

7275 W. MAIN STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49009-9334 269-216-5220 Fax 375-7180 TDD 375-7198 www.oshtemo.org

# OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - REGULAR MEETING

# OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP HALL 7275 WEST MAIN STREET

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 3:00 P.M.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Approval of Agenda
- 4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- 5. Approval of Minutes: August 26, 2025
- 6. **Site Plan Review: Miedema (5991 Venture Park Drive, 3905-25-153-160)**Zoning Board of Appeals to conduct site plan review of a proposed 4,129 square foot building addition at 5991 Venture Park Drive in the C, Local Business District.
- 7. Area Variance: Brown (5418 West G Avenue, 3905-01-230-030)

  Zoning Board of Appeals to consider request for a parcel area variance to allow a land redescription where the resulting parcel will not satisfy the minimum area requirement in the RR, Rural Residential District.
- 8. Other Updates and Business
- 9. Adjournment

(Meeting will be available for viewing through <a href="https://www.publicmedianet.org/gavel-to-gavel/oshtemo-township">https://www.publicmedianet.org/gavel-to-gavel/oshtemo-township</a>)

# OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 26, 2025

#### SETBACK VARIANCE: CARON (2550 CUTTY SARK DRIVE 3905-11-225-380)

Zoning Board of Appeals to consider request for a front yard setback variance for an accessory building in the R-2, Residence District.

A meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals was held Tuesday, August 26, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Everett

Dusty Farmer Fred Gould

Harry Jachym, Vice Chair

Ron Ver Planck

Louis Williams, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Smith

Also present were Jodi Stefforia, Planning Director; Colten Hutson, Zoning Administrator; Jim Porter, Township Attorney; and approximately 4 interested persons.

#### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those in attendance joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Williams called for approval of the agenda.

Ms. Farmer <u>made a motion</u> to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Jachym <u>seconded the</u> motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

One individual spoke during the public comment period.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2025**

Chair Williams asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the Minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2025.

Mr. Jachym <u>made a motion</u> to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2025, as presented. Mr. Gould <u>seconded the motion</u>. The <u>motion was approved</u> unanimously.

#### SETBACK VARIANCE: CARON (2550 CUTTY SARK DRIVE 3905-11-225-380)

Mr. Hutson presented his staff report dated August 20, 2025, and is incorporated herein, regarding a variance request to allow for a reduced setback for an accessory building of 24'7" where the Zoning Ordinance requires 30' for the property located at 2550 Cutty Sark Drive.

The property owner, Vern Caron, is requesting relief from Section 50.60 of the Zoning Ordinance which governs setbacks for structures in residential zoning districts. If granted, the variance would allow for a reduced setback of 24'7" from the north front yard property line in order to construct a 23'6"x23'6" accessory building on the property. The minimum front yard setback along Maple Leaf Avenue is 30 feet from the edge of the public right-of-way. The property is zoned R-2: Residence District.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Hutson to clarify how Oshtemo Township's Zoning Ordinance defines a front yard for properties located on multiple roads.

Mr. Hutson explained that, according to the ordinance, all corner lots are required to meet front yard setback requirements on both road-facing sides. This definition can be found in Article 2 – Definitions of the Oshtemo Zoning Ordinance.

#### Standards of review - staff analysis

The Michigan courts have applied the following principles for a nonuse variance, which collectively amount to demonstrating a practical difficulty as follows:

- Special or unique physical conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the property involved and which are not generally applicable to other properties in the same district.
- Strict compliance with the standard would unreasonably prevent the landowner from using the property for a permitted use; or would render conformity to the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.
- The variance is the minimum necessary to provide substantial justice to the landowner and neighbors.
- The problem is not self-created.
- Public safety and welfare.

Standards of approval of a nonuse variance (practical difficulty): The applicant has provided a narrative for each variance request, both of which are included in the attached packet. Staff's review against these criteria is provided below.

Standard: Unique Physical Circumstances

Are there unique physical limitations or conditions which prevent compliance?

Comment:

There is presently a single-family home on this approximately 0.5-acre corner lot. As far as unique physical circumstances are concerned, the property is heavily wooded. Relocating the accessory building elsewhere other than the proposed location would require substantial tree removal.

There is also a significant change in grade in several areas of the property which drops between 8' - 10' over a very short distance. The only portion of property where a significant grade change does not exist is the area between Cutty Sark Drive and the home. Such placement would require a much larger setback reduction than the 5'5" the applicant is currently requesting. See applicant's narrative.

Standard:

Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome

*Are reasonable options for compliance available?* 

Does reasonable use of the property exist with denial of the variance?

