

CHAPTER 17
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

ARTICLE I

TOWNSHIP ROAD OPENING PERMITS

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 26, July 5, 1978 and amended by Ordinance No. 2000-8-9. To the extent inconsistent with this Article I, Ordinance No. 26 and Ordinance No. 2000-8-9 were amended and in part repealed upon enactment of this Codification. Further amended by Ordinance No. 2004-12-10, December 8, 2004, Ordinance No. 2004-12-11, December 8, 2004 and Ordinance No. 2007-02-04, February 14, 2007.

§17-101 Definitions and Interpretation

In this Article, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter.

- A. **Person:** Any natural person, partnership, firm, general contractor, association, corporation, utility, or municipal authority.
- B. **Street:** Any public street, avenue, road, square, alley, highway or other public place located in the Township of Center and established for the use of vehicles, including the entire legal right-of-way of the street.
- C. **Right-of-Way:** The legally established right-of-way of any dedicated or adopted street or road and any right-of-way dedicated for public use, including but not limited to utility easements, sanitary sewer easements and access easements and storm water management easements.

§17-102 Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person to open or to make any excavation of any kind in any of the streets in the Township of Center without first securing a permit therefore, as hereinafter provided.

§17-103 Application for Permit

Any person desiring to make any opening or excavation in any of the streets in the Township of Center shall make application to the Township Secretary in writing, upon blanks furnished by the Township setting forth the name of the applicant, the exact location of the proposed opening or excavation, and the approximate width or depth thereof, and shall contain an agreement on the part of the applicant that the work shall be done in full compliance with the regulations of the Township

and the laws of the Commonwealth in relation thereto, and that the applicant shall well and truly save, defend and keep harmless the Township from and indemnify it against any and all actions, suits, demands, payments, costs and charges for or by reason of the proposed opening or excavation, and all damages to persons or property resulting in any manner therefrom, or occurring in the prosecution of the work connected therewith, or from any other matter, cause or thing relating thereto, or by any leak, explosion or other injury from any pipe, apparatus, conduit, or any other matter placed in said excavation.

§17-104 Permit Fee

Before any permit shall be issued to open or excavate in any street in the Township, the applicant shall pay the Township Secretary a permit fee which shall be determined by the prevailing fee schedule as adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors. In addition to the permit fee, a road opening bond shall be required in an amount, which shall be determined by the prevailing fee schedule as adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors.

§17-105 Removal and Separation of Paving Material: Barricades and Warning Lights

Applicant shall carefully remove the brick ballast or other paving material and deposit the same for reuse and keep the same separate from other material; shall complete the work promptly; shall barricade the excavation until refilled to prevent injury to users of the street, and keep the same lighted with red lanterns or blinkers or reflectors at night, until the excavation is refilled and approved by the Township Inspector.

§17-106 Work by Contractors and Public Utilities

- A. In the case of contractors constructing sewers, drains and other public works either in streets or on private property for the Township or an authority created by the Township and public utilities having the right to do so under a franchise heretofore granted, a proper bond with surety shall be posted with the Township Secretary to guarantee the replacement of the paving material and surface within thirty (30) days from the time of removal of same; and in the event that the said contractor or public utility shall not replace the surface by completely refilling the excavation within said period, the right to do so shall be forfeited and

thereupon the Township shall have the right to refill said opening and charge the cost thereof to the said public utility or contractor. Upon backfilling and compacting or settling of same to a depth of approximately six inches (6") below the elevation of the normal ground surfaces for areas not used as thoroughfares or not to be paved, top soil previously removed shall be replaced and compacted. Thereafter, sod, shrubbery, hedges, trees and the like previously removed shall be replaced to a condition equal to that before construction began. For construction areas whether or not in the right-of-way, in which sod, shrubbery, hedges, trees and the like have been damaged or removed but not stored or preserved properly, necessary new planting and seeding shall be made to restore the area to a condition equal to that before the construction except for trees in the direct line of construction, or other plants or shrubbery designated by the Township Engineer as not requiring replacement prior to or during construction. All other materials or items removed and relocated prior to or during construction, such as fences, mailboxes, etc., shall also be replaced to a condition equal to that before construction. All restoration work shall be guaranteed by the contractor for a period of two (2) years from the date of final completion and acceptance. In the event that any improvement or correction of such restoration work as is deemed necessary by the Engineer is not complied with by the contractor within a reasonable period of time stipulated by the Engineer in his notice of such condition to the contractor, the Township may have such work done by others with the cost of said work to be charged to the contractor and deducted from any monies due or to become due him under the contract. For areas to be paved or used as unpaved thoroughfares, the requirements of Section 17-107 shall govern. Contractor shall at all times have a local resident employee on call for twenty-four (24) hours to make necessary repairs for conditions requiring immediate attention during construction and for two (2) years after completion at his own cost.

- B. No house ashes, putrescible refuse or other material of any unsatisfactory character shall be used in refilling. Branches, house connections or other points designated by the Engineer shall not be covered over or filled until the same have

been located and measured by the Engineer, and permission given by him to do so.

§17-107 Temporary Paving; Maintenance Thereof; Maintenance of Unpaved Areas

In paved areas, the contractor shall place over all backfilled excavations a temporary paving consisting of a layer of No. 3 slag which shall be six (6") inches in depth after compaction. The aggregate shall be spread on a thoroughly tamped subgrade and shall be rolled until there is no evidence of further compaction or settlement. Successive layers of fine materials conforming to PA. No. 6 slag shall be spread over the coarser material, each layer to be rolled until all voids are filled. The same shall be done over all backfilled excavations on unpaved thoroughfares, driveways, walks and traveled portions of berms of all streets at no additional compensation, from the time of temporary paving operations, until permanent pavement is placed thereon. In the case of the unpaved areas, these restored surfaces shall be maintained for the same period as required for permanent pavement replacement. Should the contractor fail to perform any required maintenance or repairs with three (3) days after written notice from the Township or Engineer, the Township may perform such maintenance and deduct the cost thereof from any monies due or to become due the contractor under the contract, plus twenty percent (20%).

§17-108 Responsibility of Contractor; Shoring and Bracing of Excavation; Removal of Slides and Cave-Ins

The contractor shall be responsible for the condition of all excavations made by him and the proper shoring and bracing thereof. All slides and cave-ins shall be removed without extra compensation, whenever and however they may occur.

§17-109 Contractor's Responsibility for Facilities and Structures

- A. The contractor shall, at his own expense, sustain in their places, and protect from direct or indirect injury, all pipes, tracks, walls, buildings, and other structures or property in the vicinity of his work, whether above or below the ground, or that may appear in the trench.
- B. The contractor shall take all risks attending the presence or proximity of pipes, poles, tracks, walls, buildings and other structures and property, of every kind and description, in or

over his trenches, or in the vicinity of his work, whether above or below the surface of the ground; and he shall be responsible for all damages and assume all expenses for direct or indirect injury, caused by his work, to any of them, or to any person or property by reason of injury to them, whether such structures are or are not shown on the drawings.

§17-110 Permanent Restoration of Street Surfaces; Defects Appearing Within Two (2) Years

In all instances the permanent restoration of the surface of the street shall conform to the proper grade and be of the same surface covering as the bed of the thoroughfare immediately adjoining the opening. If within two (2) years after the restoration of the surface as herein provided, defects shall appear therein resulting from the defective backfilling by the applicant, the applicant shall reimburse the Township for the cost of all necessary repairs to the permanent paving.

§17-111 Liability Insurance

All applicants shall deposit with the Township Secretary liability insurance policies in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to indemnify the Township against suits, judgments, and demands for damages to persons or property resulting in any manner therefrom, or occurring in the prosecution of the work connected with the work or from any cause relating thereto.

§17-112 Work by Person Other Than Contractor or Public Utility

Any person, not a contractor or public utility, who shall open or excavate any improved street in the Township shall thoroughly and completely refill the opening or excavation, puddling and ramming so as to prevent any settling thereafter; and shall restore the surface to the same condition as it was before the opening or excavation and such restoration shall be in accordance with the specifications of the Township for restoration of surfaces of streets in the Township; as restored, the surface shall conform to the proper grade and be of the same surface covering as the part of the thoroughfare immediately adjoining the opening. If, in two (2) years after the restoration of the surface as herein provided, defects shall appear therein resulting from defective backfilling, the applicant shall reimburse the Township for the cost of all necessary repairs to permanent paving or surface.

