Livingston County Department of Planning

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Livingston County Planning Commission and the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees

FROM: Martha Haglund, Principal Planner

DATE: August 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Z-26-26 Amendment to 36-170.38-Human Crematoriums

The Hamburg Township Planning Commission is proposing to amend their Zoning Ordinance to include new language regarding Human Crematoriums. The Township proposes permitting human crematoriums in the General Industrial District as an accessory use to a funeral homes.

Staff has reviewed the proposed amendments for accuracy and compatibility with the existing ordinance language and offers the following summary for your review. Staff comments are noted throughout with additions and changes to the Ordinance written in red.

Section 36-169 (c) Permitted Use Table

Human Crematorium to be added to table of uses.

***Staff Comments**:* Section (c) relates to the Commercial Use Table. Because the proposed use would only be permitted in the General Industrial District, it should be incorporated into Section 36-169(d), the Industrial Use Table, rather than Section 36-169(c)."

New Section 36-170.38-Human Crematoriums

A. Human Crematoriums may be approved as a special land use in the General Industrial (GI), Zoning District.

B. Human crematoriums shall be considered an accessory use to funeral home(s) and must be located within the funeral home building. Standalone crematoriums shall not be permitted.

C. When reviewing the application for a crematorium, the Planning Commission shall determine that the application complies with the following minimum conditions:

Department Information

Administration Building
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1. No crematorium shall be located within three hundred (300) feet of any residential use. The distance shall be measured from the nearest portion of the crematorium building to the nearest portion of the residential parcel.

2. The crematorium shall emit no visible emissions or odors.

3. Noise emitted from the crematorium shall not exceed the maximum sound levels outlined in this Zoning Ordinance.

4. All activity relating to the dead shall be handled discreetly and be screened from public view to the maximum extent possible, including delivery and storage of the remains.

5. The crematorium shall not be used to dispose of waste materials.

6. Before the issuance of a land use permit for any crematorium, the operator shall provide documentation to the Township that all applicable federal, state, and local permits have been obtained and provide to the Township all the equipment manufacturers' specifications for construction, installation, operation, and maintenance.

7. Crematoriums shall be constructed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with all manufacturers' specifications and all applicable federal, state, and local permits, as amended.

Staff Comments: *The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) regulates air quality and equipment performance standards for crematoriums, therefore requiring documented compliance strengthens the Township's regulatory framework.*

There are a couple wording suggestions:
1.) Could rewrite #2 to read, "shall emit no visible emissions and not generate noxious odors."
2.) Could rewrite #4 to change the word from "dead" to "deceased"

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL. The Hamburg Township Planning Commission recommended approval at their August 20, 2026, meeting. A funeral home director spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL. The proposed ordinance amendment has been thoroughly reviewed. Prior to final adoption the Township should consider all suggestions in the staff's review. The proposed language is appropriate, and crematories are compatible with other uses in the General Industrial District.