

2022-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 51, ABANDONED PROPERTIES, ARTICLE I, VACANT RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, AND ARTICLE II, BUILDINGS PENDING FORECLOSURE OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 et seq. the New Jersey Legislature delegated to municipalities the responsibility to promulgate regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, properties in foreclosure proceedings can involve properties that are vacant and abandoned or have an increased risk of becoming vacant and abandoned during the foreclosure proceeding; and

WHEREAS, vacant and abandoned properties in foreclosure create a greater risk of blight and can create a wide range of problems for the communities in which they are located. These problems can include fostering criminal activity, creating public health problems, depressing neighboring property values and reducing revenues for municipalities, and otherwise diminishing the quality of life for residents and business operators in those areas; and

WHEREAS, because of the increased risk of blight created by properties in foreclosure, it is important that the Township possess tools to identify such properties, monitor their status, and mitigate the risk that they become vacant and abandoned and, if vacant and abandoned, lead to blight; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has enacted statutes intended to assist municipalities in addressing such risks, including requiring that municipalities receive notice of the initiation of a foreclosure action in court in connection with residential properties and authorizing a public officer in a municipality to take certain action against properties that have been abandoned for more than six months; and

WHEREAS, a property registration program provides a valuable tool to confronting the risk of blight created by properties on which foreclosure proceedings have been initiated and such properties that become vacant and abandoned; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to operate such a program to address the risk of blight.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 51, is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows:

ARTICLE I Vacant Residential and Non-Residential Premises

§51-1 Definitions

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ABANDONED PROPERTY

As defined in accordance with the Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act, N.J.S.A. 55:19-78, et seq., shall mean the following:

A. Except as provided in Section 6 of P.L. 2003, c. 210 (N.J.S.A. 55:19-83), any property that has not been legally occupied for a period of six months and which meets any one of the following additional criteria may be deemed to be abandoned property upon a determination by the Zoning Officer that:

(1) The property is in need of rehabilitation in the reasonable judgment of the Zoning Officer, and no rehabilitation has taken place during that six-month period;

(2) Construction was initiated on the property and was discontinued prior to completion, leaving the building unsuitable for occupancy, and no construction has taken place for at least six months as of the date of a determination by the Zoning Officer pursuant to this section;

(3) At least one installment of property tax remains unpaid and delinquent on that property in accordance with Chapter 4 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes as of the date of a determination by the Zoning Officer pursuant to this section; or

(4) The property has been determined to be a nuisance by the Zoning Officer in accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 2003, c. 210 (N.J.S.A. 55:19-82).

B. A property which contains both residential and non-residential space may be considered abandoned pursuant to P.L. 2003, c. 210 (N.J.S.A. 55:19-78 et al.) so long as two-thirds or more of the total net square footage of the building was previously legally occupied as residential space and none of the residential space has been legally occupied for at least six months at the time of the determination of abandonment by the Zoning Officer and the property meets the criteria of either Subsection **A(1)** or Subsection **A(4)** of this section.

CREDITOR

A mortgagee or an agent or assignee of a mortgagee, such as the servicer, who has filed a complaint in the Superior Court seeking to foreclose upon a residential or commercial mortgage. If the entity seeking to foreclose upon the residential or commercial mortgage changes as a result of an assignment, transfer, or otherwise after the filing of the foreclosure complaint in the Superior Court, the new entity shall be deemed the Creditor for purposes of this section. For purposes of this section, a Creditor shall not include the State, a political subdivision of the State, a State, county, or local government entity, or their agent or assignee, such as the servicer.

FORECLOSURE OR FORECLOSURE ACTION

The legal process by which a mortgagee, or other lien holder, terminates or attempts to terminate a property owner's equitable right of redemption to obtain legal and equitable title to the real

property pledged as security for a debt or the real property subject to the lien. The legal process is not concluded until the property obtained by the mortgagee, lien holder, or their designee, by certificate of title, or any other means, is sold to a non-related bona fide purchaser in an arm's length transaction to satisfy the debt or lien.

OWNER

Includes the title holder, any agent of the title holder having authority to act with respect to a vacant property, any foreclosing entity subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 46:10B-51 (P.L. 2008, c. 127, Sec. 17), or any other entity determined by the Township of Hardyston to have authority to act with respect to the property.