§17-113 Responsibility for Other Work

All other work in connection with openings in any street, including excavation protection, refilling and temporary paving shall be done by the applicant at his expense, and all such work shall be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and to the supervision of and approval of the Township or such employee of the Township as it may from time to time designate for that purpose; provided, that the Township may require that cutting the surface of improved streets and the backfilling of all excavations therein shall be done by the Township, and the charge therefore shall be paid by the applicant on the basis of actual cost of the work plus twenty percent (20%).

§17-114 Requirements for Work; Restrictions and Limitations

- A. No opening or excavation in any street shall extend from the curb line into the highway a distance greater than to the centerline of the street before being refilled and the surface of the highway restored to a condition safe and convenient for travel.
- B. No more than one hundred feet (100') longitudinally shall be opened in any street at any one time.
- C. The work of excavation shall be so conducted as not to interfere with the gas lines, water mains, sewers or their connections with the houses, or any other subsurface lines or constructions, until permission of the proper authorities in connection with subsurface lines or constructions shall have been obtained.
- D. No tunneling shall be permitted without the express approval of the Township and permission therefore endorsed upon the permit. The backfilling of a tunnel excavation shall be made only in the presence of the Township Engineer or an Inspector designated by the Township and shall be done only in a method approved by him.
- E. All openings or excavations shall be backfilled promptly with suitable materials and thoroughly compacted in layers, each of which shall not exceed six inches (6") in depth. On improved streets, the backfilling shall be placed to within ten inches (10") of the surface.
- F. On improved streets, a temporary paving of

suitable stony materials, thoroughly bound and compacted, shall be installed flush with the surface of the adjoining paving.

- G. Backfilling shall only be done after the Township Secretary is notified and when completed by proper backfilling in the case of unimproved streets and by temporary paving in the case of improved streets shall again notify the Township Secretary.
- H. Work which is unsatisfactory to the Township or an inspector designated by them shall be corrected in accordance with instructions given by him, and if not so corrected, or the work is not completed within the time fixed by the Township, the Township may proceed to correct such unsatisfactory work or complete any such work not completed, and charge the cost thereof, plus twenty percent (20%), to the applicant.

§17-115 Emergency Work

In case of any leak, explosion or other accident in any subsurface pipe, line, construction or apparatus, it shall be lawful for the person owning or responsible for such pipe, line, construction or apparatus, to commence an excavation to remedy such condition before securing a permit, provided that application for a permit shall be made immediately and not later than the next business day thereafter, and that all other provisions of this Article are fully complied with. If any such emergency condition shall not be immediately attended to by the owner or person responsible for such pipe, line, construction or apparatus, the Township, after such notice as they shall deem necessary under the circumstances of the particular case, shall proceed to do the work necessary and required by such emergency, and charge the same on the basis of cost plus twenty percent (20%) to such owner or person.

§17-116 Conditions for Construction or Extension of Water or Gas Mains

No new water or gas main shall hereafter be laid or constructed and no existing water or gas mains shall be extended in any of the streets of the Township until the exact location thereto and the plan thereof shall have been first approved by the Township.

§17-117 Penalty for Violations

All persons, whether principal, agent or employee, violating or assisting in the violation of any of the provisions of this Article, shall, upon conviction before a District Justice, pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and in default of the payment of such fine and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days.

§17-118 Restrictions on Openings in Winter Months

No opening shall be made in any street, alley or public place, or any permit issued therefore, during the months of December, January or February in any year except in the case of emergency or absolute necessity, and then only upon express authority of the Township.

§17-119 Public Utility Bond

Any public utility having the right heretofore granted to place, maintain and repair its necessary facilities in and upon the public streets of the Township, on filing with the Township its bond in the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), conditioned that it will properly protect any and all openings, made by it in any public street, alley or public place, and will in accordance with the Township plans and specifications refill said opening, replace the paving in as good condition as it was before the opening was made, and shall save and keep harmless the Township of Center from any damage, cost of expense that may accrue or be caused by reason of said opening having been made, and the Township Secretary has certified to the Township Supervisors and the Township Engineer that such bond has been filed, shall be issued permits as required by this Article, and shall have the right to refill said opening by using mechanical tamper and stamp in four inch (4") layers, until solid, and repave said openings at his own expense and without making payment as provided by this Article.

ARTICLE II
DEBRIS ON ROADS

constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such.

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 37, May 13, 1981 as amended by Ordinance No. 2004-12-11, December 8, 2004 and Ordinance No. 2022-04-03, April 13, 2022.

§17-201 General Provisions

- A. No person, firm or corporation shall drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the Township of Center unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any load, contents, dirt, debris, material, litter or part thereof from being blown or falling or deposited upon any street or road in the Township.
- B. No person, firm or corporation shall drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the Township of Center, the wheels of which carry onto or deposit on any street or road in the Township mud, debris, dirt, sticky substances, litter or foreign matter of any kind.
- C. All owners of property in the Township of Center shall maintain their property in such a manner that no dirt, mud, stones grass clippings or other material shall wash or allowed to be deposited onto any street or road in the Township.
- D. If, in the course of excavation, building, construction, or development of any property, any mud, dirt or any other foreign substance is unavoidably carried onto any street or road in the Township, it shall be the duty of the contractor having supervision over the job to remove the same at the end of each work day so as to make the street or road clean and safe for the passage of normal vehicular traffic. In the event said contractor does not remove the mud or dirt or any other foreign substance at the end of the work day, then, it shall be the duty of the property owner to remove the same within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter.

§17-202 Violations and Penalties

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this Article shall be deemed guilty of a summary offense and upon conviction thereof shall be fined an amount not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Each day a violation is committed or is permitted to continue shall

ARTICLE III

HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 96-2-2, February 14, 1996.

§17-301 Definitions

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

- A. **ACCELERATION LANE:** The portion of roadway adjoining the traveled way constructed for the purpose of enabling a vehicle entering a roadway to increase its speed to a rate at which it can safely merge with traffic.
- B. **ACCESS:** Any driveway, street, or other means of passage of vehicles between the highway and abutting property, including acceleration and deceleration lanes and such drainage structures as may be necessary for the proper construction and maintenance thereof.
- C. **COMBINATION:** Two (2) or more vehicles physically interconnected in tandem.
- D. **COMMONWEALTH:** The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- E. **COUNTY OFFICE:** Any of the various maintenance district offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PaDOT).
- F. **CURBLINE:** A line formed by the face of the existing curb or, in its absence, the outer edge of the shoulder along which curbing is or may be located.
- G. **DECELERATION LANE:** The portion of the roadway adjoining the traveled way constructed for the purpose of enabling a vehicle that is exiting a roadway to slow to a safe speed after it has left the mainstream of traffic.
- H. **DEPARTMENT:** The Department of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (PaDOT).
- I. **DIVIDED HIGHWAY:** A highway divided into two (2) or more roadways and so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic between the roadways by providing an intervening space, physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing section.
- J. **DRIVEWAY WIDTH:** The narrowest width of a driveway measured perpendicular to the centerline of the driveway.
- K. **DRIVEWAY:** Every entrance or exist used by vehicular traffic to or from properties abutting a highway. The term includes proposed streets, lanes, alleys, courts, and ways.
- L. **EGRESS:** The exit of vehicular traffic from abutting properties to a highway.
- M. **EQUIPMENT:** All machinery and equipment, together with the necessary supplies for upkeep and maintenance, and also tools and apparatus necessary for the proper construction and completion of the work.
- N. **FRONTAGE WIDTH:** The distance along the right-of-way line in front of an abutting property.
- O. **HIGH VOLUME DRIVEWAY:** A driveway used or expected to be used by more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) vehicles per day.
- P. **HIGHWAY:** A highway or bridge including the entire width between right-of-way lines, over which the Township has assumed or has been legislatively given jurisdiction.
- Q. **IMPROVED AREA:** The area within the right-of-way which has been constructed for highway purposes, including roadbed, pavement, shoulders, slope, sidewalks, drainage facilities, and any other appurtenances.
- R. **INGRESS:** The entrance of vehicular traffic to abutting properties from a highway.
- S. **INTERMEDIATE ISLAND:** The section of right-of-way between driveways from a highway.
- T. **JOINT-USE DRIVEWAY:** A driveway shared by and constructed to provide access to two (2) or three (3) properties.
- U. **LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY:** A highway to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access except at points and in the manner determined by the Township.
- V. **LOCAL ROAD:** Every public highway other than a State highway. The term includes existing or proposed streets, lanes, alleys, courts, and ways.
- W. **LOW VOLUME DRIVEWAY:** A driveway used or expected to be used by more than

twenty-five (25) but less than seven hundred and fifty (750) vehicles per day.

