

**TALL GRASS ORDINANCE**  
**Ord. No. 709**  
**Adopted: May 18, 2009**

An ordinance to regulate the height of grass in the Charter Township of Fenton.

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, COUNTY OF GENESEE, MICHIGAN  
ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1. Purpose**

The Township hereby finds that tall grass can have a blighting effect on neighborhoods and can provide a refuge for vermin. The purpose of this ordinance is to secure the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents and property owners of Fenton Township by regulating the height grass is allowed to grow.

**SECTION 2. Definition**

**Grass:** any type of grass or weed, but not including small grain crops such as corn oats or barley.

**Owner:** any person holding an ownership interest in land in the Charter Township of Fenton upon which there is tall grass growing. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the name and address listed on the Township tax assessment roll shall indicate ownership interest in such land.

**Used for agriculture:** the use of land for tilling of the soil, the raising of field or tree crops or animal husbandry, as a source of income.

**SECTION 3. Duty to Cut Grass**

- A. This ordinance applies to the following lots under one (1) acre in size:
  - 1. Lots with a structure.
  - 2. Vacant lots in a residential subdivision where 75% of the lots or units have been developed, or in the case of a multi-phase project, in any phase where 75% of the lots or units have been developed.
- B. This ordinance does not apply to:
  - 1. Land used for agricultural purposes.
  - 2. Portions of lots used for flower gardens, shrubbery or vegetable gardens.
  - 3. Naturally wooded areas, regulated wetlands or meadows.
  - 4. Areas designated as undeveloped open space.
- C. The owner of lots to which this ordinance applies shall not allow the grass to grow over twelve inches (12") in height.

**SECTION 4. Enforcement**

- A. This ordinance shall be enforced by the Fenton Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer (OEO).
- B. If it is determined that a lot is in violation of the ordinance, the OEO shall send notice of the violation to the property owner listed in the most recent Township Assessment Roll. The notice shall be sent by both first class and certified mail return receipt. The notice shall give the property owner fourteen (14) days from the date of the notice to cut the grass.
- C. If the grass is not cut within fourteen (14) days the OEO shall have the authority and

may contract to have the lawn mowed by an authorized representative who is bonded and insured and is hereby empowered to enter upon any premises or land in Fenton Township for the purpose of mowing grass in violation of this ordinance. No person shall interfere with such person or persons while they are engaged in carrying out the provisions of this ordinance.

- D. After having a lot mowed, the Township shall then submit a bill to the property owner for the cost of the mowing plus an administrative fee established by the Township Board. If the property owner does not pay the bill within 30 days of the date of the invoice the cost of such payment shall be charged against the premises and it shall become a lien on the land or property assessed of the same character in effect as the lien created by general law for taxes, until paid.

**SECTION 5. Severability**

The several provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate; if any Court shall hold that any section or provision hereof is invalid, such holding shall not affect or impair the validity of any other section or provision of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall be published as required by law and shall take effect 30 days after its enactment and publication.

Enacted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Fenton, held on the 18th day of May 2009.

**Bonnie Mathis, Supervisor**

**Robert Krug, Clerk**