PROPERTY MANAGER

Shall mean any party designated by the Owner as responsible for inspecting, maintaining and securing the property as required in this Chapter.

REGISTRABLE PROPERTY

Shall mean:

- (a) Any Real Property located in the Township of Hardyston, whether Vacant or occupied, that (i) is subject to an ongoing Foreclosure Action, (ii) has been the subject of a Foreclosure Action and a judgment has been entered but the property has not yet been sold at a Foreclosure, (iii) has been the subject of a Foreclosure sale and title was transferred to the Mortgagee or an affiliate entity of the Mortgagee, or (iv) was transferred to the Mortgagee or an affiliated entity of the Mortgagee under a deed in lieu of Foreclosure or Foreclosure sale. The designation of a "foreclosure" property as "registrable" shall remain in place until such time as the property is sold to a non-related bona fide purchaser in an arm's length transaction or the Foreclosure Action has been dismissed; or
- (b) Any property that is vacant for more than thirty (30) days or any cancellation of Utility or Service, whichever occurs first; or
- (c) Any property deemed Vacant and Abandoned pursuant to this Chapter.

REGISTRY

Shall mean a web-based electronic database of searchable Real Property records, used by Hardyston Township to allow Mortgagees and Owners the opportunity to register properties and pay applicable fees as required in this Chapter.

SEMI-ANNUAL REGISTRATION

Shall mean six (6) months from the date of the first action that requires registration, as determined by Hardyston Township or its designee, and every subsequent six (6) months. The date of the initial registration may be different than the date of the first action that required registration.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

The title holder of a vacant and abandoned property or a Creditor responsible for the maintenance of a property.

STREET ADDRESS

An address at which a natural person who is the Responsible Party or an authorized agent actually resides or actively uses for business purposes, and shall include a street name or rural delivery route.

VACANT PROPERTY

Any building used or to be used as a residence which is not legally occupied or at which substantially all lawful construction operations or residential occupancy has ceased for a period of at least three months, and any commercial property that has not been legally occupied or at which substantially all lawful construction operations have ceased for a period of at least three months, and which exhibits evidence of vacancy such that a reasonable person would believe that the property is vacant. Property determined to be "abandoned property" in accordance with the meaning of such term in the Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act, N.J.S.A. 55:19-78, et seq, shall also be deemed to be vacant property for the purposes of this chapter.

VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

Any residential or commercial building which is not legally occupied by an owner, a mortgagor or tenant, which is in such condition that it cannot be legally reoccupied, and in which two or more of the following conditions exist:

- (1) Overgrown or neglected vegetation;
- (2) The accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers, or mail on the property;
- (3) Disconnected gas, electric, or water utility services to the property;
- (4) The accumulation of hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials on the property;
- (5) The accumulation of junk, litter, trash, or debris on the property;
- (6) The absence of window treatments such as blinds, curtains, or shutters;
- (7) The absence of furnishings and personal items;
- (8) Statements of neighbors, delivery persons, or government employees indicating that the property is vacant and abandoned;
- (9) Windows or entrances to the property that are boarded up or closed off, or multiple window panes that are damaged, broken, and unrepaired;
- (10) Doors to the property that are smashed through, broken off, unhinged, or continuously unlocked;
- (11) A risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or any adjoining or adjacent property owners due to acts of vandalism, loitering, criminal conduct, or the physical destruction or deterioration of the property;
- (12) An uncorrected violation of a municipal building, housing, or similar code during the preceding year, or an order by municipal authorities declaring the property to be unfit for occupancy and to remain vacant and unoccupied;
- (13) The mortgagee or other authorized party has secured or winterized the property due to the property being deemed vacant and unprotected or in danger of freezing;
- (14) A written statement issued by a mortgagor expressing the clear intent of all mortgagors to abandon the property;
- (15) Any other reasonable indicia of abandonment; or

The definition shall exclude buildings under active construction and/or buildings occupied on a seasonal basis, and buildings that contain all building systems in working order, are being maintained on a regular basis, have not been cited by the Township for any violation of municipal ordinance within such time and are being actively marketed by its owner for sale or rental.

§51-2 Property Registration Program

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to create a Township Property Registration Program for the purposes of identifying and monitoring vacant and abandoned residential and commercial properties within the Township.