- X. **MEDIAN:** Any structure or area which separates the paved traveled ways for opposing directions of traffic.
- Y. **MEDIUM VOLUME DRIVEWAY:** A driveway used or expected to be used by more than seven hundred and fifty (750) but less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) vehicles per day.
- Z. **MINIMUM USE DRIVEWAY:** A residential or other driveway which is used or expected to be used by not more than twenty-five (25) vehicles per day.
- AA. **OWN:** To hold title to land or a building or be a tenant in a lease that will not terminate within fifteen (15) years of the permit issuance date.
- BB. **PAVEMENT EDGE:** The edge of the main traveled portion of any highway, exclusive of shoulder.
- CC. **PERMANENT CURBING:** Plan or reinforced cement concrete curb which meets Township standards.
- DD. **PERMIT OFFICE:** The office for the control of issuance of permits located at: Center Township Municipal Building, 419 Sunset Drive, Butler, PA 16001.
- EE. **PERMIT:** A highway occupancy permit issued by the Township pursuant to this Article.
- FF. **PLANS:** Drawings which show the location, character, and dimensions of the proposed occupancy and related highway features, including layouts, profiles, cross-sections, drainage, and other details.
- GG. **PROPERTY LINE CLEARANCE:** The distance measured along the pavement edge or curb between the property frontage boundary line and the near edge of the driveway.
- HH. **RIGHT-OF-WAY:** The area which has been acquired by the Township for highway purposes.
- II. **ROADMASTER:** The Township's authorized representative assigned to inspect permit operations.
- JJ. **ROADWAY:** That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder.
- KK. **ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS:** The Center Township Standard Construction Details, containing design standards for roadway construction.
- LL. **SETBACK:** The lateral distance between the right-of-way line and the roadside building, liquid fuel pump island, display stand, or other object, which will result in space for vehicles to stop or park between such objects and the right-of-way line.
- MM. **SHOULDER:** The portion of the roadway, contiguous to the traffic lanes, for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support of base and surface courses and pavements.
- NN. **SHOULDER LINE:** The intersection of the shoulder slope with the side slope or ditch slope.
- OO. **SIDEWALK:** A paved walkway, continuous for a reasonable distance and an integral part of the highway, constructed solely for use by pedestrians.
- PP. **STABILIZED MATERIAL:** Any aggregate such as aggregate cement, aggregate bituminous or lime pozzolan, placed in such a manner as to provide a smooth, stable, all-weather surface not subject to undue raveling.
- QQ. **STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE:** The distance required by a driver traveling at a given speed to stop the vehicle after an object on the roadway becomes visible to the driver.
- RR. **SUPPLEMENT:** An amendment to a highway occupancy permit.
- SS. **TRAVELED WAY:** The portion of the roadway for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders and auxiliary lanes.
- TT. **TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE:** Any sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding vehicular traffic or pedestrians, or both.
- UU. **TURNING RADIUS:** The radius of an arc which approximates the turning path of the exterior of a vehicle.
- VV. **VEHICLE:** Every device in or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway. The term includes special mobile equipment as defined in the

Vehicle Code.

§17-302 Purpose and Application

- A. General Rule: It is in the public interest to regulate the location, design, construction, maintenance, and drainage of access driveways, local roads, and other property within Township highway right-of-way for the purpose of security, economy of maintenance, preservation of proper drainage, and safe and reasonable access.
- B. Other Requirements: Issuance of a permit under these regulations does not relieve the permittee from any additional responsibility to secure other Federal, State, or local approvals or permits as may be required by law.
- C. Safety Requirements: Nothing contained in this Article is intended to relax existing safety requirements.

§17-303 Permit Application Procedure

- A. General Rule: No driveway, local road, or drainage facility or structure shall be constructed or altered within Township highway right-of-way, and no drainage facility of the Township shall be altered or connected onto without first obtaining a permit from the Township. A permit shall not be required for maintenance.
- B. Who May Execute Applications: Permit applications shall be submitted in the name of and executed by the owner of the property.
- C. Where to Submit Applications: Permit applications shall be submitted to the Center Township Municipal Office.
- D. When to Submit Applications: Permit applications shall be submitted prior to the construction of any building which the proposed driveway will serve to assure that the driveway can be constructed in accordance with this Article.
- E. Application Procedure and Required Information: Permit applications:
 - 1. Shall be submitted in person or by mail on a properly completed Township form;
 - 2. Shall be signed by the applicant;
 - 3. Shall include one (1) set of plans detailing the location and pertinent dimensions of

both the proposed installation and related highway features;

- 4. Shall be accompanied by a check or money order, payable to Center Township, in the appropriate amount, as set forth in Section 17-304 of this Article (relating to permit fees);
 - 5. Shall be submitted to the Township at least thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated start of work; and
 - 6. Shall contain proof of ownership.
- F. Traffic Control Plan: Submission of the traffic control plan shall be as follows:
- 1. When the applicant anticipates that it will be necessary to close a portion of a lane to vehicular traffic in order to perform the permitted work, the applicant shall submit a traffic control plan with the application.
 - 2. The Township may require the applicant to submit a traffic control plan if it is anticipated that a potential hazard or interference to vehicular or pedestrian traffic will result from performance to the work.
 - 3. The traffic control plan can be either:
 - a. A detailed drawing showing all traffic control devices; or
 - b. A reference to a standard drawing provided the referenced standard drawing properly depicts the work area and completely addresses the needed traffic control.
- G. Drainage Control Plan for Other than Minimum Use Driveways: Drainage control plan for other than minimum use driveways shall be as follows:
- 1. If it can reasonably be anticipated that there will be an increase in the flow of water onto the highway or into highway drainage facilities as a result of action by the applicant, or that there will be an increase in the flow of water onto the property of some other person as a result of any action authorized by the permit, a drainage control plan shall be submitted with the application. The drainage control plan shall contain the following:

- a. Source of water.
 - b. Existing flow in cubic feet per second.
 - c. Predicted flow in cubic feet per second.
 - d. Where drainage currently flows.
 - e. Where drainage ultimately outlets.
 - f. Hydraulic computations showing effect of additional flow on existing highway drainage system.
2. Issuance of a permit shall be conditioned upon the Township's approval of the drainage control plan.
- H. Drainage Release for Other than Minimum Use Driveways: If it can reasonably be anticipated that there will be an increase in the flow of water onto the property of some other person as a result of action, authorized by the permit, a drainage release shall be submitted with the application. Where possible, drainage releases will be obtained, by and at the expense of the applicant, from all property owners over whose land additional drainage will flow. All drainage releases shall be notarized and recorded by and at the expense of the applicant in the County Office of the Recorder of Deeds. If a drainage release cannot be obtained from any affected property owner, the Township may nonetheless issue a permit if it determines that there is no reasonable and prudent alternative available to the applicant, and the applicant executes an indemnification agreement acceptable to the Township.
- I. Plans for Other than Minimum Use Driveways: The permit application for all driveways other than those classified as minimum use shall include a plan which illustrates, as a minimum, the following, including dimensions where applicable:
 1. Existing highway pavement, ditches, rights-of-way and relevant property lines, highway appurtenances, utilities, and medians.
 2. Existing and proposed buildings, including a description of present and proposed use of buildings.
 3. Details of internal traffic circulation, parking, and traffic signs.
4. Design features of existing and proposed driveways, curbs, tapers, acceleration, and deceleration lanes, including the following:
 - a. Driveway width;
 - b. Driveway radii and other points of curvature;
 - c. Driveway grades or profile view of drive;
 - d. Driveway angle relative to the highway;
 - e. Dimensions of traffic islands adjacent to the highway and within the development that separate traffic flow from or onto the highway;
 - f. Driveway surface material and traffic island materials; and
 - g. Location of all required traffic control devices.
5. Distance from each existing and proposed driveway to the following:
 - a. Nearest intersecting street, road and highway.
 - b. Nearest driveway on adjacent properties.
 - c. Street, road, highway, or driveways opposite the site.
 - d. Relevant property lines and property lines extended to the roadway.
 - e. Building and business appurtenances on the site.
6. Sight distance in each direction from each proposed driveway.
7. The number of vehicles per day which are expected to utilize each proposed driveway.
- J. Review by Roadmaster and/or Zoning Officer/Engineer:
 1. Each application for an access driveway within Center Township must be accompanied by evidence which indicates that the location and type of access being requested has been reviewed.
 2. The Township will consider any comments or recommendations resulting from the review prior to approving the access permit.

