

ORDINANCE NO. 2549
ROSS TOWNSHIP
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROSS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1, (“ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT”), PART 3, (“APPOINTED OFFICIALS”) ARTICLES A AND B (“TOWNSHIP MANAGER”) AND (“FIRE MARSHAL AND DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL”) SECTIONS 1-311 (“DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE TO TOWNSHIP MANAGER”) AND 1-321 OF THE ROSS TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND REPLACING THEM WITH AMENDED CHAPTER 1 (“ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT”), PART 3, (“APPOINTED OFFICIALS”) ARTICLE A (“TOWNSHIP MANAGER”) SECTION 1-311 AND ARTICLE B (“FIRE MARSHAL AND DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL”) SECTION 1-321.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 1502.44 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 56544, the Ross Township Board of Commissioners (the “Board of Commissioners”) has the authority to enact and amend provisions of the Code of Ordinances of Ross Township (hereinafter the “Code”) at any time it deems necessary for the health, safety, morals, cleanliness, beauty, convenience, comfort and general welfare of the Township and the inhabitants thereof; and

WHEREAS, Ross Township (“Township”) adopted Chapter 1, Article B, Section 1-321, Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal, of the Code which provides that the Township fire safety services include the offices of Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal, the requirements for those offices, and the appointment and duties for those offices; and

WHEREAS, the current Code provides that the Fire Marshal be appointed by the Board of Commissioners and that one or more Deputy Fire Marshals may be selected for appointment by the Fire Marshal subject to the approval by the Ross Township Fire Chiefs Association and appointed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Township deems it necessary to amend the Code to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township, and has determined it necessary to create a department director management position, the **Ross Township Director of Fire Services**, who shall serve as the chief fire officer of the Township and who shall be vested with the power and responsibility for carrying out the provision of fire services within the Township.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ROSS TOWNSHIP, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY AND WITH THE SAME THAT:

SECTION 1:

The aforementioned Title/Summary and WHEREAS clauses are incorporated by reference, the same as if fully set forth herein at length.

SECTION 2:

Chapter 1, Part 3, Article A, Section 1-311, “Departments Responsible to Township Manager”, subsection C “Fire Inspection”, is hereby REPEALED, and replaced with “Fire Services”.

SECTION 3:

Chapter 1, Article B, Section 1-321, “Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal”, of the Code is hereby REPEALED in its entirety, and replaced and amended as follows:

SECTION 1-321

1. Establishment of the Department of Fire Services. The Board of Commissioners does hereby establish the Department of Fire Services and the office of Director of Fire Services. The Department of Fire Services shall lead and coordinate all fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments, within the Township.

2. Appointment of the Director of Fire Services. The Director of Fire Services shall be a managerial position appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

3. Requirements for the office of Director of Fire Services.

A. Ten years minimum current active service as a member of a fire department.

B. Possess and maintain Fire Inspector II.

C. Possess strong interpersonal skills.

D. Qualified to:

(1) Plan, coordinate, and supervise the delivery of fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments, within the Township.

(2) Ensure that the recognized volunteer fire departments are prepared to provide safe and effective fire protection and first responder emergency medical services to the residents and businesses within the Township.

(3) Perform incident response and command responsibilities as the chief operations officer of fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments, in the Township.

(4) Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners or other body designated by it for fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments.

(5) Provide full-time leadership and organizing skills to support the volunteer line officers in a municipal fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments, including, without limitation, administrative responsibility, team building, leadership development, municipal capital planning, and municipal budgeting.

4. Duties of the Director of Fire Services.

A. The Township Director of Fire Services shall be the highest-ranking fire services officer of the Township and shall have the power and responsibility of management of the provision of all fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments, in the Township.

B. The Township Director of Fire Services shall report to the Township Manager for the efficient and effective operation of the Townships provision of fire-rescue and related emergency services, as performed by volunteer fire departments. The Township Director of Fire Services will develop and enforce standard operating guidelines across the Township, including among its volunteer fire departments, based on recognized practices and procedures in consultation with the Township volunteer fire departments.

C. The chief of each of the Township's volunteer fire departments shall report to the Township Director of Fire Services and shall coordinate the implementation of the Director of Fire Services' standard operating guidelines within each of the volunteer fire departments.

D. The Township Director of Fire Services will coordinate with the various volunteer fire departments in the command of large scale or complex fire emergencies when such action is necessary to protect life or property. The Township Director of Fire Services is in charge of the scene, only when deemed necessary or when events are escalated; they shall have authority to close streets, initiate evacuations and exclude the public from the immediate vicinity of the emergency or place of danger.

5. Appointment of Fire Marshal. The Township Board of Commissioners shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Director of Fire Services, a full-time officer to be known as the Ross Township Fire Marshal whose duties are herein described. The Fire Marshal shall report to the Director of Fire Services.

A. The Fire Marshal shall have the responsibility of enforcing all laws, ordinances, and regulations with respect to fire prevention and safety.

B. The Fire Marshal will lead the investigation of the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires and explosions.

C. The Fire Marshal shall achieve comprehensive and consistent data collection for all the volunteer fire departments in the Township and for the Township itself.

D. The Fire Marshal shall provide, among other duties, administrative support to all the volunteer fire departments in the Township, grant writing, training, and supporting the Emergency Management Coordinator.

F. The Director of Fire Services, in coordination with the Township Manager, shall create a job description for the position of Fire Marshal.

SECTION 4:

The appropriate Officers of Ross Township are hereby authorized and directed to take such actions and execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance.

SECTION 5:

In the event that any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance shall be declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent or otherwise foreclose enforcement of any of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, each such inconsistency or conflict is hereby specifically repealed.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROSS THIS 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF ROSS

Ronald L. Borczyk
Township Manager

By:_____
Daniel DeMarco, President
Board of Commissioners