(b) Responsibilities. The Township Property Registration Program shall be responsible for regulating the care, maintenance, security, and upkeep of the exterior of vacant and abandoned residential and commercial properties on an **annual or semi-annual basis**.

(c) Official. **The Zoning Officer** shall be responsible for administration of The Township Property Registration Program.

§51-3 Certificate of Registration for Vacant and Abandoned Property

(a) The Responsible Party for a vacant and abandoned property shall file a certificate of registration with the Clerk of the Township within 90 days after the property becomes vacant and abandoned or within 30 days after the Responsible Party assumes ownership of or responsibility for an already vacant and abandoned property, whichever is later.

(b) The certificate of registration shall be filed on forms prescribed by the Clerk and shall contain:

- (1) the name, street address, and telephone number of a natural person who resides or maintains an office within the State and who is either the Responsible Party or an authorized agent designated by the Responsible Party to receive notices and complaints of property maintenance and code violations on behalf of the Responsible Party.
- (2) the name, street address, and telephone number of the person responsible for maintaining the property, if different; and
- (3) evidence of any liability insurance

(c) A Responsible Party for a vacant and abandoned property shall file an amended certificate of registration within 30 days after any change in the information required to be included thereon.

(d) A certificate of registration shall remain valid for one year and shall be renewed on an annual basis if the property remains vacant and abandoned.

(e) An annual fee pursuant to §51-4, Fee Schedule, for a certificate of registration for a vacant and abandoned property shall be paid to the Clerk.

§ 51-4 Fee schedule

The initial registration fee for each vacant and abandoned property under the provisions of this article shall be \$500. The fee for the first annual renewal shall be \$1,500, and the fee for the second annual renewal shall be \$3,000. The fee for any subsequent annual renewal beyond the second renewal shall be \$5,000.

§51-5 Duties of Responsible Party

(a) Forty-five (45) days after the Township notifies the Responsible Party that the property is vacant and abandoned and until the property is reoccupied, the Responsible Party for a vacant and abandoned property, shall:

- (1) Enclose and secure the property against unauthorized entry;
- (2) Post a sign affixed to the inside of the property and visible to the public indicating the name, address, and telephone number of the Responsible Party, any authorized agent designated by the responsible party for the purpose of receiving service of process, and the person responsible for maintaining the property if different
- (3) Acquire and otherwise maintain liability insurance by procuring a vacancy policy, covering any damage to any person or any property caused by any physical condition of the property.

(b) This section shall not be construed to diminish any property maintenance responsibilities of property owners who are not subject to the provisions of this section.

§ 51-6 Requirements for owners and other persons as to vacant property.

A. The owner of any building that has become vacant, and/or any person maintaining, operating or collecting rent for any such building that is vacant, shall immediately post a sign affixed to the inside of the building indicating the name, address and telephone number of the owner, the owner's authorized agent for the purpose of service of process, if designated pursuant to ~~§ 51-3~~, and, if such person is different from the owner holding title or authorized agent. The sign shall be of a size and placed in such a location so as to be legible, to the extent possible from the nearest public street or sidewalk, whichever is nearer, but shall be no smaller than 15 inches by 17 inches.

B. Basic equipment and facilities. Every property that is vacant must comply with the following minimum standards for basic equipment and facilities:

- (1)** Plumbing. All plumbing fixtures shall be properly installed and be in sound condition and good repair. The property shall be winterized, by the cessation of water service to the property, and the draining of water lines.
- (2)** Electricity. Every existing outlet and fixture shall be properly connected. Wiring and service lines shall be maintained in good and safe working condition.
- (3)** Heating plant. The heating plant shall be maintained in a safe condition.

(4) Cooking equipment. All cooking equipment shall be maintained in a safe condition.

(5) Electrical and gas utility services shall be discontinued until the property is again legally occupied or demolished, or until repair or rehabilitation of the property is complete.

C. Storage and boarding up of vacant property.

(1) No room within any vacant property shall be used for storage of junk, rubbish or wastes, furniture or building materials not intended to be used in the existing property.

(2) The boarding up of doors and windows shall not be permitted except with the permission of the Zoning Officer or construction official in emergency situations. When doors and windows are boarded up, they shall be covered with no less than one-half-inch exterior plywood or equivalent.

(3) Vacant buildings shall be secured against unauthorized entry until the building is again legally occupied or demolished, or until repair or rehabilitation of the property is complete.