- K. **Authority to Reject Application:** The Township will examine and determine the genuineness, regularity, and legality of every application, and may reject any application if not satisfied of its genuineness, regularity or legality, or the truth of any statement contained in the application. The Township may also make such investigations and require such additional information as it deems necessary.
- L. **Penalty for Falsifying Application:** Information provided in applications must be accurate. Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 PA C.S./4904), makes it a misdemeanor for a person to mislead a public servant in performing an official function by making any written false statement which the person does not believe to be true.
- M. **Newspaper or Mail Receptacles:** Permits are not required for the placing of newspaper receptacles or mail boxes, although their location is subject to the maintenance requirements of the Township.

§17-304 Permit Fees

- A. **Permit Issuance Fees:** Issuance fees shall be used to defray costs incurred by the Township in reviewing and processing the application and plan, including the preliminary review of the site location identified in the application, and issuing and processing the permit.

Fees shall be determined by the prevailing permit fee schedule adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors.
- B. **General Permit Inspection Fees:** General inspection fees shall be used to defray costs incurred by the Township in spot inspection of permitted work or subsequent inspection after the permitted work has been completed, to insure compliance with the permit and this Article and shall be determined by the prevailing permit fee schedule adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors.
- C. **Exemptions:** Permit issuance fees and general permit inspection fees shall not be payable by any of the following:
 - 1. The Commonwealth.
 - 2. Political subdivisions of this Commonwealth.

- 3. Governmental authorities organized under the laws of the Commonwealth.
 - 4. The Federal government.
 - 5. Charitable organizations which are exempt from or in compliance with Act of August 9, 1963, P.L. No. 337 (10 P.S./160-1 -- 160-17).
- D. **Additional Inspection Fees:** If the Township determines that the permitted work is of sufficient magnitude or importance to warrant assignment of one (1) or more employees to inspect the permitted work on a more than spot inspection basis, the permit will so indicate, and the permittee shall be charged for all salary, overhead, and expenses incurred by the Township for inspection.
 - E. **Refunds:** The Township will refund the general permit inspection fees on unused permits. In order to be eligible to receive such a refund, the permittee shall deliver the request with the permittee's copy of the permit to the Township office on or before the permit expiration date.
 - 1. A refund processing fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be deducted from the general permit inspection fees.
 - 2. The permit issuance fee shall not be refundable on unused permits.
 - F. **Miscellaneous Fees:** The applicant shall pay notary and recording costs including the cost of recording the permit in the Butler County Recorder of Deeds office when required, and the cost of all drainage releases. Permits shall be recorded whenever deemed necessary by the Township, including when:
 - 1. A permit requires drainage facilities to be installed and maintained;
 - 2. A permit authorized one or more high volume driveways to be constructed; or
 - 3. An access covenant is executed with the permit.

§17-305 Issuance of Permits

- A. **General Rule:** Upon application duly made, in accordance with this Article, a permit will be issued by the Township, subject to this Article and the conditions contained on the permit and its attachments and supplements. The permit

will be the authority of the applicant to proceed with the work and will also serve as a receipt for the fees accompanying the application.

- B. Issuance of Permit: Permit will be issued only in the name of the owner of the property. Permits will only be issued to contractors of the property owner upon proof of insurance.
- C. Permits Not Issued for Certain Structures: Permits will not be issued for bus stop shelters or phone booths, or for advertising signs, liquid fuel pumps, loading platforms, weight scales, or any structure which the Township deems not proper occupancy of the right-of-way. However, the Township may authorize bus stop shelters or phone booths by written agreement.
- D. Permits Not Issued for Certain Highways: Permits will not normally be issued for occupancy of or access to any limited access highways. In exceptional cases, the Township may make exceptions.
- E. Waiver of Design Requirements: Waiver of design requirements shall be as follows:
 - 1. If any design requirement set forth in this Article cannot be met, the Roadmaster and/or Zoning Officer and/or Township Engineer may waive the requirement if the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. No other reasonable access is available;
 - b. The applicant has done all that can reasonably be done to satisfy the design requirements;
 - c. If additional land is required, the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that it cannot be purchased at a reasonable price;
 - d. No traffic problem will be created; and
 - e. The applicant executes an indemnity agreement satisfactory to the Township.
 - 2. In the case of a temporary access for extracting natural resources for a period of no more than one (1) year, any design requirement set forth in this Article which cannot be met may be waived by the Township Engineer, provided conditions a, b, c, d, and e of Section 17-305 E 1 above are satisfied.

- F. Permit Requiring Agreement: Where the applicant will be required to perform a substantial amount of work, the Township may require the applicant to execute an agreement as a prerequisite to issuance of the permit.
- G. Requesting Permit Time Extension: A permit shall be valid for a six (6) month period or multiples thereof as specified on the permit. If the permittee has not completed all authorized work by the completion date specified on the permit, an application shall be submitted requesting a time extension. If approved, a supplement may be issued by the Township, authorizing work to continue for an additional six (6) month period.
- H. Work Completion Notification: When all permitted work has been completed, the Township office shall be notified.

§17-306 General Conditions

The following conditions shall apply to permits issued under the provisions of this Article:

- A. Scope of Permit: The permit shall be binding upon the permittee, its agents, contractors, successors, and assigns.
 - 1. The permittee shall be responsible for causing compliance with all terms and conditions of the permit by its employee, agents, and contractors.
 - 2. The permit shall be located at the work site and shall be available for inspection by the Roadmaster, Zoning Officer, Engineer or appointed representative of the Township.
 - 3. The permit shall be maintained by the permittee as a permanent record and remain in effect, subject to the permit conditions and this Article, as long as the driveway or the facility authorized by the permit exists.
 - 4. Responsibility for compliance with the terms of the permit cannot be assigned or transferred by the permittee without first obtaining approval from the Township.
 - 5. The permittee shall be principally liable to the Township for any failure to comply with the permit and this Article. The principal liability of the permittee to the Township shall not preclude the permittee or the

- Township from bringing any action against the permittee's contractor, subcontractor, engineer, architect, or any other person.
6. The permittee shall be the only party in interest in any action against the Township involving disputes arising from the permit.
 7. Disputes between the permittee and the Township shall be governed by the appropriate provisions outlined by the Township Solicitor.
 8. A permit shall be valid only as long as the traffic volume of the driveway does not exceed the approved driveway classification as set forth in Section 17-308 of this Article (relating to driveway design requirements).
 9. The Township, in granting a permit, will waive none of its powers or rights to require the future change in operation, removal, relocation, or proper maintenance of any access within Township highway right-of-way.
- B. Additional Restrictions: All work authorized by the permit shall be subject to the following:
1. All applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Act of October 26, 1972 (P.L. 1017, No. 247) (53 P.S./1611), concerning environmental control measures related to pollution and the preservation of public natural resources.
 - b. Act of December 10, 1974 (P.L. 852, No. 287) (73 P.S./176--182), concerning protection of the public health and safety by preventing excavation of demolition work from damaging underground utility facilities.
 - c. OSHA construction safety and health regulations, 39 Fed. Reg. 22801 (June 24, 1974) and 29 C.F.R./1926.1 *et. seq.*
 - d. 42 U.S.C./2000d, as implemented by 49 C.F.R./21 & 23 C.F.R./2301.101 *et. seq.*
 - e. Codified Ordinances of Center Township and subsequent amendments.
 2. Any rights of any person.
 3. The conditions, restriction, and provisions of the permit.
- C. Work to Conform to Township Standards: The work shall be done at such time and in such a manner as shall be consistent with the safety of the public and shall conform to all requirements and standards of the Township. If at any time it shall be found by the Township that the work is not being done or has not been properly performed, the permittee upon being notified in writing by the Township shall immediately take the necessary steps, at its own expense, to place the work in condition to conform to such requirements or standards. In case any dispute arises between the permittee and the Township's Roadmaster or Zoning Officer, the Roadmaster, Zoning Officer, or Engineer shall have the authority to suspend work until the question at issue can be referred to and be decided by the Township.
- D. Permittee Responsibilities: Permittee responsibilities shall be as follows:
1. The permittee shall pay all fees, costs, and expenses incident to or arising from the project, including the cost of related highway improvements which increased traffic or surface drainage may necessitate. The permittee shall reimburse the Township for any and all inspection costs within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Township's invoice.
 2. In the event of failure or neglect by the permittee to perform and comply with the permit or the provisions of this Article, The Township may immediately revoke and annul the permit and order and direct the permittee to remove any or all structures, equipment, or property belonging to the permittee or its contractors from the legal limits of the right-of-way and to restore the right-of-way to its former condition. In the event the Township determines that such structures, equipment, or property pose a threat to the public safety and the permittee fails to remove the same after notice from the Township to do so, the Roadmaster, Zoning Officer, Engineer or appointed official, Township Solicitor, or any attorney of any court of record shall be authorized to appear for the Township, and

to enter an amicable action of ejectment and confess judgment against the permittee; and the attorney shall be authorized to issue forthwith a writ of possession without leave of court, all at the cost of the permittee.