Comment:

Reasonable options for compliance are available by continuing to occupy the property in its present state. The home already has an attached 425 square foot garage. The applicants own the small, vacant lot adjacent to the east. The lots could be combined, and the building could be built there.

It could be argued that conformance is unnecessarily burdensome. Corner lots are encumbered by two front yards whereas non-corner lots only have one front yard. The façade of the principal residence on the subject property faces south along Cutty Sark Drive. The area between the home and Maple Leaf Avenue serves and acts as the applicant's rear yard. There are minimal locations on the property in its current configuration where the accessory building could be placed without the need to request a variance.

Standard:

Minimum Necessary for Substantial Justice

Applied to both applicant as well as to other property owners in district. Review past decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for consistency (precedence).

Comment:

In researching past ZBA decisions regarding the request for relief from the setback requirements, Planning Department staff were able to identify four similar cases. A summary of these findings is included in the report by staff included in the meeting packet.

Standard: Self-Created Hardship

Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request created by actions of the applicant?

Comment:

The applicant's interest to construct an accessory building is what is creating the request. The property possesses an existing 425 square foot attached garage. The

applicants own the lot adjacent to the immediate east. A detached garage could be constructed on that property if a land combination was executed. While it could be argued that the request is self-created, there are unique site conditions that exist. The property owner did not create the significant grade changes on the property.

Standard: Public Safety and Welfare

Will the variance request negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others?

Comment:

Setbacks are a building restriction which are designed to provide a form of security for the health, safety, and welfare of the public and property owners. If the variance is granted as requested, the nearest edge of the proposed accessory building would be over 32' away from the edge of pavement along Maple Leaf Avenue. The lot is heavily wooded between the road and proposed accessory building. It is not expected that the variance request would negatively impact the health, safety, or welfare of the public and neighboring property owners. See applicant's narrative.

#### Possible actions

The Zoning Board of Appeals may take the following possible actions:

- Motion to approve as requested (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to approve with an alternate variance relief (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to deny

The motion should include the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance. Based on the staff analysis, the following findings of fact are presented:

- Support of variance approval
  - There are unique physical circumstances that prevent strict compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.
  - Minimum necessary for substantial justice is met as similar cases in the
    past were identified where accessory buildings were constructed within
    the required setback area.
  - It could be argued that compliance to the Ordinance is unnecessarily burdensome given the site restrictions related to topography and natural features.
  - The conditions or circumstances which created the variance request are not entirely self created.
  - Granting a variance would likely not negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others.
- Support of variance denial
  - Compliance to the Ordinance is not unnecessarily burdensome as the property could continue to be utilized in its present state, and constructing an accessory building on the site is entirely discretionary.

• The applicant has the opportunity to combine his two lots and build the accessory building in compliance with setback requirements.

Possible motions for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider include:

- Variance Approval
   The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the variance request.
- 2. <u>Variance Denial</u>
  The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the variance request.

Chair Williams invited the applicant up to the podium to speak.

The applicant, Mr. Vern Caron of 2550 Cutty Sark Drive, addressed the Board requesting a reduced setback for the addition of an accessory building. Mr. Caron explained that constructing an accessory building on the second, adjacent parcel would be impractical. He emphasized that removing trees or putting in a new driveway would be costly and environmentally disruptive, and a structure on that lot would not serve the intended purpose—providing nearby, practical storage for a garden tractor with a snowblower to maintain the primary driveway. The applicant also clarified that the proposed 26x26-foot structure is already as small as possible, with its size dictated by the need for a standard garage door, ADA-compliant access, and space for a pickup truck. He noted the structure only slightly encroaches into the setback area due to necessary tree avoidance.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the proposed use of the building, (confirming it functions as a garage), existing garage capacity, and whether the applicant had considered or completed a lot combination. The applicant responded that combining the lots would not provide a viable solution, as the second lot is not a practical solution for the proposed purpose. Mr. Caron also noted the vague nature of the zoning regulations around front, side, and rear setbacks, and discussed potential alternatives for meeting setback requirements, though he maintained that any repositioning was not a viable solution.

Chair Williams opened the floor for public comment.

One person spoke in support of the request.

Mr. Jachym spoke in support of approving the variance request based on the following findings:

- 1. There is a special condition affecting this property—it is an odd-shaped corner lot with significant grade changes that limit usable space and make compliance with standard setback requirements unusually difficult.
- 2. **Denial of the variance would create an unnecessary burden** on the property owner, potentially requiring relocation of the structure, construction of an additional driveway, or removal of numerous mature trees—none of which are practical or desirable.

