

# PITTSBURG COUNTY FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS

*Amended on July 1, 2017*

Floodplain Management Board:

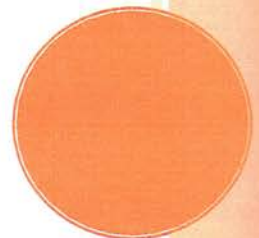
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# Pittsburg County Floodplain Regulations

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## ARTICLE I

### Statutory Authorization, Findings of Fact, Purpose and Methods

#### SECTION A. STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The Legislature of the State of Oklahoma has in (statutes) 82 O.S. §§ 1601 – 1620, as amended, Chapter 23 delegated the responsibility of local government units to adopt regulations designed to minimize flood losses. Therefore, the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board does authorize the following regulations to be effective on and or after July 1, 2017.

#### SECTION B. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The flood hazard areas of Pittsburg County, unincorporated areas, Oklahoma are subject to periodic inundation, which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, and extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.
2. These flood losses are created by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains which cause an increase in flood heights and velocities, and by the occupancy of flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to floods and hazardous to other lands because they are inadequately elevated, flood-proofed or otherwise protected from flood damage.

#### SECTION C. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of these regulations to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

1. Protect human life and health;

2. Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
3. Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
4. Minimize prolonged business interruptions;
5. Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in floodplains;
6. Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood-prone areas in such a manner as to minimize future flood blight areas; and
7. Insure that potential buyers are notified that property is in a flood area.

#### SECTION D.        METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES

In order to accomplish its purposes, these regulations use the following methods:

1. Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety or property in times of flood, or cause excessive increases in flood heights or velocities;
2. Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
3. Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which are involved in the accommodation of flood waters;
4. Control filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase flood damage;
5. Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

## ARTICLE II

### Definitions

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in these regulations shall be interpreted to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give these regulations their most reasonable application.

**ALLUVIAL FAN FLOODING** – means flooding occurring on the surface of an alluvial fan or similar landform which originates at the apex and is characterized by high-velocity flows; active processes or erosion, sediment transport, and deposition; and unpredictable flow paths.

**APEX** – means a point on an alluvial fan or similar landform below which the flow path of the major stream that formed the fan becomes unpredictable and alluvial fan flooding can occur.

**AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING** – means a designated AO or AH zone on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent chance or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

**AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD** – is the land in the floodplain within Pittsburg County subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A on the Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM). After detailed ratemaking has been completed in preparation for publication of the FIRM, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A1-99, VO, V1-30, VE or V.

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURE** – Structures which are on the same parcel of property as the principle structure and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principle structure (such as garages and storage sheds).

**BASE FLOOD** – means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**BASE FLOOD ELEVATION** – means the elevation in feet above mean sea level of the base flood or 1% chance flood.

**BASEMENT** – means any area of the building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.

**BFE** – means “Base Flood Elevation”.

**BOARD** – means the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).

**CRITICAL FEATURE** – means an integral and readily identifiable part of a flood protection system, without which the flood protection provided by the entire system would be compromised.

**CFR** – means Code of Federal Regulations.

**DEVELOPMENT** – means any man-made change in improved and unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

**DEVELOPMENT PERMIT** – means a permit issued by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board or Floodplain Administrator which authorizes development in a special flood hazard area in accordance with these regulations.

**ELEVATED BUILDING** – means a non-basement building built, in the case of a building in Zones A, AE and X, to have the top of the elevated flood adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a flood of up to the magnitude of the base flood. In the case of Zones A, AE, and X, “elevated building” also includes a building elevated by means of fill or solid foundation perimeter walls with opening sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movement of flood waters.

**EXISTING CONSTRUCTION** – means for the purposes of determining rates, structures for which the “start of construction” commenced before the effective date of the FIRM or before January 1, 1975, for FIRMs effective before that date. “Existing construction” may also be referred to as “existing structures”.

**EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before May 6, 1985 of the floodplain management regulations adopted by the Pittsburg County Board of County Commissioners.

**EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

**FEMA** – means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**FLOOD OR FLOODING** – mean a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation or normally dry land areas from:

1. The overflow of inland or tidal waters
2. The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)** – means an official map of Pittsburg County, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to Pittsburg County.

**FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY** – is the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Pittsburg County which contains flood profiles, water surface elevation of the base flood, as well as the floodway width, section area and mean velocity.

**FLOODPLAIN OR FLOOD-PRONE AREA** – mean any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of flooding).

**FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR** – means a person accredited by the Board and designated by a floodplain board to administer and implement laws and regulations relating to the management of the floodplains.

**FLOODPLAIN BOARD** – means the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT** – means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works and floodplain management regulations.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS** – means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as a floodplain ordinance, grading ordinance and erosion control ordinance) and other applications of police power. The term describes such state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.

**FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM** – means those physical structural works for which funds have been authorized, appropriated, and expended and which have been constructed specifically to modify flooding in order to reduce the extent of the areas within Pittsburg County subject to a “special flood hazard”

and the extent of the depths of associated flooding. Such a system typically includes hurricane tidal barriers, dams, reservoirs, levees or dikes. These specialized flood modifying works are those constructed in conformance with sound engineering standards.

**FLOOD PROOFING** – means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

**FLOODWAY (REGULATORY FLOODWAY)** - means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

**FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE** – means a use, which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

**HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE** – means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE** – means any structure that is:

1. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminary determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
2. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historical district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historical district;
3. Individually listed on a state inventory of historical places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
4. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
  - a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, or;
  - b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs

**LEVEE** – means a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.

**LEVEE SYSTEM** – means a flood protection system, which consists of a levee, or levees, and associated structures, such as closure, and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices.

**LOWEST FLOOR** – means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles; building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirement of Section 60.3 of Title 44 of the US Code of Federal Regulations.

**MANUFACTURED HOME** – means a structure transportable in one or more sections, which is built of a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term “manufactured home” does not include a “recreational vehicle”.

**MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** - means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

**MEAN SEA LEVEL** – means, for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988 or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map are referenced.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** – means, for the purpose of determining insurance rates, structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of the initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever date is later, and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain management purposes, “new construction” means structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.



**NEW MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by Pittsburg County.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE** – means a vehicle which is:

1. Built on a single chassis;
2. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
3. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty; and
4. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

**START OF CONSTRUCTION** – (for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (Pub. Law 97-348)), includes substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**STRUCTURE** – means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, which is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** – means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to it's before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT** – means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This includes structures, which have incurred “substantial damage”, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

1. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary conditions, or
2. Any alteration of a “historic structure” provided that the alteration would not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure”.

**VARIANCE** – is a grant of by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board from the terms of these regulations when specific enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship. A variance, therefore, permits construction of development in a manner otherwise prohibited by these regulations. For full requirements see Section 60.6 of Title 44 CFR.

**VIOLATION** – means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with Pittsburg County’s floodplain management regulations. A structure of other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in CFR Section 60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10) or (d)(3) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

**WATER SURFACE ELEVATION** – means the height, in relation to the North American Vertical Datum (or other datum, where specified), of floods or various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

## ARTICLE III

### General Provisions

#### **SECTION A. LANDS TO WHICH THESE REGULATIONS APPLY**

These regulations shall apply to all areas of special flood hazard within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated areas of Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

#### **SECTION B. BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

The area of special flood hazard identified by FEMA in a scientific and engineering report entitled, "The Flood Insurance Study of Pittsburg County, Oklahoma and Incorporated Areas" dated June 02, 2015, with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate map (FIRM) including the following FIRM Panels;

25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 215, 250, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 480, 485, 490, 495, 525, 550, 575, 600, 625, 630, 635, 650, 675, 685, 700, 725, 750, 775, 800, 825, 850, 875 are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of these regulations effective July 1, 2017.

#### **SECTION C. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

A Development Permit shall be required to ensure conformance with the provisions of these regulations.

#### **SECTION D. COMPLIANCE**

No structure or land shall hereafter be located, altered, or have its use changed without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and other applicable regulations.

#### **SECTION E. ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

These regulations are not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where these regulations and another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

## **SECTION F. INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation and application of these regulations, all provisions shall be:

1. Considered as minimum requirements;
2. Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and
3. Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

## **SECTION G. WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The degree of flood protection required by these regulations is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. On rare occasions greater floods can and will occur and flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. These regulations do not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. These regulations shall not create liability on the part of the community or any official or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on these regulations or any administrative decisions lawfully made thereunder.

