof, insofar as the same may be in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed. The Municipality specifically reserves the right to amend this ordinance in whole or in part, at one or more times hereafter, or to repeal the same, and by such amendment or repeal to abandon, increase, decrease or otherwise modify any of the fees, charges or rates herein provided, with the understanding, however that the adoption of this ordinance or its subsequent amendment or repeal shall in no wise change, relieve or release the contractual and legal obligation of the Municipality to make

the required payments to the County of Berrien under and as set forth in the contract pertaining to the Berrien County Sewage Disposal System No. 7 (Galien River Sanitary District) or under applicable law or the contractual and legal obligation pursuant to said contract and applicable law to levy a tax or to use any other means or available funds to make the required payments to said County, and this Ordinance shall not be deemed to be a part of any contractual obligation or bond contract pertaining to said system.

Section 16.01 This Ordinance is hereby declared to be effective thirty (30) days after publication in full in a newspaper published or circulated in the Municipality.

Made and passed by the Township Board of the Township of New Buffalo this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, A.D. 1976

Joseph G. Svehla  
Supervisor

Edward L. Ohime  
Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SEWER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE CHARGE FOR DISPOSAL SERVICES.

THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.01 (d) OF THE SEWER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE OF NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP.**

Section 3.01 (d) of the Sewer and Sewage Disposal Ordinance of New Buffalo Township, Berrien County, Michigan, being Ordinance No. 760221, which ordinance was adopted by the Township Board on February 21, 1976, shall be and is hereby modified to read as follows:

- (d) A charge for sewage disposal services of \$19.33 per month per unit and a debt service charge of \$8.67 per month per unit, payable quarterly in advance commencing with the quarter in which connection is made or required to be made (with the understanding that the first payment will be prorated to the nearest full month) at the rate or rates per unit herein established.

**SECTION 2. REPEALER PROVISION.**

Those provisions of the Sewer and Sewage Disposal Ordinance, being Ordinance 760221, which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby expressly repealed, modified, or amended, subject to the qualifications stated in the Savings Clause of Section 4 of this Ordinance, as of the date this Ordinance become effective. All other provisions of the Sewer and Sewage Disposal Ordinance shall remain as is and be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be invalid or inoperative by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is hereby provided that such adjudication shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 4. SAVINGS PROVISION.**

This Ordinance shall in no manner affect pending litigation, either civil or criminal, founded or growing out of any ordinance, resolution, order, or parts thereof, hereby

repealed; and this Ordinance shall in no manner affect any rights, claims, privileges, immunities, or causes of action of the Township, County, or any other person, either criminal or civil, that may have already occurred, accrued or grown out of any ordinance, resolution, or order or policy, or any part thereof, hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after 30 days after publications of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 6. PUBLICATION.**

This Ordinance is ordered to be given publication in the manner prescribed by law.

**SECTION 7. ADOPTION DATE.**

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Township of New Buffalo, Berrien County, Michigan at a special meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, A.D., 1995, and is ordered to be given publication in the manner prescribed by law.

**MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE**

Motion by Grim and supported by Rahm that the foregoing Ordinance be adopted.

Votes:           Ayes: Kerhoulas, Prusa, Rahm, Melendy, Grim  
                      Nays: None

Ordinance declared ADOPTED October 30, 1995.