- 3. Granting the variance will not negatively affect public safety or welfare. The proposed location of the accessory building poses no threat to neighboring properties or the general public.
- 4. **The hardship is not entirely self-created.** The constraints stem from the lot's natural topography and corner configuration, not from actions taken by the applicant.
- 5. While any property improvement may result in some financial benefit, that is not the driving factor behind this request. The applicant seeks to address a functional need, not to gain economically.

Mr. Jachym <u>made a motion</u> to approve the variance request to allow a reduced setback of 24 feet, 7 inches, where the minimum of 30 feet is required, for the construction of an accessory building on the property located at 2550 Cutty Sark Drive based on the findings outlined above. Mr. Gould <u>seconded the motion</u>. The <u>motion was approved</u> unanimously.

#### OTHER UPDATES AND BUSINESS

Ms. Stefforia announced that the next meeting is scheduled for September 23rd. Following that meeting, there will be a joint session with all Township Boards, during which the Township's planning consultants will deliver a presentation on the Comprehensive Master Plan and the Master Streets Plan.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Williams <u>made a motioned</u> to adjourn the meeting at 3:27 p.m. Ms. Farmer **seconded the motion**. The **motion was approved** unanimously.

Minutes Prepared: August 28, 2025

Minutes Approved:

#### September 18, 2025

Mtg Date: September 23, 2025

**To:** Oshtemo Township Zoning Board of Appeals

**From:** Colten Hutson, Zoning Administrator

**Applicant:** Andrew Rossell, AR Engineering

**Owner:** Neal and Amy Miedema

**Property**: 5991 Venture Park Drive, Parcel Number 3905-25-153-160

**Zoning:** C: Local Business District

**Request:** Site plan approval to construct a 4,129 square foot building addition onto the existing

2,180 square foot office building on-site.

**Section(s):** Section 64: Site Plan Review

Section 18: C - Local Business District

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

AR Engineering, on behalf of Neal and Amy Miedema, is requesting site plan approval to construct a 4,129 square foot addition onto the existing 2,180 square foot building located at 5991 Venture Park Drive. The proposed expansion would create additional office space to serve the financial planning office currently on site. The applicant is also proposing to construct a new 1,080 square foot detached garage for storage purposes.

A visual of the subject property is outlined in light blue on the aerial map to the right with the subject building addition and detached garage illustrated through the red and white hatch marks. The approximate 1.5-acre site is located on the east side of Venture Park Drive, north of Stadium Drive between Quail Run Drive and West Michigan Avenue.



Established 1839 ·

#### **ANALYSIS:**

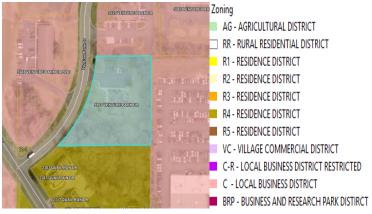
When reviewing this site plan review request, the general site plan review criteria outlined in Section 64 will need to be considered. Below is an analysis of the proposal against said code section. Overall, most of the requirements of Section 64 have been met.



#### Section 64: Site Plan Review

#### **General Zoning Compliance:**

Zoning: 5991 Venture Park Drive is zoned C: Local Business District and is located within the southeast quadrant of the Township. The subject property abuts office buildings to the north and west, a Toyota dealership to the east, and a residential condominium development to the south. All uses above are also zoned C: Local Business District with the exception of the



residential condominium development which is zoned R-4: Residence District. The proposed office use is a permitted use by right within the C: Local Business District. With the proposed improvements, the percentage of land covered by buildings will increase to 10.6%. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the site will remain as open space.

#### **Access and Circulation**

Access: Site access to the property is not changing. The drive aisle on site will be 24 feet in width and is designed to accommodate two-way travel. Additional HMA pavement will be installed to accommodate parking and site circulation needs. The Fire Marshal has reviewed the site plan and found it adequate to service emergency vehicle circulation.

Parking: The site currently has 16 parking spaces, two of which are ADA accessible. The applicant is proposing to add 14 more standard stalls, offering a total of 30 parking spaces. An office building with a net floor area of 4,440 square feet is allowed to have a maximum of 30 parking spaces. The applicant is proposing to mill and resurface where the ADA parking spaces are currently located. Per the parking ordinance, resurfacing such area will require the ADA parking spaces and accessible aisle to be constructed in concrete. An updated site plan illustrating the change in surface material type will be a condition of approval. All other parking requirements have been met.