## ARTICLE IV

### Administration

#### **SECTION A. DESIGNATION OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

The floodplain administrator shall be appointed by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board to administer and implement the provisions of these regulations and other appropriate sections of 44 CFR (National Flood Insurance Program Regulations) pertaining to floodplain management.

#### **SECTION B. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

Duties and Responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Maintain and hold open for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of these regulations.
2. Review permit applications to determine whether proposed building sites, including the placement of manufactured homes, will be reasonably safe from flooding.
3. Review, approve or deny all applications for development permits required by adoption of these regulations.
4. Review permits for proposed development to assure that all necessary permits have been obtained from those Federal, State or local governmental agencies (including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1334) from which prior approval are required.
5. Where interpretation is needed as to the exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions) the Floodplain Administrator shall make the necessary interpretation.
6. Notify, in riverine situation, adjacent communities, and the State Coordinating Agency, which is the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
7. Assure that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained.

8. When base flood elevation data has not been provided in accordance with Article 3, Section B, the Floodplain Administrator shall require the developer or applicant, as the case may be, to either determine and/or provide the base flood elevation and other required elevation data and information on a certified FEMA Elevation Certificate in order to administer the provisions of these regulations.
9. Where regulatory floodway has not been designated, the Floodplain Administrator must require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.
10. Under the provisions of 44 CFR Chapter 1, Section 65.12, of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations, a community may approve certain development in Zones A1-30, AE, AH on the community's FIRM which increases the water surface elevation of the base flood by more than one foot, provided that the community **first** applies for a conditional FIRM revision through FEMA (Conditional Letter of Map Revision).
11. Become accredited by the Board in accordance with Title 82 O.S. §§ 1601-1618, as amended.
12. After a disaster or other type of damage occurrence to structures in the unincorporated limits of Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, determine if the residential & non-residential structures & manufactured homes have been substantially damaged and enforce the substantial improvement requirement.

### **SECTION C. PERMIT PROCEDURES**

Application for a Development Permit shall be presented to the Floodplain Administrator on forms furnished by him/her and may include, but not be limited to, plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing the location, dimensions, and elevation of proposed landscape alterations existing and proposed structures, including the placement of manufactured homes, and the location of the foregoing in relation to areas of special flood hazard. Additionally, the following information is required:

1. Elevation (in relation to mean sea level), of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved structures;
2. Elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any non-residential structure shall be flood-proofed;
3. A certificate from a registered professional engineer or architect that the non-residential flood-proofed structure shall meet the flood-proofing criteria of Article 5, Section B(2);
4. Description of the extent to which any watercourse or natural drainage will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development.
5. Maintain a record of all such information in accordance with Article 4, Section B (1).

Approval of denial of a Development Permit by the Floodplain Administrator shall be based on all of the provisions of these regulations and the following relevant factors:

1. The danger of life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
2. The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
3. The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
4. The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
5. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
6. The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions including maintenance and repairs of streets and bridges, and public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems;
7. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site;
8. The necessity of the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable;
9. The availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding or erosion, for the proposed use;
10. The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan for the area.

#### **SECTION D. VARIANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The Pittsburg County Floodplain Board may grant variances for uses which do not satisfy the requirements of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act or these regulations, if the applicant for the variance presents adequate proof that (i) compliance with these regulations will result in an arbitrary and unreasonable taking of property with sufficient benefit or advantage to the people and (ii) satisfies the pertinent provisions of this Section D. However, no variance shall be granted where the effect of the variance will be to permit the continuance of a condition which unreasonably creates flooding hazards.
2. The Pittsburg County Floodplain Board shall serve as the Appeal Board, and shall hear and render judgment on requests for variances from the requirements of these regulations. The Floodplain Board shall exercise wide discretion in weighing the equities involved and the advantages and disadvantages to the applicant and to the public at large when determining whether the variance shall be granted.
3. The Floodplain Board shall hear and render judgement on an appeal only when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the Floodplain Administrator in the enforcement or administration of these regulations.
4. Any person or persons aggrieved by the decision of the Appeal Board may appeal such decision in the courts of competent jurisdiction.
5. At such time as the Floodplain Board deems the petition ready for notification to the public, the Floodplain Board shall schedule a hearing and direct the applicant to publish notice thereof in a newspaper of general circulation in Pittsburg County at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing.
6. Any variance so granted shall not be construed as to relieve any person who receives it from any liability imposed by the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act or by other laws of the state.
7. The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain record of all actions involving an appeal and shall report variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency upon request.
8. Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation or restoration of structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Inventory of Historic Places, without regard to the procedures set forth in the remainder of these regulations.
9. Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures below the



