

# **Chapter 1**

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**Part 1****Preliminary Provisions****§1-101. Short Title.**

The short title of this Code of Ordinances prepared and published for the Borough of Ferndale shall be the "Borough of Ferndale Code of Ordinances."

(*Ord. 489, 10/13/2014*)

**§1-102. Citation of Code of Ordinances.**

The Borough of Ferndale Code of Ordinances may be cited by Section number. The approved short form is "Code." Thus, "Code, §27-101" refers to §101 of Chapter 27 of this Code of Ordinances.

(*Ord. 489, 10/13/2014*)

**§1-103. Arrangement of Code.**

1. This Code is divided into Chapters which are subdivided as follows:
  - A. Subchapters, identified by capital letters, beginning with a Chapter title and number.
  - B. Parts, identified by Arabic numerals, beginning with a Part title and number.
  - C. Subparts, identified by Arabic numerals, beginning with a title.
2. The Sections of the Code are subdivided as follows:
  - A. Subsections, identified by Arabic numerals.
  - B. Paragraphs, identified by capital letters.
  - C. Subparagraphs, identified by Arabic numerals enclosed within parentheses.
  - D. Clauses, identified by lower case letters enclosed within parentheses.
  - E. Subclauses, identified by Arabic numerals followed by a parenthesis.
  - F. Items, identified by identified by lower case letters followed by a parenthesis.
  - G. Subitems, identified by small Roman numerals.

(*Ord. 489, 10/13/2014*)

**§1-104. Headings.**

Chapter, Subchapter, Part, Subpart, Section, Subsection, Paragraph, Subparagraph, Clause, and Subclause headings contained in the Code may not be deemed to govern, limit, modify or affect the scope, meaning or intent of the Code. The headings of Sections, Subsections or other divisions of this Code are intended as mere captions to indicate the contents of the Section, Subsection or other division and shall not be deemed to be taken as titles of such Section, Subsection or other division, nor as any part of said Section, Subsection or other division unless expressly so provided.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

### **§1-105. Tenses, Gender and Number.**

Except as may be otherwise stated in any provision of this Code, the present tense includes the past and future tenses, and the future the present; the masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter, the feminine includes the masculine and neuter, and the neuter includes the masculine and feminine; and the singular includes the plural, and the plural the singular.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

### **§1-106. Construction.**

1. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided by any provision of this Code, the Statutory Construction Act of 1972, 1 Pa.C.S.A. §1501 *et seq.*, shall be applied in construing this Code.

2. *Effect of Repeal or Expiration of Code Section.*

A. The repeal of a Code Section or ordinance, or its expiration by virtue of any provision contained therein, shall not affect any right accrued or any offense committed, any penalty or punishment incurred, or any proceeding commenced before the repeal took effect or the ordinance expired.

B. When any ordinance repealing a former Code Section, ordinance, clause or provision shall itself be repealed, such repeal shall not be construed to revive such former Code Section, ordinance, clause or provision, unless it shall be expressly so provided.

3. *Saving Clause.* The provisions of this Code, so far as they are the same as those ordinances and regulations in force immediately prior to the adoption of this Code, are intended as a continuation of such ordinances, resolutions and regulations and not as a new enactment. The provisions of this Code shall not affect any suit or prosecution pending or to be instituted to enforce any of the prior ordinances or regulations. Except as specifically stated in this Code or in the ordinance adopting this consolidation, codification and revision of the ordinances and regulations, it is the intention of the Borough Council that no ordinance or regulation of the Borough be amended, revised or repealed by implication.

4. *Resolutions.* The provisions of this Code of Ordinances may contain resolutions, that is, actions of the Borough Council (in written form and designated "resolution") which did not require prior public notice in accordance with the provisions of the Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S.A. §101 *et seq.*, at the time of their passage by the Borough Council. Such "resolutions" are included herein for ease of reference and the Borough Council does not intend by their inclusion herein to require prior public notice before amending, revising or repealing such resolution or resolutions as may have been included herein in the future. It is the intention of the Borough Council that such actions of the Borough Council that may be included in this Code and specifically cited and designated as a resolution shall not become an ordinance (requiring prior public notice before amendment, revision or repeal) by the simple fact of inclusion in this Code.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

**§1-107. Normal Numbering.**

1. *Chapters.* Chapters are numbered sequentially in Arabic throughout this Code.
2. *Parts.* Parts are numbered sequentially in Arabic throughout this Code.
3. Whenever other divisions are necessary, Chapters shall be divided into Subchapters, Parts into Subparts and designated with the Chapter or Part number followed by a capital letter. For instance, Chapter 1 may be divided into Subchapters 1A and 1B.