Easements: Existing easements are indicated on the site plan. No new easements are proposed.

Sidewalks: The Township's adopted Non-Motorized Action Plan does identify a 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along Venture Park Drive; however, on June 24, 2025, the Zoning Board of Appeals granted a variance from the Township's sidewalk requirements. A condition of variance approval was that the property owner consent to entering into a sidewalk Special Assessment District (SAD) agreement, which permits sidewalk construction to be deferred until the Township finds it appropriate to create a SAD to implement the public improvements.

#### **Building Design**

Building Information: The 2,180 square foot 17-foot-tall building was constructed in 1994. The

proposed 4,129 square foot addition will be located on the south and east ends of the existing building. The exterior material proposed for the office addition is a combination of brick and vinyl. An excerpt of the elevation sheet is provided to the right.

The 1,080 square foot detached garage will include overhead doors and vinyl siding.



Lot Dimensions: The site is located within the Venture Park Condominium development. The building site exceeds both the minimum property area (13,200 square foot minimum) and frontage (120' minimum) requirements for building sites serviced by water and sewer in the C: Local Business District. The site's dimensions satisfy zoning ordinance requirements.

Setbacks: Properties located within Commercial zoning districts are required to have a minimum front yard setback of 70 feet and a 20-foot minimum side and rear yard setback. However, if commercially zoned properties abut residential zoning, an enhanced building setback is required. The applicant applied for a text amendment following the denial of the setback variance at the June 24, 2025 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Earlier this month, the Township Board adopted the applicant's requested amendments to reduce supplemental setback requirements for low intensity, commercial uses. Therefore, since the property immediately south of the subject office use is zoned R-4: Residence District, a 42.5-foot building setback is required rather than the customary 85 feet. The minimum setbacks for the building addition from the front yard, side yard, and rear yard have all been met.

Accessory buildings, such as a detached garage, are also subject to a minimum side and rear yard setback of '20 feet or the height of the accessory building at its highest point as measured from the grade of the property line, whichever is greater.' Detailed building drawings will need to be submitted to confirm that the setback from the east property line is met for the proposed detached garage.

Waste Disposal Container: No dumpster enclosure is proposed as the proposed office use will utilize herby curbys rather than a commercial dumpster. This portion of the review is not applicable.

Fencing: No fencing on site is currently proposed. This portion of the review is not applicable.

Lighting: A photometric plan has been provided. New pole mounted lights and building mounted lights are proposed. Mounting height details, however, are still needed to confirm whether lumen

output satisfies ordinance requirements. Otherwise, all lighting ordinance requirements have been met.

*Signs:* No changes to the current signage on site is proposed presently. This portion of the review is not applicable.

#### Landscaping

A landscaping plan sealed by a Landscape Architect has been included as a part of this site plan submission. Due to a residential development abutting the subject property to the south, a 30-foot-wide landscape buffer is proposed. The landscape plan will need to be revised to meet parking lot landscaping requirements as well as further information on tree credits will be required to ensure conformance with buffering requirements and interior site landscaping, which can be subject to administrative review and approval.

#### **Engineering**

The Township Engineer has reviewed the proposed site improvements and overall is satsified with the design. There are a couple elements that will need to be revised in terms of utilities and stormwater calculations, which has been determined to be all relatively minor and can be subject to administrative review and approval.

#### **Fire Department**

The Fire Marshal has reviewed the site plan and is satisfied with the layout of the proposed site improvements.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Planning Department staff recommends approval of the proposed Site Plan for the construction of a 4,129 square foot office building addition and 1,080 square foot detached storage garage at 5991 Venture Park Drive with the following conditions.

- 1) A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit from the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner's Office will be required prior to building permit issuance.
- 2) A revised site plan addressing any outstanding concerns from the Oshtemo Planning Department shall be submitted to the Township for administrative site plan review and approval prior to building permit issuance.
- 3) Finalization of design for stormwater management, utilities, or any other engineering details shall be subject to the administrative review and approval of the Township Engineer prior to building permit issuance.