base flood level, providing the relevant factors in Section C (2) of this Article have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond the one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.

10. Upon consideration of the factors noted above and the intent of these regulations, the Appeal Board may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purpose and objectives of these regulations (Article I, Section C).
11. Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increases in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
12. Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
13. Prerequisites for granting variances:
  - a. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
  - b. Variances shall only be issued upon:
    1. Showing a good and sufficient cause;
    2. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant, and
    3. A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
  - c. Any applicant that is issued a variance shall be given notice signed by the Chairman of the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board which states that the cost of flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the lowest floor elevation built with the lowest floor elevation below the base flood elevation.
14. Variances may be issued by a community for new construction and substantial improvements and for other development necessary for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that:
  - a. The criteria outlined in Article 4, Section D (1-12) are met, and

- b. The structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.
15. Any person seeking a variance shall file a petition with the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board, accompanied by a filing fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).
  16. A copy of any variance issued shall be sent to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Federal Emergency Management Agency within fifteen (15) days of issuance.

## ARTICLE V

### Provisions for Flood Hazard Reduction

#### SECTION A – GENERAL STANDARDS

In all areas of special flood hazards, the following provisions are required for all new construction and substantial improvements:

1. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
2. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage;
3. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
4. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
5. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
6. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharge from the systems into flood waters; and,
7. On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.

#### SECTION B. SPECIFIC STANDARDS

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in (i) Article 3, Section B, (ii) Article 4, Section B (8), or (iii) Article 5, Section C (3), the following provisions are required:

1. **Residential Construction** – new construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement), and along with all utilities, elevated at least two feet at or above the base flood elevation. A registered professional engineer, architect, or land surveyor shall submit a certification to the

Floodplain Administrator that the standard of this subsection as proposed in Article 4, Section C (1) a., is satisfied.

2. **Non-residential Construction** – new construction and substantial improvements of any commercial, industrial or other non-residential structure shall have the lowest flood (including basement) elevated at a minimum two feet at or above the base flood elevation; or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice as outlined in this subsection. A record of such certification which includes the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which such structures are flood-proofed shall be maintained by the Floodplain Administrator.
3. **Enclosures** – new construction and substantial improvements, with fully enclosed areas below the lowest flood that are usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement and which are subject to flooding shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - a. A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
  - b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
  - c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
4. **Manufactured Homes** –
  - a. Require that all manufactured homes to be placed within Zone A on Pittsburg County's FIRM shall be installed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage and have the bottom of the I beam elevated at least two foot at or above the base flood

elevation. For the purposes of this requirement, manufactured homes shall be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods or anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable State and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces. The home shall be installed by a licensed installer according to Oklahoma state law and compliance herewith shall be certified in writing to the Pittsburg County Floodplain Administrator by said install prior to habitation of the manufactured home.

- b. Requirement that manufactured homes that are placed or substantially improved within Zones A and AE on Pittsburg County's FIRM on sites (i) outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision, (ii) in a new manufactured home park or subdivision, (iii) in an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision, or (iv) in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as a result of a flood, be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated two (2) feet at or above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
  - c. Require that manufactured homes be placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision with Zones A and AE on Pittsburg County's FIRM that are not subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this section be elevated so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated two (2) foot at or above the base flood elevation.
  - d. A licensed installer shall install the home in accordance with state law and compliance herewith shall be certified in writing to the Pittsburg County Floodplain Administrator by said installer prior to habitation of the manufactured home.
5. **Recreational Vehicle** - Require that recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones A and AE on the community's FIRM either:
- a. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days,
  - b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or
  - c. Meet the permit requirements of Article 4, Section C (1), and the elevation and anchoring requirements for "manufactured

homes” in paragraph 4 of this section. A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