4. *Sections.* Sections are numbered sequentially throughout a Chapter and a Part such that the first number or numbers is the Chapter number, followed by a hyphen, followed by the Part number, followed by the Section number within the Part. For example, "§1-101" designates Chapter 1, Part 1, Section 1. Similarly, "§27-305" designates Chapter 27, Part 3, Section 5.

5. *Internal Divisions of Sections.* Whenever internal divisions are necessary, Sections shall be divided into Subsections, Subsections into Paragraphs, Paragraphs into Subparagraphs, Subparagraphs into Clauses, and Clauses into Subclauses, and Subclauses into Items, designated as follows:

1. Subsection.
  - A. Paragraph.
    - (1) Subparagraph.
      - (a) Clause.
        - 1) Subclause.
          - a) Item.
            - i. Subitem

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

**§1-108. Special Numbering Problems.**

1. *Addition of New Units Between Existing Units.* If it becomes necessary to introduce a new Chapter, Part or Section between existing Chapters, Parts or Sections, the new Chapter, Part or Section shall be designated by the addition of a capital letter suffix to the preceding Chapter, Part or Section number. Thus, a Chapter introduced between Chapters 5 and 6 would be Chapter 5A and Sections in that Chapter would be numbered, for instance, "§5A-101." If it becomes necessary to introduce a Part between existing Parts 5 and 6 the new Part would be Part 5A and Sections in that Part would be numbered, for instance, "§5-5A01." A new Section introduced between existing Sections 5 and 6 would be "§5-105A." When a number of new Parts or Sections have been introduced the Chapter or Part shall be renumbered.

2. If it becomes necessary to introduce a Subsection between Subsections, for instance, Subsections .5 and .6, the new Subsection would be numbered Subsection .5-A.

3. If it becomes necessary to introduce a unit smaller than a Subsection between existing units, the entire Subsection shall be revised and renumbered.

4. *Vacated Numbers.* Whenever a number is vacated by a revocation or repeal, the remaining elements in the overall unit shall retain their old numbers until the overall unit is completely revised. Prior to revision, the vacated number may be marked:

“[Reserved].”

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

### §1-109. Amending Code.

1. All ordinances passed subsequent to the adoption of this Code which amend, repeal or in any way affect this Code shall be numbered in accordance with the numbering system of this Code and printed for inclusion herein. In the case of repealed Chapters, Parts, Sections, Paragraphs, Clauses or other part or provision hereof, by subsequent ordinance, such repealed portions may be excluded from this Code by omission from reprinted pages affected thereby. The subsequent ordinances as numbered and printed, or omitted in the case of repeal, shall be prima facie evidence of such subsequent ordinances until such time as this Code and subsequent ordinances omitted are readopted as a new Code by the Borough Council.

2. Amendment to any provision of this Code shall be made by specific reference to the Chapter, Part, Section and/or Subsection number of this Code in the following language:

A. *Amendment or Revision.* “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_, is hereby amended (revised) to read as follows . . . .” The amended or revised provisions may then be set out in full as desired.

B. *Addition.* “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_, is hereby amended by the addition of the following . . . .” The new provision shall then be set out in full as desired.

C. *Repeal.* “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_, is hereby repealed in its entirety.”

3. It is the intention of the Borough Council that the numbering scheme of this Code be adhered to in enacting future ordinances. In the event that any ordinance or other enactment be adopted which does not conform to the numbering system of this Code, it is the intention of the Borough Council that such enactment be renumbered in the process of supplementing, revising or updating this Code to conform to the numbering scheme of this Code. The Borough Council hereby acknowledges and confirms that the numbering scheme herein is for ease of reference and that the renumbering of any enactment when added to this Code shall not in any manner affect the validity of said enactment.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

### §1-110. Altering Code.

It shall be unlawful for any person to change or amend by addition or deletion any part or portion of this Code, or to insert or delete pages or portions thereof, or to alter or tamper with such Code in any manner whatsoever, except by ordinance or resolution or other official act of the Borough Council.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)

### §1-111. Penalties.

1. *Penalty Where No Penalty Provided.* Whenever in this Code or in any ordinance of the Borough any act is prohibited or is declared to be unlawful, or whenever in this

Code or other ordinance the doing of any act is declared to be unlawful, and no specific penalty is provided therefor:

A. *Violations of Health, Safety and Welfare Provisions.* For violations of ordinances adopting building, housing, property maintenance, health, fire or public safety codes; and for ordinances regulating water services, water pollution, air pollution and noise, the following penalty shall be provided:

