

The following Ordinance was introduced and a first reading completed at the Holland Charter Township Board Meeting held on July 16, 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

KEEPING OF RESIDENTIAL CHICKENS ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE to add Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances for the Charter Township of Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan, thereby adopting residential chicken permitting requirements, regulating and governing the keeping of chickens within the Township; allowing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees; providing the standards for permit application submittal, review, and approval process; and establishing a suspension, revocation, and appeal process for permit violators.

The Charter Township of Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan, ordains:

Section 1. Addition of Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances. Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Holland is added in its entirety as follows.

CHAPTER 9. – RESIDENTIAL CHICKEN PERMIT

Sec. 9-1. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the standards and procedures to be utilized by the township in exercising authority with respect to permits to keep chickens within residential zoning districts, as prescribed per Appendix A (zoning ordinance) of this code. The keeping of residential chickens shall be compliant with the zoning ordinance and subject to review via the permitting process in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Sec. 9-2. Permit required. No person shall, directly or indirectly, keep, harbor, or maintain chickens on their residentially zoned property without first obtaining such permit as provided in this chapter.

Sec. 9-3. Application. Application for a permit under this chapter shall be filed with the township community development department and contain the following items:

- (1) Non-refundable application fee as established by a resolution adopted by the township board, which shall not exceed the real cost of ordinance enforcement and related costs for chicken enclosures, coops, and runs (the township board shall amend by resolution the fee schedule from time to time to reflect changes in the cost of inspections);
- (2) Full name, address, phone number, and email address of the property owner;

- (3) Full name, address, phone number, and email address of the responsible party designated by the property owner;
- (4) A scaled site plan identifying the location of the proposed chicken enclosure, coop, and run relative to lot boundaries and existing structures (see the zoning ordinance for location requirements);
- (5) Construction plans for proposed chicken enclosure, coop, and run identifying the dimensions of the structures (size and height) and building materials (see the zoning ordinance for construction requirements);
- (6) Requested number of chickens;
- (7) Copies of written notice to the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties; and
- (8) Additional information which the official reviewing the site plan may request which is reasonably necessary to evaluate the application.

Sec. 9-4. Inspections. Upon receipt of a complete application, the township will arrange for the initial inspection of the premises.

An enforcing officer will inspect the chicken enclosure to secure the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and to maintain compliance with the standards of this chapter and the zoning ordinance.

During the inspection, an enforcing officer shall note any violations of this chapter or provisions of the zoning ordinance and shall issue a notice of all violations to the responsible person. The notice of violations shall direct the responsible person to correct violations within the time set forth in the notice, but shall not exceed 30 days.

Additional inspections necessary to secure compliance with the standards of this chapter and the zoning ordinance shall incur fees as established by a resolution adopted by the township board.

An enforcing officer may inspect a chicken enclosure, coop, or run once every three years without first receiving a complaint or without other cause, and in addition, may inspect buildings and structures under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) Upon receipt of a complaint from a township property owner or resident that the premises are in violation of this chapter or the zoning ordinance;
- (2) Upon receipt of a complaint report or a referral from a police agency, other public agency or department, or any individual with personal knowledge, indicating that the premises are in violation of this chapter or the zoning ordinance;
- (3) An exterior survey of the premises gives an enforcing officer probable cause to believe that the premises are in violation of this chapter or the zoning ordinance;
- (4) Upon an enforcing officer's receipt of information that a chicken enclosure, coop, or run is not registered with the township as required by this chapter or the zoning ordinance; and

- (5) An emergency is observed or is reasonably believed to exist by an enforcing officer.

Upon a successful inspection and payment of any and all fees, the township will issue a permit for the keeping of chickens which permit shall contain an expiration date.

After passing an inspection and receiving a permit which certifies that the chicken enclosure, coop, or run is in compliance with this chapter and the zoning ordinance, the property shall be maintained in compliance with this chapter and the zoning ordinance.

Sec. 9-5. Additional inspections; fees; administrative late charge. The township board shall establish by resolution a schedule of additional inspection fees, which shall not exceed the real cost of ordinance enforcement and related costs for chicken enclosures, coops, and runs (the township board shall amend by resolution the fee schedule from time to time to reflect changes in the cost of inspections).

The additional inspection fee shall be paid by the owner of the property, unless the inspection is based on a complaint filed by the property owner for a violation caused by the occupant, and an enforcing officer determines that such a violation does, in fact, exist. In such event, the inspection fee shall be paid by the occupant.

An administrative late charge shall be paid to the township by the person obligated to pay an additional inspection fee if such fee is not paid within 30 days from the billing date. The amount of the administrative late fees shall be established by resolution of the township board.

Sec. 9-6. Permit suspension and expiration. An enforcing officer may suspend a permit if the responsible person fails to comply with a violation notice issued under section 9-4 or if the responsible person fails to pay any fee in accordance with section 9-5.

An enforcing officer shall reinstate a suspended three year permit upon a determination that all violations are corrected and upon payment of all applicable fees. The reinstated permit of compliance shall be issued for a period of not more than three years from the date of the original permit.

A permit for the keeping of chickens shall expire on the date stated on the permit. Within 30 days after such expiration date, the property owner shall remove the chicken enclosure, coop, and run.

A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens must obtain a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 9-7. Transferability. A permit issued by the township is non-transferrable. No person shall permit by sale or lease of property any other person to use or employ a permit issued to the original person by the township.

Sec. 9-8. Penalties. A violation of this chapter shall be deemed a municipal civil infraction as defined under section 1-13 of the Holland Charter Township Code. A violation of this chapter shall also be a nuisance per se and subject to abatement as provided in sections 1-11 through 1-13 or as otherwise provided in the Holland Charter Township Code. In addition to the fine and costs imposed for a violation of this chapter, the owner shall pay the administrative late charge as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by the township board.

Sec. 9-9. Appeals. Decisions for license denial, as made by the township , may be appealed to the township board.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the Township Board on _____, 2026, after its introduction and first reading on July 16, 2026, and after its publication of the first reading as required by law. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption.

Russell TeSlaa, Township Supervisor

Michael Dalman, Township Clerk