Attachments: Application, Site Plan, and Landscape Plan



7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9334 Phone: 269-375-4260 Fax: 269-375-7180

### **PLEASE PRINT**

PROJECT NAME & ADDRESS

Ameriprise Office Addition; 5991 Venture Park Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

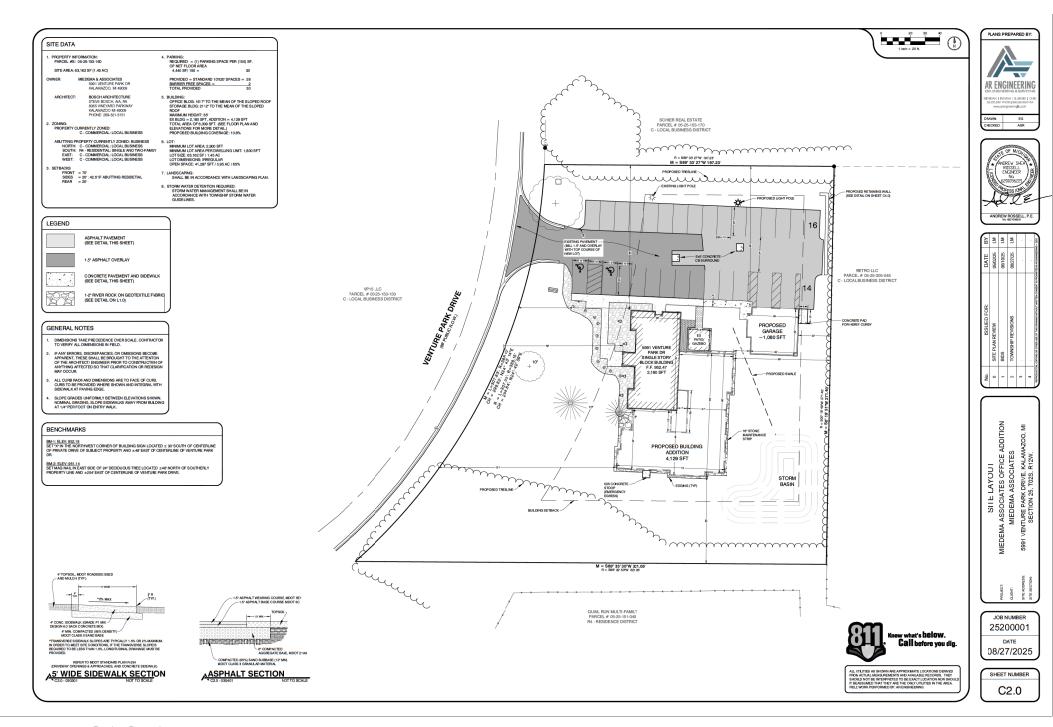
# **PLANNING & ZONING APPLICATION**

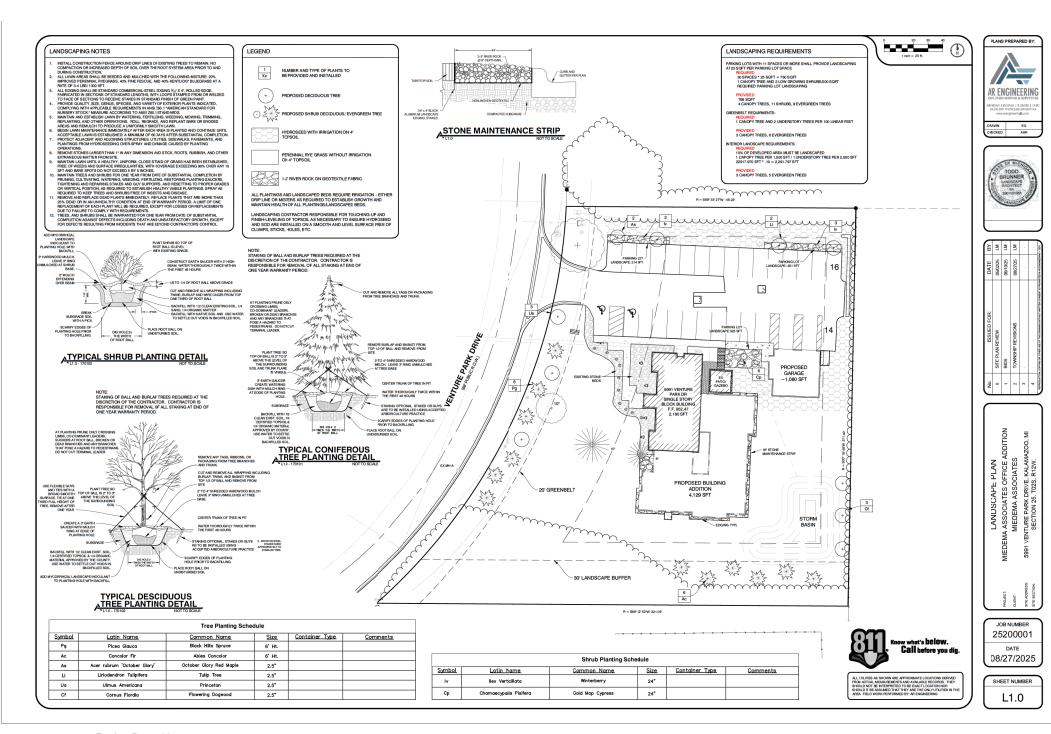
Applicant Name: AR Engineering		
Company: AR Engineering /		
Ameriprise Financial - Miedema Associates	THIS	
Address: 5991 Venture Park Drive	SPACE	
Kalamazoo, MI 49009	FOR	
E-mail: andrew@arengineeringllc.com	TOWNSHIP	
Telephone: (269) 329-1683 Fax:	USE	
Interest in Property: Civil Engineer / Owner	ONLY	
OWNER*:		
Name: Neal & Army Miedema		
Address: 5991 Venture Park Drive	Fee Amount	
Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Escrow Amount	
E-mail: neal_miedema@hotmail.com	<u></u>	
Phone & Fax: (269) 329-1683		
NATURE OF THE REQUEST: (Please check the appropriate	item(s))	
	Accessory Building Review – I083 Rezoning – I091	
Administrative Site Plan Review – I086 Subdivision Plat Review – I089		
	Interpretation — I082	
Site Condominium – I084	Other:	
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST (Use Attachmen	ts if Necessary): Owner seeks site plan approval for an	
approximate 4,129 sft office addition to their existing 2,180 sft financial planning office making it a total of 6,309	• /	