D. Safe and sanitary maintenance. All vacant properties shall comply with the following minimum standards for safe and sanitary maintenance:

(1) Every foundation, exterior wall or exterior roof shall be weathertight, watertight and rodent-proof, shall be kept in sound condition and good repair and shall be safe to use and capable of supporting the load which normal use may cause to be placed thereon.

(2) Every floor, interior wall and ceiling shall be substantially rodent-proof, shall be kept in sound condition and good repair and shall be safe to use and capable of supporting the load which normal use may cause to be placed thereon.

(3) Every window, exterior door, and basement or cellar door and hatchway shall be weathertight, watertight, rodent-proof and locked and shall be kept in sound condition and good repair.

(4) Every inside and outside stair, porch and any appurtenance thereto shall be safe to use and capable of supporting the load that normal use may cause to be placed thereon and shall be kept in sound condition and good repair.

(5) Every yard shall be properly graded so as to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

(6) There shall be a controlled method of disposing of water from roofs by use of gutters and downspouts, which shall be installed and maintained in sound condition, free of leaks and obstructions.

(7) Every dwelling's cellar, basement and crawl space shall be maintained from excessive dampness and leakage.

(8) The exterior of every structure or accessory structure shall be maintained free of broken windows, loose shingles, crumbling stone or brick or excess peeling paint.

(9) The exterior of the premises and the condition of accessory structures shall be maintained so that the appearance of the premises and all buildings thereof shall reflect a level of maintenance in keeping with the standards of the neighborhood and such that the appearance of the premises and structures shall not constitute a blighting factor for adjoining property owners nor an element leading to the progressive deterioration and downgrading of the neighborhood with the accompanying diminution of property values.

E. Further responsibilities of owners. All owners of vacant properties shall be required to comply with the following standards:

(1) Any yard area (front, side and rear) adjacent to a vacant building shall be cleared and maintained free of trash, solid debris or any other materials that cause litter to accumulate to unhealthy and blighting proportions.

(2) Grass and weeds shall not be permitted to grow or remain on the side, front and/or rear yards of any vacant building so as to exceed a height of 10 inches.

(3) Abandoned buildings shall not be utilized for storage of any hazardous materials, whether solid or liquid, including the yard portion of that building.

(4) When a vacant dwelling is found to be infested with rats, termites, roaches and/or any other insects and vermin, the owner shall undertake an expedient means of extermination of such nuisances.

(5) All doors and/or lids on appliances, on furniture utilized for storage or on heating furnaces shall be locked in order to deny entry to an individual where the potential for physical harm or death may result should said door or lid close and prevent the individual's escape.

(6) Provision shall be made for the cessation of the delivery of mail, newspapers and circulars to the property.

F. The standards and requirements of this section shall apply as long as any dwelling remains vacant. Upon occupancy, the other appropriate sections of this chapter shall prevail.

§ 51-7 Administration; enforcement.

A. The Township of Hardyston Mayor and Council may issue rules and regulations for the administration of the provisions of this article.

B. The provisions of this article shall be enforced as set forth and pursuant to Article II of this chapter to the full extent applicable.

§ 51-8 Violations; penalties.

- A.** Any owner who is not in full compliance with this article or who otherwise violates any provision of this chapter or of the rules and regulations issued hereunder shall be subject to a fine of \$1,500 for each day of violation. Every day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. Fines assessed under this chapter shall be recoverable from the owner and shall be a lien on the property.[Amended 9-26-2018 by Ord. No. 2018-12]
- B.** For purposes of this chapter, failure to file a registration statement in time, failure to provide correct information on the registration statement, failure to comply with the provisions of § 51-3, or such other matters as may be established by the rules and regulations of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston shall be deemed to be a violation of this chapter.

§ 51-9 Compliance with other provisions.

Nothing in this chapter is intended to nor shall be read to conflict or prevent the Township of Hardyston from taking action against buildings found to be unfit for human habitation or unsafe structures as provided in applicable provisions of the Township Code and/or the Uniform Construction Code. Further, any action taken under any such code provision other than the demolition of a structure shall not relieve an owner from its obligations under this article.