3. If work is stopped on a project day for any reason, other than at the end of any normal work day, and any ditch or trench, in the opinion of the Township, remains open for an unreasonable period, the permittee, if so directed, shall refill the ditch or trench, and work shall not be resumed until the permittee is prepared to proceed immediately with the work to its completion. In the event the permittee fails to refill the ditch or trench or proceed to completion of the work upon notice from the Township to do so, the Township may perform the necessary and required work and shall be reimbursed for the costs by the permittee within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Township's invoice.
 4. If the permittee, after making an opening in the surface to place or repair a drainage facility or for any other purpose, fails to restore any portion of the right-of-way to conform with Township specifications, the Township may perform the work, and the permittee shall reimburse the Township for the costs within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Township's invoice.
- E. Restoration of Slopes: All disturbed slopes or earthen areas shall be restored to their original condition, or in a manner approved by the Township.
- F. Altering Drainage Prohibited: Unless specifically authorized by the permit, the permittee shall not:
1. Alter the existing drainage pattern or the existing flow of drainage water, or
 2. Direct additional drainage of surface water onto or into the highway right-of-way or highway facilities in a way which would have a detrimental effect on the highway or

highway facilities.

- G. Disposition of Materials: Disposition of materials shall comply with the following:
1. The permittee shall keep the improved area free of all material which may be deposited by vehicles traveling upon or entering onto the highway during the performance of work authorized by the permit.
 2. The permittee shall be responsible for controlling dust conditions created by its operations.
 3. All excess material and material that is not suitable for backfill shall be removed and disposed of outside the right-of-way as the work progresses.
 4. All retained suitable material shall be placed or stored outside the improvement area, and in such a manner that there will be no interference with the flow of water in any gutter, drain, pipe, culvert, ditch, or waterway.
- H. Equipment Damaging Highway: Equipment damaging the highway shall conform with the following conditions:
1. To protect the pavement and shoulders, all equipment shall have rubber heels or runners and shall have rubber, wood, or similar protection pads between the outriggers and the surface, unless otherwise authorized by the permit.
 2. In the event that other than rubber equipped machinery is authorized for use, the pavement and shoulders shall be protected by the use of matting, wood, or other suitable protective material having a minimum thickness of four inches (4").
 3. If the equipment damages the pavement or shoulders, the permittee shall restore the pavement or shoulders to their former condition, at the expense of the permittee.
- I. Traffic Protection and Maintenance: Maintenance and protection of traffic shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Township, as set forth in Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PaDOT) Publication 43 and Publication 90.
1. The permittee shall provide and maintain all

necessary precautions to prevent injury or damage to persons and property in accordance with instructions furnished by the Township. A traffic control plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Township before closing any portion of a lane to vehicular traffic.

2. Traffic control devices shall be provided in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PaDOT) Publication 43 and Publication 90. Any open trench or hole shall be adequately barricaded to prevent possible injury to pedestrians and the motoring public. All traffic control devices shall be of an approved type. Signs shall conform to the requirements of PaDOT Publication 68.
 3. Designated employees shall be assigned by the permittee to direct one lane traffic. Flagmen shall be provided as specified in the permit and in accordance with PaDOT Publication 43 and Publication 90.
- J. Restoration: All disturbed portions of the highway, including slopes and all appurtenances and structures such as guard rail or drain pipes, shall be restored by the permittee to a condition at least equal to that which existed before the start of any work authorized by the permit. This includes providing appropriate end treatments on guard rail systems where existing guard rail is being broken by the driveway.
- K. Approval by Inspector: Approval by the Township's Roadmaster or Zoning Officer of all or any permitted work shall not constitute acknowledgment that the work was performed in accordance with the permit, nor shall such approval of the Roadmaster, Zoning Officer or Engineer act as a release of the permittee or waiver by the Township of its right to seek performance or restitution by the permittee.
- L. Maintenance: All driveways and adjacent areas within the highway right-of-way shall be continuously maintained by the property owner so as to conform to the permit and so as not to interfere or be inconsistent with the design, maintenance, and drainage of the highway, or the safe and convenient passage of traffic upon the highway.
- M. Indemnification: The permittee shall fully

indemnify and save harmless and defend the Township, its agents and employees, of and from all liability for damages or injury occurring to any person or persons or property through or in consequence of any act or omission of any contractor, agent, servant, employee, or person engaged or employed in, about, or upon the work, by, at the instance, or with the approval or consent of the permittee; from any failure of the permittee or any such person to comply with the permit or this Article; and for a period of two (2) years after completion of the permitted work, from the failure of the highway in the immediate area of the work performed under the permit where there is not similar failure of the highway beyond the area adjacent to the area of the permitted work.

- N. Insurance: The permittee shall, when requested by the Township, submit to the Township a certificate or other certificates of insurance for public liability and property damage, in form and amount satisfactory to the Township, to cover any loss that may be incurred for or on account of any matter, cause or thing arising out of the permitted construction.
- O. Damage to Highway: Restoration of highway shall include the following:
1. If there is a failure of the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, in the immediate area of the permitted work within two (2) years after the completion of the permitted work, and there is not similar failure of the highway beyond the area adjacent to the area of the permitted work, the permittee shall have absolute responsibility to make all temporary and permanent restoration including restoration of the adjacent area if it has also failed.
 2. If there is a failure of the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, in the area adjacent to the immediate area of the permitted work within two (2) years after the completion of the permitted work or beyond the area adjacent to the area of the permitted work, it shall be presumed that the work done by the permittee was the proximate cause of the failure, and the permittee shall be responsible to make all temporary and permanent restoration

unless the presumption is rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.

3. If there is a failure of the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, in the immediate area of the permitted work which occurs more than two (2) years after the completion of the permitted work, and there is not similar failure of the highway beyond the area adjacent to the area of the permitted work, it shall be presumed that the work done by the permittee was the proximate cause of the failure, and the permittee shall be responsible to make all temporary and permanent restoration, including any failure of the adjacent area if it has also failed, unless the presumption is rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.
4. If there is a failure of the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, in the area adjacent to the immediate area of the permitted work which occurs more than two (2) years after the completion of the permitted work, the permittee shall be responsible to make all temporary and permanent restoration if the permitted work was the proximate cause of the failure.
5. If the permitted work is the proximate cause of damage to the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, beyond the adjacent area, the permittee shall be responsible for all remedial work and shall make all temporary and permanent restoration.
6. Where the permittee has the responsibility to restore the highway, including slope or any other appurtenance thereto, under subparagraphs 1 through 5 of this paragraph, including instances where a presumption of responsibility has not been rebutted, the permittee shall have the duty to restore the improved area in accordance with the permit. If the permittee fails to restore the improved area properly, the Township will have the authority to do the work at the expense of the permittee. The permittee shall reimburse the Township for the costs incurred within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Township's invoice.

P. Future Additional Driveways: Future additional driveways shall consist of the following:

1. If the Township anticipates that a property may be subdivided and that such subdivision will result in an unacceptable number or arrangement of driveways or both, the Township may require the property owner to enter into an access covenant prior to issuance of a permit.
2. The access covenant will restrict access to the approved locations regardless of whether the land is later subdivided or conveyed to other persons, or both.
3. The access covenant shall become a part of the permit, which shall be recorded in the County Office of the Recorder of Deeds.