6. **Accessory Structure** – Accessory structures to be placed on sites within Zone A and AE on Pittsburg County’s FIRM shall comply with the following:
  - a. Structure is low valued and represents a minimal investment.
  - b. Structure shall be small and not exceed 600 square feet in size.
  - c. Structure shall be unfinished on the interior.
  - d. Structure shall be used only for parking and limited storage.
  - e. Structure shall not be used for human habitation (including work, sleeping, living, cooking, or restroom areas).
  - f. Service facilities such as electrical and heating equipment must be elevated to or above the BFE or flood-proofed.
  - g. Structure is constructed and placed on building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters.
  - h. Structure is designed to have low flood damage potential, i.e. constructed with flood resistant materials.
  - i. Structure is firmly anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
  - j. Floodway requirements must be met in the construction of the structure.
  - k. Openings to relieve hydrostatic pressure during a flood shall be provided below the BFE.
  - l. Structure is to be located so as to not cause damage to adjacent and nearby structures.

## **SECTION C. STANDARDS FOR SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS**

1. All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall be consistent with Article 1, Section B, C, and D of these regulations.
2. All proposals for the development of subdivisions including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall meet Development Permit requirements of Article 3, Section C; Article 4, Section C; and the provisions of Article 5 of these regulations.

3. Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed development including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions in which 51 or more lots or greater than 5 acres whichever is lesser, if not otherwise provided pursuant to Article 3.
4. All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
5. All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.

## SECTION D. FLOODWAYS

1. Floodways – located within areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters, which carry debris, potential projectiles and erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:
  - a. Encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway *unless* it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase to flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. Such hydrologic and hydraulic analyses should be submitted and signed by a registered professional engineer in the State of Oklahoma.
  - b. If Article 5, Section E is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard provisions of Article 5.
  - c. Under the provisions of 44 CFR Chapter 1, Section 65.12, of the National Flood Insurance Regulations, a community may permit encroachments within the adopted regulatory floodway that would result in an increase in base flood elevations, provided that the community **first** applies for a conditional FIRM and floodway revision through FEMA.

SECTION E. SEVERABILITY

If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of these regulations is held to be invalid or unconditional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of these regulations.



## ARTICLE VI

### Pittsburg County Fee Schedule

Pittsburg County Floodplain Management Board establishes the following fee schedule not to exceed \$500.00 for any one service:

a. Inspection Fee – per inspection	\$ 50.00
b. Variance Request Filing Fee	\$ 25.00
c. Non-residential, Non-commercial	\$ 50.00
d. Residential	\$100.00
e. Commercial	\$250.00
f. Oil and Gas Pipeline burial	\$300.00
g. Multi-Family Residential	\$500.00
h. Oil and Gas	\$500.00
i. Permit extension for all permits	½ of permit fee

Note: All permits expire six (6) months from original permit date.

## ARTICLE VII

### Penalties for Non-compliance

No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and other applicable regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate or other certifications required in these regulations is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. Violation of the provisions of these regulations by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates these regulations or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$500.00 *or imprisoned for not more than one year or both*, for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board, Board of County Commissioners or the District Attorney from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

# CERTIFICATION

It is hereby found and declared by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board that severe flooding has occurred in the past within its jurisdiction and will certainly occur within the future; that flooding is likely to result in infliction of serious personal injury or death, and is likely to result in substantial injury or destruction of property within its jurisdiction; in order to effectively comply with minimum standards for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program, and in order to effectively remedy the situation described herein, it is necessary that these regulations become effective immediately.

SIGNED: Pat Lynch  
(Chairman, Pittsburg County Floodplain Board)

ADOPTED the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017

I, the undersigned, JUNIOR KELLEY, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the floodplain management regulations duly adopted by the Pittsburg County Floodplain Board, at a regular meeting duly convened on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

Junior Kelley by Sandra Crenshaw (clerk)  
Secretary, Pittsburg County Floodplain Board

