

ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL COST RECOVERY

An Ordinance to establish charges for Township of Hamilton, Clare County (the "Township) emergency service,

responding to an incident involving hazardous materials under Public Act 102 of 1990 (MCLA 41.806a) and to

provide for methods for the collection of such charges.

THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, CLARE COUNTY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

In order to protect the Township from incurring extraordinary expenses resulting from the utilization of Township resources to respond to an incident involving the spill, release or discharge of hazardous materials, or the improper handling or storage of hazardous materials, the Township Board shall recover from the responsible parties the reasonable and actual cost incurred by the Township in responding to calls

for assistance in connection with hazardous release.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

A. "Cost" and "Clean-up/disposal costs" mean any and all expenses incurred by the Fire, Police, and Public

Works Department and/or any other department hired by the Township to supply services to the Township, whether direct or indirect, and shall include, but not be limited to, expense attributable to responses, control or abatement of any hazardous materials release, including cost of equipment, operations and personnel, costs of materials utilized, fringe benefit costs, overhead cost, costs of meals for all personnel, costs involved in the incident, costs of specialist, medical expenses for exposures, injuries or illnesses resulting from the incident, costs of experts or other contract labor services not in full-time employment of the Township, costs incurred by fire departments requested to assist and all other costs incurred by the Township as a result of said incident.

B. "Facility" means any area, place or property where a hazardous material has been released, deposited,

stored or disposed of or otherwise comes to be located.

C. "Fire Department" means any fire department rendering service to Hamilton Township, Clare County, Michigan.

D. "Hazardous Materials" means any of the following:

1. Substances or materials in quantity or form which, in the determination of Fire Chief of the fire department responding to the release of hazardous materials or his or her authorized representative, pose an unacceptable risk or danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the environment, or property, and shall include, but not be limited to, such substances as chemicals, explosives, radioactive materials, petroleum or petroleum products, gases, poisons, etiologic (biologic) agents, flammables, and corrosives.
2. Hazardous substances as defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, Public Law 96-510, 94 Stat., 2767, as amended.
3. Hazardous substances as defined in Part 201 of Act No. 451 of the Public Act of 1994 of the State of Michigan, as amended.
4. Hazardous waste as defined in Part 111 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994 of the State of Michigan, as amended.
5. Petroleum as described in Part 213 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994 of the State of Michigan, as amended.

E. "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, Limited Liability Company, or any other legal entity.

F. "Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing of a hazardous substance into the environment, or the improper handling or storage thereof, or the abandonment or discharging of barrels, containers, or other receptacles containing a hazardous substance.

G. "Threatened Release" means any circumstances that may reasonably be anticipated to cause a release.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABATEMENT, CONTROL AND COSTS: USE OF OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS OR

MUNICIPAL FORCES.

Any person who accidentally, negligently, or intentionally causes or is responsible for any release, spill, or

improper handling or storage of any hazardous material in the Township shall be responsible and liable for the

abatement, control, capture, removal, and proper storage or disposal of such hazardous materials and for all

costs associated therewith.

It shall be the duty of any responsible party to remove immediately hazardous material released and undertake and complete a total cleanup of the area of the release in such a manner as to ensure that the

hazardous material are fully removed and the area is fully restored to its condition prior to the release of such

hazardous material, or to conditions or standards established by Michigan DNR/EGLE pursuant to Act 307 of

the Michigan Public Act of 1982, as amended or other applicable law or environmental law regulations.

Any responsible party who fails to comply completely with the provisions of this ordinance shall be liable to

the Township, its agents, contractors and employees for any costs incurred in the removal and cleanup of any

and all hazardous materials and the restoration of the affected property.

In the event that any responsible party fails to remove immediately such hazardous material, the Township

shall have the right to enter on the property involved with the release and remove and conduct a cleanup of

all hazardous materials either by Township employees or by contractors and agents of the Township.

Where the HazMat Unit is used for any aspect of the removal, cleanup, and control or monitoring of any release or other incident involving hazardous materials, the responsible party shall be liable to the Township

for cost incurred in using the HazMat Unit.

SECTION 4. RECOVERY COSTS

A. The Township shall be entitled to recover all assessable costs in connection with a public safety or fire emergency incident from any responsible parties jointly or severally.

B. The Supervisor or his or her designee shall determine the total assessable costs and shall in consultation

with the Township personnel involved in responding to a public safety or fire emergency incident

determine whether to assess any, all or part of such costs against any of the responsible parties. In making such determination, the following shall be considered:

1. The total assessable costs;
2. The risk and public safety or fire emergency incident imposed on the Township, its residents and their property;
3. Whether there was any injury or damage to persons or property;
4. Whether the public safety or fire emergency incident required evacuation;
5. The extent the public safety or fire emergency incident required an unusual or extraordinary use of Township personnel and equipment, and
6. Whether there was any damage to the environment.

C. After determining to assess assessable costs against a responsible party, the Township Treasurer shall mail an itemized invoice to the responsible party at its last known address. Such invoice shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing and any amounts unpaid after such date shall bear a late payment fee equal to one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof that the amount due and any previously imposed late payment fee remains unpaid.

D. In the event that said costs are not paid, the Township may take whatever collections steps may be deemed appropriate, including the placement of all such charges on the tax roll for said property and to levy and collect such costs in the same manner as provided for the levy and collection of real property taxes against such property.

E. If the responsible party fails to pay the Township for cost incurred within the thirty (30) days of the date of the invoice sent by the Township Treasurer to the responsible party, the Township may institute legal action to collect the costs due, including expenses, costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred to collect those costs.

SECTION 5. OTHER REMEDIES

The Township shall be entitled to pursue any other remedy or may institute any appropriate action or proceeding in the court of competent jurisdiction as permitted by law to collect assessable costs from a responsible party.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

Should any provision or part of the within ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be

invalid or enforceable, the same shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after publication in the Clare County Cleaver, a newspaper in general circulation within the Township. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby repealed.