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF See attached	PROPERTY (Use Attachments	if Necessary):	
PARCEL NUMBER: 3905-	5-25-153-160		
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:	5991 Venture Park Drive		
PRESENT USE OF THE PRO	OPERTY: Office		
PRESENT ZONING: C - Cor	mmercial: Local Business SIZE	OF PROPERTY: 1.45 acres	
	OF ALL OTHER PERSONS, O OR EQUITABLE INTEREST	CORPORATIONS, OR FIRMS HAVING IN THE PROPERTY:	
Name(s)		Address(es)	
required documents attached I (we) acknowledge that we Infrastructure. By submitting Oshtemo Township officials completing the reviews necessity.	d hereto are to the best of my have received the Township's og this Planning & Zoning Appand agents to enter the subjects sary to process the application	ned on this application form and the (our) knowledge true and accurate. Disclaimer Regarding Sewer and Water polication, I (we) grant permission for at property of the application as part of on.  5/5/2025  Date	
Applicant's Signatur	e	Date	
Copies to: Planning – 1 Applicant – 1 Clerk – 1 Deputy Clerk – 1 Attorney – 1 Assessor – 1 Planning Secretary – Original	PLEASE ATTACH A	**** LL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	

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Rev. 9/14/22







Mtg Date: September 23, 2025

**To:** Oshtemo Township Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Planning Department

**Applicant:** Fenner Brown, 5442 W G Avenue

Owner: Presley Penola S Living Trust

**Property**: 5418 W G Avenue, Parcel Number 3905-01-230-030

**Zoning:** RR: Rural Residential District

**Request:** Requesting an area variance to allow for a redescription of an unplatted parcel.

**Section(s):** Section 50 – Schedule of Regulations

#### **Planning/Zoning Department Report:**

#### Overview:

Fenner Brown, on behalf of Penola Presley S Living Trust, is requesting a variance to allow the redescription of a property resulting in a parcel that does not satisfy the minimum area requirement. The resulting parcel would be approximately 0.8 acres in size, including the right-of-way, where Section 50.10 of the Zoning Ordinance requires 1.5 acres.

The property, shown outlined in green on the aerial map to the right, is located on the north side of W G Avenue. The yellow dashed line shows the approximate redescription configuration. The parcel currently has 166 feet of frontage, which is not expected to change, and is approximately 1.2 acres, including the right-of-way. The properties, including the parcel that the redescription would be executed with (5442 W G Avenue), are both currently used for single-family residences. The subject property is grandfathered and the dwelling was constructed in 1965.



#### Department Review:

The Michigan courts have applied the following principles for a dimensional variance, which collectively amount to demonstrating a practical difficulty. The Zoning Board of Appeals should consider the following standards in considering the variance request.

#### Standards of Approval of a Nonuse Variance (practical difficulty)

Staff's review against these criteria is provided below. The request is to allow a land redescription of a property resulting in a parcel approximately 0.8 acres in size, including the right-of-way, that does not satisfy the minimum area requirement of 1.5 acres. The applicant has provided a narrative for the variance request, which is attached to this report.

Standard: Unique Physical Circumstances

Are there unique physical limitations or conditions which prevent compliance?