ARTICLE II Buildings Pending Foreclosure

§51-10 Residential or Commercial Foreclosures

- A.** The Creditor filing a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose shall, in addition to the notice provided to the municipality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 46:10B-51 register the residential or commercial property with the Township's Property Registration Program as a property in foreclosure.
- B.** Registration as a Property in Foreclosure. The Creditor must provide the municipality with:
- (1) The information pursuant to §51-3(b);
 - (2) The date the summons and complaint in an action to foreclose on a mortgage was filed against the subject property, the court in which it was filed, and the docket number of the filing; and
 - (3) Identify whether the property is vacant and abandoned in accordance with the definition in §51-1; and
 - (4) If there is any change in the name, address, or telephone number for a representative, agent, or individual authorized to accept service on behalf of a Creditor required to register pursuant to the Property Registration Program following the filing of the summons and complaint, the Creditor shall update the Property Registration Program within 10 days of the change in that information; and

- (5) If there is any change in the property's status, update the property registration with Township's Property Registration Program to reflect the change; and
 - (6) If the Creditor is located out-of-State, the information of an in-State representative or agent to act for the foreclosing Creditor.
- C. The Creditor filing a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose shall be responsible for the care, maintenance, security, and upkeep of the exterior of the property if the property is vacant and abandoned at any time while the property is registered with the Property Registration Program.
- D. A foreclosed property is considered vacant or abandoned if it meets the definitions of §51-1
- E. In the case of a violation for failure to provide care, maintenance, security, and upkeep of the exterior of vacant and abandoned property, such notice shall require the person or entity to correct the violation within 30 days of receipt of the notice, or within 10 days of receipt of the notice if the violation presents an imminent threat to public health and safety.
- F. Fees. The Creditor will pay an annual registration fee of:
- (1) \$500 per property annually for any property that is required to be registered because a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose was filed by the Creditor.
 - (2) An additional fee is to be imposed as per Chapter 51, Abandoned Properties, Section 51-4, Fee Schedule per property annually if the property is vacant or abandoned when the summons and complaint in an action to foreclose is filed, or becomes vacant and abandoned pursuant to the definition in the ordinance at any time thereafter while the property is in foreclosure.
 - (3) The registration fee shall be due on the 31st of January of each year
- G. Any fines imposed pursuant to this section shall commence 31 days following receipt of the notice of violation, except if the violation presents an imminent risk to public health and safety, in which case any fines shall commence 11 days following receipt of the notice.
- H. Penalties for Out-of-State Creditors. An out-of-State Creditor who fails to appoint an in-State representative or agent after the 10th day of the period set forth in N.J.S.A. 46:10B-51 shall be subject to a fine of \$2,500 for each day of the violation which may imposed as a municipal summons or lien.
- I. 20% of any money collected pursuant to this section shall be utilized by the municipality for code enforcement purposes.

§51-11 Responsibilities of Creditors, Mortgagees, Transferees, and Owners

- A. If the mortgage and/or servicing on a Registrable Property is sold or transferred, the new Mortgagee is subject to all the terms of this Chapter. Within ten (10) days of the transfer, the new

Mortgagee shall register the property, if not already registered, or update the existing registration. The previous Mortgagee(s) will not be released from the responsibility of paying all previous unpaid fees, fines, and penalties accrued during that Mortgagee's involvement with the Registrable Property.

B. If the Mortgagee sells or transfers the Registrable Property in a non-arm's length transaction to a related entity or person, the transferee is subject to all the terms of this Chapter. Within ten (10) days of the transfer, the transferee shall register the property or update the existing registration. Any and all previous unpaid fees, fines, and penalties, regardless of who the Mortgagee was at the time registration was required, including, but not limited to, unregistered periods during the Foreclosure process, are the responsibility of the transferee and are due and payable with the updated registration. The previous Mortgagee will not be released from the responsibility of paying all previous unpaid fees, fines, and penalties accrued during that Mortgagee's involvement with the Foreclosed Property.

D. If the Foreclosing or Foreclosed Property is not registered, or the registration fee is not paid within thirty (30) days of when the registration or renewal is required pursuant to this section, a late fee equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the Registration fee shall be charged for every thirty-day period (30), or portion thereof, the property is not registered and shall be due and payable with the registration.

E. This section shall also apply to properties that have been the subject of a foreclosure sale where title is transferred to the Mortgagee as well as any properties transferred to the Mortgagee under a deed in lieu of foreclosure or by any other legal means.