(1) Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

B. *Other Violations.* All other penalties, except for penalties in Chapter 15, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" (based on the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §101 *et seq.*), penalties and ordinances adopted under the authority of the Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. §10101 *et seq.*, earned income tax ordinances adopted under the Local Tax Enabling Act, 53 P.S. §6924.101 *et seq.*, and ordinances adopted under authority of the Sewage Facilities Act, 35 P.S. §750.1 *et seq.*, should provide, generally:

(1) Any person, partnership, or corporation who or which has violated or permitted the violation of the provisions of this Part, upon being found liable therefor in a civil enforcement proceeding commenced by the Township, shall pay a judgment of not more than \$600 plus all court costs and reasonable attorney fees. No judgment shall commence or be imposed, levied or payable until the date of the determination of a violation by a magisterial district judge. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgment, the Township may enforce the judgment pursuant to the applicable rules of civil procedure. Each day that a violation continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate violation.

2. The imposition of a penalty under the provisions of this Code shall not prevent the revocation of any permit or license or the taking of other punitive or remedial action where called for or permitted under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America. In addition, the Borough may institute injunctive, mandamus or any other appropriate action or proceeding at law or in equity for the enforcement of this Code. Any court of competent jurisdiction shall have the right to issue restraining orders, temporary or permanent injunctions, mandamus, or other appropriate forms of remedy or relief.

(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)





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**Part 2****Boards and Commissioners****A. Recreation Board****§1-201. Created.**

There is hereby established by the Council of the Borough of Ferndale a Recreation Board under the authority of §2708 of the Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S.A. §2708.

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §1*)

**§1-202. Number of Members.**

Such Board shall consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine persons as determined from time to time by the Council of the Borough of Ferndale.

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §2*)

**§1-203. Appointment of Members.**

The Borough members of the Board shall be appointed by the Borough Council from time to time and shall serve no longer than 5 years, and the terms of the members shall be staggered in such a manner that at least one expires annually.

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §3*)

**§1-204. Vacancies.**

Vacancies in the Board occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §5*)

**§1-205. Organization.**

The members of the Board established pursuant to this Part shall elect their own chairman and secretary and select all other necessary officers to serve for a period of 1 year, and may employ such persons as may be needed as authorized by the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S.A. §101 *et seq.*

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §5*)

**§1-206. Rules and Regulations.**

The Board shall have power to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of all business within its jurisdiction.

(*Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §6*)

**§1-207. Expenses.**

All expenses incurred in the operation of recreation places shall be payable from the Treasury of the Borough of Ferndale. The Borough Council may annually appropriate and cause to be raised by taxation an amount necessary for the purpose of

maintaining and operating recreation places.

*(Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §7)*

**§1-208. Authority of Borough.**

The Borough shall have the authority to equip, supervise and maintain recreation places, employ play leaders, recreation directors, supervisors, superintendents or any other officers or employees as it may deem proper.

*(Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §8)*

**§1-209. Members to Serve Without Pay.**

Members of the Recreation Board shall serve without pay.

*(Ord. 354, 6/3/1974, §9)*

**Part 3****Officers and Employees****A. Compensation of Tax Collector****§1-301. Compensation Established.**

From and after the first day of June, 1932, the compensation of the Tax Collector of the Borough shall be as follows: on all taxes collected by the Collector prior to the time the penalty for nonpayment attaches a commission of 1½ percent will be paid, on all taxes collected by the collector after the penalty attaches, a commission of 4 percent will be paid.

*(Ord. 182, 5/3/1932, §I)*



**Part 4****Appointed Officials****A. Independent Auditor****§1-401. Appointment of Independent Auditor.**

1. The Council does hereby provide for the appointment of an independent Auditor to make an independent examination of the accounting records of the Borough for the fiscal year 1968, and subsequent years. Said auditor shall exercise the powers as conferred upon him by law.

2. The office of elected Auditor or Auditors is hereby abolished.

*(Ord. 338, 12/20/1968)*



**Part 5****Fire Loss Insurance Proceeds Escrow****§1-501. Use of Fire Insurance Proceeds.**

1. No insurance company, association or exchange (hereinafter "insurer") doing business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall pay a claim of a named insured for fire damage to a structure located within the Borough where the amount recoverable for the fire loss to the structure under all policies exceeds \$7,500, unless the insurer is furnished by the Borough Treasurer with a certificate pursuant to 508(b) of the Insurance Company Law of 1921, as amended by Act 98 of 1992 and Act 93 of 1994 (collectively, the "Act") and unless there is compliance with the procedures set forth in 508(c) and (d) of the Act, 40 P.S. §638.