Q. Use of Highway Prohibited: Prohibited use of the highway shall be as follows:

1. No part of the right-of-way shall be used for servicing vehicles, displays, or conducting business. The area between the edge of the pavement and the right-of-way line shall be kept clear of all buildings, sales exhibits, business signs, vehicles, service equipment, and similar items.
2. Improvements on private property adjacent to the right-of-way shall be so located that parking, stopping, and maneuvering of vehicles on the right-of-way will not be necessary in order for vehicles or patrons to be served. New liquid fuel pump islands installed in service stations adjacent to the highway shall be located at least twelve feet (12') outside the right-of-way in order for a driveway permit to be issued. See SD35 and SD36 (Standard Detail).

§17-307 General Driveway Requirements

- A. General Rule: All driveways shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained in such a manner as not to interfere or be inconsistent with the design, maintenance, and drainage of the highway.
- B. General Location Restrictions: Access driveways shall be permitted at locations in which:
 1. Sight distance is adequate to safely allow

- each permitted movement to be made into or out of the access driveway;
 - 2. The free movement of normal highway traffic is not impaired;
 - 3. The driveway will not create a hazard; and
 - 4. The driveway will not create an area of undue traffic congestion on the highway.
- C. Specific Location Restrictions: Specific location restrictions shall include the following:
- 1. Access driveways shall not be located at interchanges, ramp areas, or locations that would interfere with the placement and proper functioning of highway signs, signals, detectors, lighting, or other devices that affect traffic control.
 - 2. The location of a driveway near a signalized intersection may include a requirement that the permittee provide, in cooperation with the Township, new or relocated detectors, signal heads, controller, and the like, for the control of traffic movements from the driveway.
 - 3. Access to a property which abuts two (2) or more intersecting streets or highways may be restricted to only that roadway which can more safely accommodate its traffic.
 - 4. The Township may require the permittee to locate an access driveway directly across from a highway, local road, or access driveway on the opposite side of the roadway if it is judged that offset driveways will not permit left turns to be made safely or that access across the roadway from one (1) access to the other will create a safety hazard.
- D. Local Roads: An access intended to serve more than three (3) properties or to act as a connecting link between two (2) or more roadways shall be, for the purpose of this Article, considered a local road and not a driveway regardless of its ownership. As such, its design must be in accordance with the Township's current standards governing the design of local roads. All other requirements of this Article shall be complied with before the local road will be allowed access onto a State highway.
- E. Number of Driveways: The number and location of entrances which may be granted will be based on usage, interior and exterior traffic patterns, and current design policy of the Township.
- 1. Normally, only one (1) driveway will be permitted for a residential property and not more than two (2) driveways will be permitted for a nonresidential property.
 - 2. If the property frontage exceeds six hundred feet (600'), the permit may authorize an additional driveway.
 - 3. Regardless of frontage, a development may be restricted to a single entrance/exit driveway, served by an internal collector road separated from the traveled way.
- F. Approach to Driveways: Driveway approaches shall conform to the following standards:
- 1. The location and angle of an access driveway approach in relation to the highway intersection shall be such that a vehicle entering or leaving the driveway may do so in an orderly and safe manner and with a minimum of interference to highway traffic.
 - 2. Where the access driveway approach and highway pavement meet, flaring of the approach may be necessary to allow safe, easy turning of vehicular traffic.
 - 3. Where the highway is curbed, driveway approaches shall be installed one and one half inch (1-1/2") above the adjacent highway or gutter grade to maintain property drainage. See Standard Detail #29.
- §17-308 Driveway Design Requirements**
- A. General: General requirements shall be as follows:
- 1. The ability of a driveway to safely and efficiently function as an integral component of a highway system requires that its design and construction be based on the type and character of roadway which it accesses. This Chapter separates driveways into four (4) classifications, based on the amount of traffic they are expected to serve. A description of each

classification and typical examples of land use normally associated with each follows:

- a. Minimum use driveway, see Standard Detail #31. A driveway normally used by not more than twenty-five (25) vehicles per day, such as:
 - 1) single family dwelling, duplex houses; or
 - 2) apartments with five (5) units or less.
 - b. Low volume driveway, see Standard Detail #32. A driveway normally used by more than twenty-five (25) vehicles per day but less than seven hundred and fifty (750) per day, such as:
 - 1) office buildings;
 - 2) elementary and junior high schools; or
 - 3) car washes.
 - c. Medium volume driveway, see Standard Detail #9, Standard Detail #11 and Standard Detail #35. A driveway normally used by more than seven hundred and fifty (750) vehicles but less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) vehicles per day which does not normally require traffic signalization, such as:
 - 1) motels;
 - 2) fast food restaurants; or
 - 3) service stations and small shopping center plazas.
 - d. High volume driveway, See Standard Detail #34. A driveway normally used by more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) vehicles per day which often requires traffic signalization, such as:
 - 1) large shopping centers; or
 - 2) multi-building apartment or office complexes.
2. The design features described in this Article
- and illustrated in the standard details are to be used by the applicant in designing the driveway plans which accompany the application. Dimensions shall be selected from the range of values shown on the appropriate detail, unless site conditions warrant a deviation. The Township may require design details which are more stringent than those specified in this Article to insure the safe and efficient operation of any proposed driveway.
3. Standard Detail #31, Standard Detail #32 and Standard Detail #33 show two (2) sets of design values. The applicant shall design his driveway using the values appropriate for the posted speed of the roadway being accessed.
- B. Angle of Access Driveway Approach: Angle of access driveway approach shall include the following:
1. Access driveway approaches used for two-way operation shall be positioned at right angles, that is ninety degrees (90°) to the highway or as near thereto as site conditions permit, except as authorized in Standard Detail #36.
 2. When two (2) access driveways are constructed on the same property frontage and used for one-way operation, each of these driveways may be placed at an angle less than a right angle, but not less than forty-five degrees (45°) to the highway, except that along divided highways where no openings are allowed in the median, the minimum angle of an exit driveway may be thirty degrees (30°), as shown in Standard Detail #35.
- C. Driveways Adjacent to Intersections: Driveways serving properties located adjacent to a highway intersection shall be subject to the following:
1. There shall be a minimum ten foot (10') tangent distance between the intersecting highway radius and the radius of the first permitted driveway.
 2. The distance from the edge of pavement of the intersecting highway to the radius of the first permitted driveway shall be a minimum of twenty feet (20') on curbed

- highways and thirty feet (30') on uncurbed highways.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Subsection may be waived only if the intersecting highway radius extends along the property frontage to the extent that compliance is physically impossible.
- D. **Property Line Clearance:** Except for joint-use driveways, no portion of any access shall be located outside of the property frontage boundary line.
- E. **Multiple Driveways:** Multiple driveways serving the same property must be separated by a minimum distance of fifteen feet (15') measured along the right-of-way line and twenty feet (20') measured along the shoulder, ditch line, or curb. When the distance between multiple driveways is fifty feet (50') or less measured along the shoulder or ditch line, the area between shall be clearly defined by permanent curbing. This curb shall be placed in line with the existing curb or two feet (2') back of the shoulder or ditch line on uncurbed highways. It shall be extended around the driveway radii to the right-of-way line.
- F. **Site Requirements:** Site requirements shall be as follows:
1. All nonresidential buildings shall be located a sufficient distance from the right-of-way line to provide ample driving area and parking off the right-of-way line to prevent storage of vehicles on the access driveways and to prevent the back-up and turning of vehicles on the highway pavement.
 2. The radii of internal curves shall be as large as possible to allow a direct movement from the highway into a proper position to obtain service or parking without any interference to other vehicles attempting the same maneuver.
 3. Applications for driveways providing access to drive-in service developments shall, when requested, include information relative to the amount of storage provided between the service facility and the right-of-way, the number of service operations anticipated during peak periods, and the hours and days of operation.
 4. The area between the right-of-way line adjacent to and on both sides of a driveway shall be used as a clear zone to provide a physical barrier between the traveled way and activity on private property. This area shall remain free of any obstructions which may interfere with a clear line of vision for entering or exiting vehicles.
- G. **Curbing:** Requirements for curbing shall conform with the following:
1. The permit may require the installation of curbing wherever it is required to control access or drainage, or both. All curbing must be permanent curbing as defined in Article 17-301 of this Chapter (relating to definitions).
 2. Where property abutting the right-of-way line could be used as a parking area, the permit may require curbing, permanent guardrail, or fencing to be constructed along the right-of-way line in order to prohibit vehicle encroachment upon the sidewalk or shoulder area.
 3. If, in the opinion of the Township, there is a high probability that vehicles would otherwise utilize a portion of the property frontage other than the approved driveway to gain access to the property, the permit may require curbing or other physical barriers to be constructed.
 4. When curb exists adjacent to the proposed driveway, the line and grade of the existing curb shall be matched, unless otherwise authorized by the permit.
- H. **Sight Distance:** Conditions for sight distance shall be as follows:
1. Access driveways shall be located at a point within the property frontage limits which provides at least the minimum sight distance listed in the appropriate following table:

TABLE I - Safe Sight Distance for Passenger Cars and Single Unit Trucks Exiting from Driveways onto Two-Lane Roads		
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE LEFT* (Feet)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE RIGHT* (Feet)
25	250	195
25	250	195
35	440	350
45	635	570
55	845	875

*Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge.