F. Properties subject to this section shall remain subject to the Annual Registration requirement, and the inspection, security, and maintenance standards of this section as long as the property remains Registrable Property.

G Failure of the Mortgagee and/or property Owner of record to properly register or to modify the registration to reflect a change of circumstances as required by this ordinance is a violation of this Chapter and shall be subject to enforcement by any of the enforcement means available to the Township of Hardyston.

H. If any property is in violation of this Chapter the Township of Hardyston may take the necessary action to ensure compliance with and/or place a lien on the property for the cost of the outstanding obligation and any additional cost incurred to bring the property into compliance.

§51-12 Provisions Only Applicable to Commercial Properties

- A. For the purposes of this section only, "Creditor" means a State chartered bank, savings bank, savings and loan association or credit union, any person required to be licensed under the provisions of the "New Jersey Residential Mortgage Lending Act," N.J.S.A. 17:11C-51 through N.J.S.A. 17:11C-89, and any entity acting on behalf of the Creditor named in the debt obligation including, but not limited to, servicers. For purposes of this section, a Creditor shall not include the State, a political subdivision of the State, or a

State, county, or local government entity, or their agent or assignee, such as the servicer.

- B. A Creditor serving a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose on a mortgage on commercial property shall, within 10 days of serving the summons and complaint, notify the Township Clerk that a summons and complaint in an action to foreclose on a mortgage has been filed against the subject property.
- C. The notice shall contain the full name, address, and telephone number for the representative of the Creditor who is responsible for receiving complaints of property maintenance and code violations and the full name and contact information for any person or entity retained by the Creditor or a representative of the Creditor to be responsible for any care, maintenance, security, or upkeep of the property.
- D. The notice may contain information about more than one property, and shall be provided by mail and electronic mail communication.
- E. The Township Clerk shall forward a copy of the notice to the Zoning Officer or shall otherwise provide it to any other local official responsible for administration of any property maintenance or public nuisance code.
- F. The notice shall also include the street address, lot, and block number of the property.
- G. If there is any change in the name, address, or telephone number for a representative, agent, or individual authorized to accept service on behalf of a Creditor required to be provided in a notice pursuant to this paragraph following the filing of the summons and complaint, the Creditor shall provide a notice to the applicable municipal clerk containing the updated name, address, or telephone number within 10 days of the change in that information.
- H. If the owner of a commercial property vacates or abandons any property on which a foreclosure proceeding has been initiated or if a commercial property becomes vacant at any point subsequent to the Creditor's filing the summons and complaint in an action to foreclose on a mortgage against the subject property, but prior to vesting of title in the Creditor or any other third party, and the exterior of the property is found to be a nuisance or in violation of any applicable State or local code, the Zoning Officer shall notify the creditor or the representative or agent.
- I. The Township shall include a description of the conditions that gave rise to the violation with the notice of violation and shall provide a period of not less than 30 days from the Creditor's receipt of the notice for the Creditor to remedy the violation.
- J. If the Creditor fails to remedy the violation within that time period, the municipality may impose penalties allowed for the violation of municipal ordinances.
- K. If the Township expends public funds in order to abate a nuisance or correct a violation on a commercial property in situations in which the Creditor was given notice pursuant to the provisions of subsection (h) of this section but failed to abate the nuisance or correct the violation as directed, the Township shall have the same recourse against the

Creditor as it would have against the title owner of the property, including but not limited to the recourse provided under N.J.S.A.55:19-100.

§51-13 Penalties and Fees

(a) A Responsible Party that violates any provision of this section or any ordinance adopted pursuant hereto, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000; which penalty may continue to be imposed and collected.

(b) Each day that a violation continues shall constitute an additional, separate, and distinct offense, which may be imposed as a municipal summons or lien.

SECTION 2. All ordinances of the Township of Hardyston which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any court or competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance may be renumbered for purposes of codification.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that notice is hereby given that the above ordinance was introduced and passed at the regular meeting of the Hardyston Township Council held at the Municipal Building, 149 Wheatsworth Road, Hardyston, New Jersey, on November 9, 2022. The same came up for final adoption at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston held on December 14, 2022, and after all persons present were given the opportunity to be heard concerning the same, it was finally passed, adopted and will be in full force and effect in the Township according to law.

Jane Bakalarczyk, Clerk