

SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP
DANGEROUS STRUCTURES ORDINANCE
Ordinance No. 23 of 2007

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO ACT 246 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1945,
AS AMENDED, TO PROHIBIT DANGEROUS STRUCTURES AND TO
PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS

THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRANCH ORDAINS:

Section 1. “Dangerous Structure” Defined.

As used in this Ordinance a “dangerous structure” means a building or structure that has one (1) or more of the following defects or is in one (1) or more of the following conditions.

- A. A portion of the building or structure is damaged by fire, wind, flood, or other cause so that the structural strength or stability of the building or structure is appreciably less than it was before the catastrophe and does not meet the minimum requirements of the building code enforced within the Township for a new building or structure.
- B. A part of the building or structure is likely to fall, become detached or dislodged, or collapse and injure persons or damage property.
- C. A portion of the building or structure has settled to such an extent that walls or other structural portions of the building or structure have materially less resistance to wind that is required in the case of new construction by the building code enforced within the Township.
- D. The building or structure, or a part of the building or structure, because of dilapidation, deterioration, decay, faulty construction, or the removal or movement of some portion of the ground necessary for the support, or for other reasons, is likely to partially or completely collapse, or some portion of the foundation or underpinning of the building or structure is likely to fall or give way.
- E. The building, structure, or a part of the building or structure is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is used.
- F. The building or structure is damaged by fire, wind, or flood, or is dilapidated or deteriorated and has become an attractive nuisance to children who might play in the building or structure to their danger.

- G. The building or structure is vacant, dilapidated, and opened at door or window, leaving the interior of the building exposed to the elements or accessible to entrance by trespassers.

Section 2. Prohibition.

No person, corporation, limited liability company, trust, partnership, or other legal entity shall own, occupy or maintain any dangerous structure within the Township.

Section 3. Notice.

If a building or structure is found to be a dangerous structure, the Zoning Administrator or other person named by the Township Board shall give the owner of the building or structure written notice of the dangerous condition and thirty (30) days to demolish and remove the dangerous structure from the property or to repair the dangerous structure to make it safe. The notice may be personally delivered to the owner or mailed to the owner by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested to the address shown on the assessor's rolls.

Section 4. Inspection.

Township representatives shall have the right to inspect buildings or structures to determine violation of or compliance with this Ordinance. Township representatives may exercise this right to inspection by consent of the person having the right to possession of the building or structure or any part thereof, or by administrative search warrant.

Section 5. Penalty.

Any person who violates any provision of the Ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined in Public Act 12 of 1994, amending Public Act 236, of 1961, being Sections 600.101-600.9939 of Michigan Compiled Laws, and shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) Dollars. Each day this Ordinance is violated shall be considered as a separate violation.

Section 6. Enforcement.

The Zoning Administrator or other person named by the Township Board is hereby designated as the authorized township official to issue municipal civil infraction citations directing alleged violators of this Ordinance to appear in court.

Section 7. Nuisance.

A violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance or a nuisance per se and is declared to be offensive to the public health, safety and welfare.

Section 8. Civil Action.

In addition to enforcing this Ordinance through the use of a municipal civil infraction proceeding, the Township may initiate proceedings in the Circuit Court to abate or eliminate the nuisance per se or any other violation of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Abatement by Township.

If a Court of competent jurisdiction finds the owner or occupant of a building or structure in violation of this Ordinance, the Court, in addition to ordering the owner or occupant to demolish the dangerous structure and remove it from the property or to repair the dangerous structure to make it safe, may authorize the Township to demolish the dangerous structure and remove it from the property or to repair the dangerous structure to make it safe. The Court, however, shall not authorize the Township to demolish the dangerous structure if the cost of repairing the building or structure to a safe condition is less than the state equalized value for the building or structure.

Section 10. Cost Recovery; Lien.

- A. The costs incurred by the Township in demolishing the dangerous structure and removing it from the property or repairing the dangerous structure to a safe condition, including reasonable attorney fees, shall be reimbursed to the Township by the owner or party in interest in whose name the property appears.
- B. The owner or party in interest in whose name the property appears upon the last local tax assessment roll shall be notified by the Zoning Administrator of the amount of the costs of the demolition or repair of the dangerous structure by first-class mail at the address shown on the records. If the owner or party in interest fails to pay the costs within thirty (30) days after mailing by the Zoning Administrator of the notice of the amount of the costs, the Township shall have a lien for the costs incurred by the Township to bring the property into compliance with this Ordinance. The lien shall not take effect until notice of the lien has been filed or recorded as provided by law. The lien provided for in this subsection does not have priority over previously filed or recorded liens and encumbrances. The lien for the costs shall be collected and treated in the same manner as provided for property tax liens under the state General Property Tax Act.

Section 11. Severability.

If any section, provision or clause of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid such invalidity shall not affect any remaining portions or application of this Ordinance, which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application.

Section 12. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after being published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRANCH

By: _____
Tom Kozlowski, Supervisor

By: _____
Lynn George, Clerk