Comment: The applicant indicated in their narrative that significant grade changes exist on the west half of the property and the neighboring property to the west, which makes maintenance

difficult, and usefulness of the property limited.

Consider the surrounding properties on W G Avenue. There are several unplatted parcels nearby with a smaller area than what is being requested by the applicant. The configuration of the property and those abutting it might be considered a unique physical circumstance.



Standard: Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome

Is conformance unnecessarily burdensome?

Are reasonable options for compliance available?

Does reasonable use of the property exist with denial of the variance?

Comment: A redescription of the subject parcel as proposed will not be permitted unless a variance

from the area requirement in Section 50.10 of the Zoning Ordinance is granted.

It may be possible to redescribe the subject property in conformance with the area requirements in the ordinance if they were able to also acquire land from the applicant's

neighboring property (5442 W G Avenue).

Reasonable use of the property remains without the parcel redescription taking place. If the variance request is denied, the use on the property, a private one-family dwelling, may continue.

The description is discretionary; however, the applicant indicated in the narrative that the parcel's unique shape makes for unusable space not easily maintained with excessive weed and tree overgrowth.

Standard: Substantial Justice

Applied to both applicant as well as to other property owners in district.

Review past decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for consistency (precedence).

Comment: Substantial justice would be provided by granting the requested variance to allow the redescription of the parcel to occur resulting in a parcel area larger than those found on

at least four other properties in the vicinity and same zoning district.

No requests were found during staff's review of records involving an area variance where the applicants were requesting a land redescription of a nonconforming unplatted parcel.

Standard: Self-Created Hardship

Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request created by

actions of the applicant?

Comment: The proposed parcel redescription is at the discretion of the property owners.

The applicant wrote in the narrative that the request is not dependent on either neighbor, and that the property is in its original configuration. The parcel configuration is

grandfathered and has been confirmed by the Township Assessor.

Standard: Public Safety and Welfare

Will the spirit of the Ordinance be observed and the public health, safety, and welfare

secured and substantial justice done if the variance is granted?

Comment: The purpose of the dimensional requirements as outlined in Section 50.10.D of the Zoning

Ordinance is to "...secure the more orderly development of property in unplatted areas through the encouragement and regulation of open spaces between buildings and lessening of congestion, the encouragement of more efficient and conservative land use, the facilitating of transportation, sewage disposal, water supply and other public requirements and by providing for future access to interior land which might not

otherwise be adaptable to proper and advantageous development."

The applicant noted that there is no safety considerations and that allowing the variance is in the best interest of both parties. It is not expected that the variance request would

negatively impact the health, safety, or welfare of others.

#### Possible Actions:

The Zoning Board of Appeals may take the following possible actions on each variance request:

- Motion to approve as requested (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to approve with an alternate variance relief (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to deny

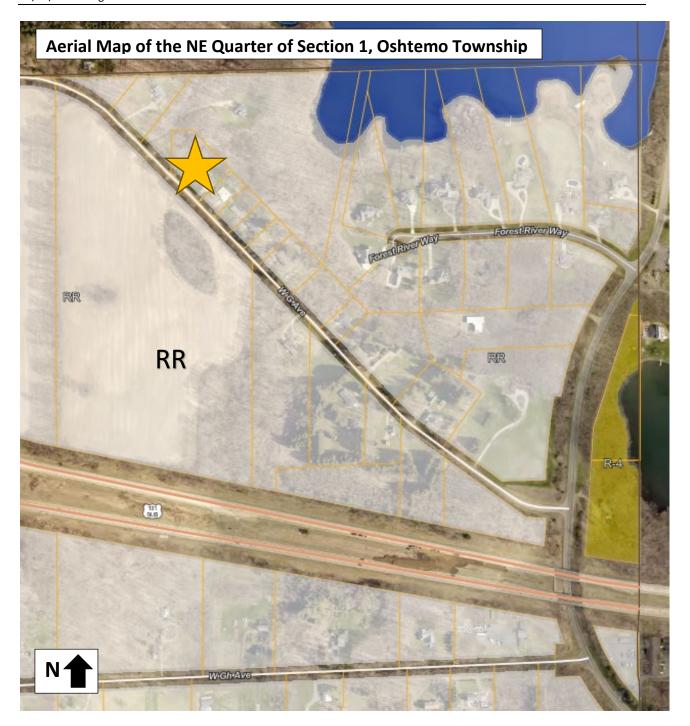
The motion should include the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance. Based on the staff analysis, the following findings of fact are presented:

- Support of variance approval:
  - The minimum necessary for substantial justice is satisfied.
  - o Is it not expected granting the variance would negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the spirit of the Ordinance will be observed.
  - o Unique physical circumstances or limitations exist.
  - o It can be argued that conformance with code requirements is unnecessarily burdensome.
- Support of variance denial:
  - o Conformance with code requirements is not unnecessarily burdensome.
  - The need for a variance could be considered a self-created hardship.