2. Where there are delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties or user charges against the property ("municipal claims"), or there are expenses which the Borough has incurred as a cost for the removal, repair or securing of a building or other structure on the property (collectively "municipal expenses"), the Council President or such official's designee of the Borough shall immediately render a bill for such work, if he has not already done so. Upon written request of the named insured specifying the tax description of the property, the name and address of the insurer and the date of receipt by the insurer of a loss report of the claim, the Treasurer shall furnish a certificate within 14 working days after the request, to the insurer, a certificate (or at his discretion an oral notice confirmed in writing) either:

A. Stating that there are no unpaid municipal claims or municipal expenses against the property.

B. Specifying the nature and amount of such claims or expenses, accompanied by a bill for such amounts.

C. Taxes, assessments, penalties and user charges shall be deemed delinquent for this purpose if a lien could have been filed for such claims under applicable law. Upon receipt of a certificate and bill pursuant to subsection .1 of this Section, the insurer shall transfer to the Treasurer an amount from the insurance proceeds sufficient to pay such sums prior to making payment to the named insured, subject to the provisions of subsection .3 hereof.

3. When all municipal claims and municipal expenses have been paid pursuant to subsection .2 of this Section, or where the Treasurer has issued a certificate described in subsection .2.A indicating that there are no municipal claims or municipal expenses against the property, the insurer shall pay the claim of the named insured; provided, however, that if the loss agreed upon by the named insured and the insurer equals or exceeds 60 percent of the aggregate limits of liability on all fire policies covering the building or structure, the following procedures must be followed:

A. The insurer shall transfer from the insurance proceeds to the Treasurer, in the aggregate, \$2,000 for each \$15,000 of such claim or fraction thereof.

B. If at the time a loss report is submitted by the insured, such insured has submitted to the insurer, with a copy to the Borough, a contractor's signed estimate of the cost of removing, repairing or securing the building or other structure in an

amount less than the amount calculated under the foregoing transfer formula, the insurer shall transfer to the Treasurer from the insurance proceeds the amount specified in the estimate. If there is more than one insurer, the transfer of proceeds shall be on a pro rata basis by all insurers insuring the building or other structure.

C. Upon receipt of the above described portion of the insurance proceeds, the Treasurer shall do the following:

(1) Place the proceeds in a separate fund to be used solely as security against the total municipal expenses anticipated by the Borough to be required in removing, repairing or securing the building or structure as required by this Part. Such costs shall include, without limitation, any engineering, legal or administrative costs incurred by the Borough in connection with such removal, repair or securing or any proceedings related thereto; and,

(2) Mail to the named insured, at the address received from the insurer, a notice the proceeds have been received by the Borough and that the procedures under this subsection shall be followed.

(3) After the transfer, the named insured may submit to the Borough a contractor's signed estimate of the cost of removing, repairing or securing the building or other structure, in which event the Treasurer shall, if such estimate is deemed by the Treasurer to be reasonable, return to the insured the amount of the funds transferred to the Borough in excess of that required to pay the municipal expenses; provided, the Borough has not commenced to remove, repair or secure the building or other structure, in which case the Borough will complete the work.

(4) Pay to the Council President or such official's designee, for reimbursement to the Borough general fund, the amount of the municipal expenses paid by the Borough.

(5) Pay the remaining balance in the fund (without interest) to the named insured upon receipt of a certificate issued by the Council President or such official's designee that the repair, removal or securing of the building or other structure has been completed in accordance with all applicable codes and regulations of the Borough.

(6) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the ability of the Borough to recover any deficiency in the amount of municipal claims or municipal expenses recovered pursuant to this Part, or to insurance proceeds, by an action at law or in equity to enforce the codes of the Borough or to enter into an agreement with the named insured with regard to such other disposition of the proceeds as the Borough may deem responsible.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

### **§1-502. Limits of Liability.**

Nothing in this Part shall be construed to make an insurance company, association or exchange liable for any amount in excess of proceeds payable under its insurance policy or for any other act performed pursuant to this Part or to make this Borough, any Borough official, a municipality or public official an insured under a policy of insurance or to create an obligation to pay delinquent property taxes or unpaid removal liens or



expenses other than as provided in this Part.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

**§1-503. Insurance Company Rights Reserved.**

An insurance company, association or exchange making payment of policy proceeds under this Part for delinquent taxes or structure removal liens or removal expenses incurred by the Borough shall have a full benefit of such payment including all rights of subrogation and of assignment.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

**§1-504. Construction.**

This Part shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose to deter the commission of arson and related crimes, to discourage the abandonment of property and to prevent urban blight and deterioration.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

**§1-505. Notification of Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.**

The Secretary of the Borough shall transmit a certified copy of this Part promptly to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

**§1-506. Penalty.**

Any owner of property, any named insured or insurer who violates the provisions of this Part or who shall fail to comply with any of the requirements hereof, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

*(Ord. 489, 10/13/2014)*

