

**West Branch Township, Ogemaw County, MI 48661**

**Temporary Sign Township Road Rights-of-Way Removal Policy**

**Resolution TSRP-07-12-23**

**Adopted: August 9<sup>th</sup> 2023**

WHEREAS, the West Branch Township Board desires to maintain the Township's road rights of way under its jurisdiction free of obstacles and encumbrances that adversely affect both the safety and maintenance of said system;

WHEREAS, the placement of temporary signs in the Township rights of way has been determined to be a major source of obstacles and encumbrances of the road system;

WHEREAS, temporary signs placed in the road right of way create a safety hazard to the motorizing and non-motorizing public and deterrent to efficient maintenance of same by Township staff and road commission staff alike; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that the placement of any temporary sign in the Township's road rights of way shall be forbidden, effective September 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED by the Township Board of West Branch Township, as follows:

1. The Township Board adopts this Resolution as the "Temporary Sign Township Road Rights-of-Way Removal Policy."
2. The Township Board sets that Policy as follows:

**TEMPORARY SIGN TOWNSHIP ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY REMOVAL POLICY**

**1. GENERAL AND PURPOSE:**

- a. The purpose of this policy is to prohibit the placement of all temporary signs in the Township road rights of way. The Township Board has found that unobstructed views of traffic and traffic-control signs are essential in maintaining safe conditions for pedestrians and those operating bikes and motor vehicles, and that the placement of signs by individuals in the public right of way limits the visibility of oncoming traffic, obscures traffic-control signs, and amplifies the potential occurrence of traffic-related accidents. The Township adopts this policy in an effort to maintain safe streets and sidewalks for its residents and visitors.
- b. The purpose of the Policy is to further guide West Branch Township officials and employees regarding temporary signs that have been placed in the Township's rights-of-way.

2. **DEFINITIONS:**

- a. “Government Sign” means any sign erected by the Township or other governmental entity that has the Township’s approval or concurrent jurisdiction over the rights-of-way, such as Ogemaw County or the State of Michigan.
- b. “Temporary Sign” means any device, structure, fixture, figure, symbol, banner, pennant, flag, balloon, logo, or placard consisting of written copy, symbols, logos and/or graphics, not constructed or intended for long-term use, designed for the purpose of bringing attention to, identifying or advertising an establishment, product, goods, services, or conveying a message to the general public.

3. **SCOPE OF THE POLICY AND PROHIBITION ON TEMPORARY SIGNS:** This Policy shall apply to all temporary signs within the Township’s rights-of-way, except for government signs. Any temporary sign erected, constructed, altered or maintained within the Township’s rights-of-way that: (1) is placed in, upon, or over any public right-of-way without the approval of the Township Board; (2) is placed in a manner as to materially impede the view of any street, highway intersection, or railroad crossing; or (3) may, by reason of its position, shape, color, or other characteristics, interfere with, obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic signs or signals, shall be considered an impediment to the promotion of public health, safety, and general welfare, and thus contrary to the purpose of this policy. All such signs, except government signs, shall be removed and may be destroyed by the Township Zoning Administrator, or his/her designee irrespective of the content or messages expressed thereon. The Township will apply this Policy to signs placed on Township property in the same manner as it applies to temporary signs within the Township’s rights-of-way.

4. **TEMPORARY SIGNS OUTSIDE OF THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY:** Any temporary signs placed on private property within the Township shall be done in accordance with the Township ordinances, including the Township Zoning Ordinance.

5. **ENFORCEMENT OF THE POLICY:** This Policy shall be implemented and enforced by the West Branch Township Zoning Administrator or his/her designee. The Township Zoning Administrator shall verify any applicable MDOT policies in enforcing this Policy and enforce this Policy in accordance with such.

6. **NOTIFICATION OF REMOVAL/RETURN OF REMOVED SIGNS:** No notification prior to removal of temporary signs is required. After removal, if not destroyed, and if known to the Township Zoning Administrator, he or she may notify sign owners that their temporary signs have been removed and the location where they

can be retrieved. Sign owners shall have seven (7) days after the date of confiscation to retrieve their temporary signs from the Township Hall, located at 1705 South Fairview Road. If sign owners fail to reclaim their temporary sign(s) during that time frame, then the sign shall be destroyed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** a copy of this approved policy is to be submitted to the Ogemaw County Clerk, Ogemaw County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local law enforcement agencies.

Adopted August 9th, 2023.