Possible motions for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider include:

- 1. The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the variance from Section 50.10, as requested, allowing the land redescription to take place, with the condition that:
  - a. All requirements in the Township's land redescription process are satisfied.
- 2. The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the variance request from Section 50.10.
- 3. The Zoning Board of Appeals approves alternate variance relief from Section 50.10.

Attachments: Application, Applicant Narrative, and Maps





7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9334 Phone: 269-375-4260 Fax: 269-375-7180

## PLEASE PRINT

PROJECT NAME & ADDRESS

Variance Request - 5418 West G Avenue

# **PLANNING & ZONING APPLICATION**

Applicant Name: farmer lance Brown  Company:	
Address: 5442 W. G Au	THIS SPACE FOR
E-mail:	TOWNSHIP
E-mail:	USE ONLY
Interest in Property:	01/151
OWNER*:	
Name: PRESLEY PENOLA S LIVING TRUST	Fee Amount
Address: 5418 West G Avenue	Escrow Amount
E-mail:	
NATURE OF THE REQUEST: (Please check the appropriate item(s))	)
Pre-Application Review Accessor Site Plan Review – I088 Rezonin Administrative Site Plan Review – I086 Subdivis Special Exception Use – I085 Interpret	ry Building Review – I083 g – I091 sion Plat Review – I089
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST (Use Attachments if Necesary Requesting a variance to allow a land re-description of a non-conforming parcel that would decesary representations of the conforming parcel that would decess representations of the conforming parcel that would be conformed by the conformation of the conformation of the conformation of the conformation of t	¥ 1 0.00
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See attached.	F PROPERTY (Use Att	tachments if Necessary):
PARCEL NUMBER: 3905-	01-230-030	
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY		
PRESENT USE OF THE P		
PRESENT ZONING: RR:	Rural Residential	SIZE OF PROPERTY: 1.210
		RSONS, CORPORATIONS, OR FIRMS HAVING TEREST IN THE PROPERTY:
Name(s)		Address(es)
required documents attact I (we) acknowledge that w Infrastructure. By submit	rtify that the information thed hereto are to the book to have received the To ting this Planning & Zo tils and agents to enter	TURES on contained on this application form and the est of my (our) knowledge true and accurate. ownship's Disclaimer Regarding Sewer and Water oning Application, I (we) grant permission for the subject property of the application as part of application.
Owner's Signature	(*If different from App	$\frac{8/12/25}{\text{Date}}$
Applicant's Signat	le	August 11, 2053  Date
Copies to: Planning – I Applicant – 1 Clerk – 1 Deputy Clerk – 1 Attorney – 1 Assessor – 1 Planning Secretary – Original	PLEASE AT	**** TACH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

\\Oshtemo-SBS\Users\Lindal\LINDA\Planning\FORMS

Rev. 9/14/22



# **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - VARIANCE REQUEST REVIEW FORM**

The Board is required by law to consider the following, and only the following, criteria when deciding on an application for a nonuse variance. When making a motion on a variance, each of the following criteria must be clearly addressed in order to document how the Board's decision was made. Please fill in the lines below and verbally state how these criteria are, or are not, met.

Case:	Date:
Criteria 1: Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensom Are reasonable options for compliance available?	e Please note that economic hardship <u>cannot</u> be considered.
Yes: Very necessary for the	mantenana y property usitive use
No:	
Criteria 2: Substantial Justice Is the decision consistent with past decisions of the  Yes: Beyferred to grown a	z ZBA (precedence)? vidmunushafu
No:	
Criteria 3: Unique Physical Circumstances	
Are there unique physical limitations or conditions	
Yes: The parcel is air in	ique shape making fer unisale
No:	maintain withe Exces
	weedeparoth i tree ages
Criteria 4: Self-Created Hardship	
Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted	I in the variance request created by actions of the applicant?
Yes: Wese not a serial a	n either mighbor was ougened
<u>No:</u>	property lines, Inherele
	ved, and public safety and welfare secured? Les elics, an lest wherest of
No: Joth parties,	
	The December of December 1

Based on the review of the criteria listed above the Zoning Board of Appeals rules to **Approve / Deny** the variance request.