TABLE II - Safe Sight Distance for Buses and Combinations Exiting from Driveways onto Two-Lane Roads		
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE LEFT* (Feet)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE RIGHT* (Feet)
25	400	300
25	400	300
35	675	625
45	1,225	1,225
55	2,050	2,050

* Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge.

TABLE III - Safe Sight Distance for Passenger Cars and Single Unit Trucks Exiting from Driveways onto Four and Six-Lane Roads		
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE LEFT* (Feet)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE RIGHT** (Feet)
25	175	195
25	175	195
35	300	350
45	500	570
55	785	875

* Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge to a vehicle approaching in the outside lane.

** Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge to a vehicle approaching in the median lane.

TABLE IV - Safe Sight Distance for Buses and Combinations Exiting from Driveways onto Four and Six-Lane Roads		
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE LEFT* (Feet)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE RIGHT** (Feet)
25	300	300
25	300	300
35	625	625
45	1,225	1,225
55	2,050	2,050

* Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge to a vehicle approaching in the outside lane.

** Measured from a vehicle ten feet (10') back of the pavement edge to a vehicle approaching in the median lane.

TABLE V - Safe Sight Distance for Passenger Cars and Single Unit Trucks Entering Driveways by Left Turns			
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE IN FEET*		
	2-Lane	4-Lane	6-Lane
25	190	205	220
35	300	320	345
45	445	470	500
55	610	645	680

* Measured from the point where a left-turning vehicle stops to a vehicle in the outside lane.

TABLE VI - Safe Sight Distance for Buses and Combinations Entering Driveways by Left Turns			
POSTED SPEED (MPH)	SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE IN FEET*		
	2-Lane	4-Lane	6-Lane
25	330	360	390
35	485	530	575
45	690	750	810
55	905	990	1,075

* Measured from the point where a left-turning vehicle stops to a vehicle in the outside lane.

2. In using Tables I through VI, the following additional requirements shall apply:
 - a. Tables 2, 4 and 6 shall be used in lieu of Tables 1, 3 and 5 only when the combination traffic exceeds five percent (5%) of the total traffic using the proposed driveway.
 - b. Posted speeds shall be used unless operating speeds vary from the posted speed by more than ten (10) miles per hour, in which case the Township may require that operating speeds be used.
 - c. The sight distances in Tables 1 through 4 apply only when highway grades are zero to three percent (0 - 3%), either up or down.

- 1) When the highway grade in the section to be used for acceleration after leaving the driveway, ascends at three to five percent (3-5%), the sight distance in the direction of approaching ascending traffic may be increased by a factor of 1.4.
 - 2) When the highway grade ascends at greater than five percent (5%), sight distance may be increased by a factor of 1.7.
 - 3) when the highway grade in the section to be used for acceleration after leaving the driveway descends at three to five percent (3-5%), sight distance in the direction of approaching descending highway traffic may be reduced by a factor of 0.6.
 - 4) When the road descends at greater than five percent (5%), sight distance may be reduced by a factor of 0.5.
- d. The sight distance values in Tables I through VI are desirable for safe operation of the driveway. Sight distance values less than desirable will be accepted only if it is impossible to achieve the desirable value by locating the driveway at any point within the property frontage boundaries. The minimum acceptable sight distance values shall be computed from the following formula:
- $$SSSD = \frac{1.47 Vt + V^2}{30 (f \pm g)}$$
- SSSD = Minimum safe stopping sight distance (feet).
V = Velocity of vehicles (miles per hour)
t = Perception time of motorist (average = 2.5 seconds)
f = Wet friction of pavement (average = 0.30)
g = Percent grade of roadway divided by 100
3. If sight distance requirements as specified in this Article cannot be met, the Township may:
 - a. Prohibit left turns by exiting vehicles;
 - b. Restrict turning movements to right turns in and out of a driveway;
 - c. Require installation of a right turn acceleration land or deceleration lane;
 - d. Require installation of a separate left turn standby lane;
 - e. Alter the horizontal or vertical geometry of the roadway; or
 - f. Deny access to the highway.
 - I. Grade of Access Driveway: Grade of access driveway shall be constructed in the following manner:
 1. All driveways shall be constructed so as not to impair drainage within the right-of-way, alter the stability of the improved area, or change the drainage of adjacent areas.
 2. Where a drainage ditch or swale exists, the permittee shall install adequate pipe under the driveway in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Form 408. Drainage pipe installed under driveways shall be at least fifteen inches (15") in diameter.
 3. The side slopes for driveway embankments within the right-of-way shall not be steeper than ten to one (10:1) (See Standard Detail #30.)
 4. Grade requirements in uncurbed shoulders within the right-of-way shall conform to Standard Detail #33.
 5. Grade requirements where curbs and sidewalks are present:
 - a. The driveway approaches shall be installed one and one half (1-1/2") above the adjacent roadway or the gutter grade to maintain proper drainage. (See Standard Detail #29.)
 - b. The difference between the cross slope of the roadway and the upward grade of the driveway approach shall not exceed eight percent (8%).
 - c. When a planted area exists in front of the sidewalk, one of the following three

cases shall apply:

- 1) When the grass strip between the curb and the sidewalk is wide enough to maintain an eight percent (8%) maximum driveway approach grade, construct the driveway as shown in Standard Detail #29.
 - 2) If the driveway grade would exceed eight percent (8%), depress the outer edge of the sidewalk and maintain a maximum sidewalk cross slope of six percent (6%). This will enable the driveway slope to stay within the eight percent (8%) slope limit. See Standard Detail #28.
 - 3) If the sidewalk cross slope would exceed six percent (6%), as indicated in this Article, depress the entire sidewalk. The amount of depression shall not exceed one and one half inches (1-1/2") at the inner edge of the sidewalk. The longitudinal slope of the sidewalk shall not exceed two inches (2") per foot. See Standard Detail #28.
- d. When the sidewalk is directly against the back curb and the sidewalk is at least five feet (5') wide, the curb shall be sloped as shown in Standard Detail #29 of this Article. This will eliminate the need for depressing the back edge of the sidewalk. For sidewalks narrower than five feet (5'), the curb will be sloped and the back edge of the sidewalk will be depressed (maximum 1-1/2") to maintain an eight percent (8%) maximum grade on the driveway. The longitudinal grade of the sidewalk shall not exceed two inches (2") per foot.
- J. Auxiliary Lanes: Auxiliary lanes shall consist of the following:
1. Acceleration and Deceleration Lanes: The combination of highway speed, volumes, location, and arrangement of driveways and intersections to serve a proposed low, medium, or high volume driveway. When required by the permit, a speed change lane of sufficient length and width shall be constructed to allow vehicles to safely decelerate or accelerate when entering or leaving the property.
 2. Left Turn Stand-By Lanes: The permit may require the installation of a left turn stand-by lane to separate and protect left turning vehicles from through traffic if failure to do so would result in an undue hazard to the traveling public.
 3. Additional Right-of-Way for Lanes: Where the side of the highway right-of-way is insufficient to permit the construction of a needed auxiliary lane, the permittee shall provide any necessary additional right-of-way.
 4. Cost: When required, auxiliary lanes shall be constructed, at no cost to the Township, in accordance with PaDOT Roadway Construction Standards and PaDOT Form 408.
 5. Lane in Front of Another Property: If an auxiliary lane must be located in front of property of another person, the applicant shall be required to secure the approval of the other person or indemnify the Township against any action which the other person may bring against the Township.
- K. Access Driveway Pavement: Access driveways shall be appropriately surfaced with a stabilized material between the traveled way and the right-of-way line unless a higher type material is specified by the permit. Low, medium, and high volume driveways which provide access to paved highways shall be paved within the right-of-way. Materials used in the construction of driveways shall meet the requirements of PaDOT Form 408. The driveway pavement shall be at least four inches (4") thick within the right-of-way.
- L. Driveways Relative to Ramps: Ramps are intended to provide access from one roadway or roadway system to another with a minimum amount of conflict or interference from other traffic. To insure the integrity of this intended

function, no access driveway will be permitted on a ramp or within fifty feet (50') of the intersection of the edge of pavement of the ramp or its speed change lane with the edge of pavement of the intersecting roadway. Exceptions will be considered only if the enforcement of this subsection would result in the prohibition of reasonable access from the adjacent property to the highway system.

M. Median Openings: Median openings shall consist of the following:

1. The removal of a portion of median divisor along a divided highway to provide access to and from traffic in both directions will not be permitted unless it is determined that the operating characteristics of the highway system will be improved by such action.
2. A left turn standby lane shall be installed to separate and protect left turning vehicles whenever a median opening is permitted.
3. Requests for removal of a median divisor will not be granted without the approval of the Roadmaster or Zoning Officer.

N. Shoulder Upgrading: Where the existing shoulder on either side of a proposed low, medium, or high volume driveway is not adequate to allow its use by turning vehicles, the permittee shall upgrade the shoulder area for a minimum of one hundred feet (100') on either side of the driveway. The type of shoulder to be installed will be specified by the permit, in accordance with the volume and type of traffic expected to use the driveway.

O. Traffic Control Devices: The Township may, upon recommendation of the Township Engineer, require a traffic study to determine the need for signalization at certain driveways prior to issuance of a permit. If required, the applicant shall complete a study in accordance with PaDOT standards, and if signalization is deemed necessary, the appropriate plans and applications must be submitted by the permittee to PaDOT to obtain a Traffic Signal Permit.

§17-309 Driveway Layout Illustrations

Standard Details 31 through 35 illustrate and supplement the minimum design requirements

described in this Article. Although site conditions may not allow strict adherence to the dimensions shown in these illustration, every effort shall be made to design and construct the safest and most efficient access onto the Township roads.

§17-310 Penalties and Enforcement

A. General Rule: Any violation of this Article or the permit requirements shall constitute grounds for imposition of any or all of the following penalties:

1. Upon receipt of oral and written notice of any violation from the authorized representative of the Township or a police officer whose jurisdiction includes the permitted work area, the permittee shall cease to perform any further work in the permitted area except to restore the area to a safe condition. No further work shall commence in the permitted area until the violation has been remedied. Where the permittee has received oral notice of the violation, written notice shall be sent to the permittee within ten (10) days of receipt of the oral notice.
2. Confiscation of the applicant's permit by a police officer or authorized representative of the Township.
3. Revocation of the applicant's permit by the Township.
4. The Township may block driveways or sewer, remove, or block drainage facilities constructed without a permit or in violation of this Article.
5. Such fines, imprisonment, or other penalties as are provided by law.
6. Such other action as may be deemed necessary or proper after consultation with the Township Solicitor.

B. Additional Grounds for Revocation: Additional grounds for revocation shall be as follows:

1. The Township Manager may revoke a permit whenever he determines that the driveway or approaches or their use constitute a hazard to traffic or interferes with the proper use of the highway by the Township or the public.
2. The Township Manager may revoke a

permit for nonpayment of any fee specified in Section 17-304 of this Article (relating to permit fees) including default of any check submitted for such payment.

- C. Revocation Procedure: Prior to revocation of any permit except for nonpayment as specified in Paragraph B 2 of this Subsection, the applicant shall be given an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of 2 PA C.S.//501--508.

ARTICLE IV

DRIVEWAY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 2022-04-03, April 13, 2022.

§17-401 Definitions and Word Usage

The following words, when used in this Chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Chapter, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- A. **PERSON:** Any natural person, partnership, firm, general contractor, association, corporation or public utility company.
- B. **PRIVATE DRIVEWAY:** Every entrance or exit used by vehicular traffic to or from properties abutting a street.
- C. **STREET:** Any adopted public street, avenue, road, square, alley, highway or other public place located in the Township of Center and established for the use of vehicles, including the entire right-of-way of the street.
- D. **DRIVEWAY WATER:** The water that exits a driveway onto the public street, avenue, road, alley, highway of the Township.

§17-402 Causation of Driveway Water onto Township Roads

- A. The Township Road Foreman or designee shall determine the best management practice (BMP) to eliminate driveway water conditions from affecting the Township Road System and advise property owner(s) of said determinations.
- B. Property owners are responsible for keeping pipes clear and free from obstructions.

§17-403 Requests for Driveway Pipes

- A. Where requested by a property owner, a driveway pipe may be installed by the Township when the property owner purchases the pipe and other required materials as determined by the Township Road Foreman or designee.
- B. The size and configuration of a driveway drainage pipe on existing driveways shall be determined by the Road Foreman or designee.
- C. Installation of the driveway pipe by the Township will be scheduled as time allows in the Road Departments work schedule.

§17-404 Prohibited Acts

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to install, lay, construct a driveway drainage system within the Township Right-of-Way without first contacting the Township Road Department.
- B. Water that exits a driveway onto the public street, road, avenue or highway so as to cause a dangerous condition or a nuisance is hereby prohibited.

§17-405 Compliance Required

- A. All work accomplished shall comply with all rules, regulations, policies, specifications and/or procedures approved from time to time by the Township, including without limitation, the provisions of this Chapter as from time to time amended.
- B. The size and configuration of driveway drainage systems on existing property does not exempt the requirements of planned developments as stipulated in Chapter 14 and Chapter 21 of Center Township Codified Ordinances.

§17-406 Violations and Penalties

Any person, whether principal, agent or employee, violating or assisting in the violation of any of the provisions of this Article shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600) and costs of prosecution and, in default of the payment of such fine and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both. Each day of violation shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

ARTICLE V

DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION REGISTRATION

History: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance 2001-02-01, February 2001 as amended by Ordinance No. 2007-02-04, February 14, 2007.

§17-501 Definitions and Word Usage

The following words, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Article, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- A. **PERSON:** Any natural person, partnership, firm, general contractor, association, corporation or public utility company.
- B. **PRIVATE DRIVEWAY:** Every entrance or exit used by vehicular traffic to or from properties abutting a street.
- C. **STREET:** Any adopted public street, avenue, road, square, alley, highway or other public place located in the Township of Center and established for the use of vehicles, including the entire right-of-way of the street.

§17-502 Prohibited Acts

It shall be unlawful for any person to install, lay, construct, pave or repave any private driveway in the Township of Center without first registering with the Township, as hereinafter provided.

§17-503 Registration

Any person desiring to install, lay, construct, pave or to repave any private driveway in the Township of Center shall register with the Township Secretary, in writing, upon blanks furnished by the Township setting forth the name of the applicant, name, address and tax identification number of the contractor, the exact location of the proposed private driveway, and shall contain an agreement on the part of the applicant that the work shall be done in full compliance with the ordinances of the Township and the laws of the Commonwealth in relation thereto, and that the applicant shall well and truly save, defend and keep harmless the Township from and indemnify it against any and all actions, suits, demands, payments, costs and charges for or by reason of the proposed private driveway, and all damages to persons or property resulting in any manner therefrom, or occurring in the prosecution of the work connected therewith, or

from any other matter, cause or thing relating thereto.

§17-504 Compliance Required

All work done shall comply with all rules, regulations, policies, specifications and/or procedures approved from time to time by the Township, including without limitation, the provisions of this Chapter as from time to time amended.

§17-505 Fees

No permit will be issued under this Article until the proper fee, as established from time to time by the Board of Supervisors, has been paid.

§17-506 Violations and Penalties

Any person, whether principal, agent or employee, violating or assisting in the violation of any of the provisions of this Article shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600) and costs of prosecution and, in default of the payment of such fine and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both. Each day of violation shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.