

**DRAFT ORDINANCE 2026-05**  
**AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**  
**§152.400-462 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

WHEREAS North Carolina General Statute 160D-605 and 160D-701 requires that zoning regulations shall be made in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners finds that the proposed text amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance regarding referenced above to be consistent with the Town of Swansboro CAMA LAND USE Plan updated January 22, 2019, and amended August 28, 2023.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Town of Swansboro Board of Commissioners that the Town Unified Development Ordinance be amended.

***TITLE XV: LAND USAGE***

***CHAPTER 152: UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE***

***§152.400-462 OF THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE***

**Part I: General Provisions**

**SECTION 152.400 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**

(A) The Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Part 6, Article 21 of Chapter 143; Article 6 of Chapter 153A; Article 8 of Chapter 160A; and Articles 1, 7, 9, and 11 of Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the authority to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

(B) Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Swansboro, North Carolina, does ordain as follows:

**SECTION 152.401 FINDINGS OF FACT.**

(A) The flood prone areas within the jurisdiction of the Town of Swansboro are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life, property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures of flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

(B) These flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains, **both inside and outside the identified Special Flood Hazard Areas**, causing increases in flood heights and velocities and by the occupancy in flood prone areas by uses vulnerable to floods or other hazards. **These obstructions and occupancy by uses vulnerable to floods may be hazardous to other lands which are inadequately elevated, floodproofed, or otherwise unprotected from flood damages.**

**SECTION 152.402 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions within flood prone areas by provisions designed to:

- (A) Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards or that result in damaging increases in erosion, flood heights or velocities;
- (B) Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities that serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- (C) Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which are involved in the accommodation of floodwaters;
- (D) Control filling, grading, dredging, and all other development that may increase erosion or flood damage; and
- (E) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers that will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

#### **SECTION 152.404 OBJECTIVES.**

The objectives of this ordinance are to:

- (A) Protect human life, safety, and health;
- (B) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
- (C) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- (D) Minimize prolonged business losses and interruptions;
- (E) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities (i.e. water and gas mains, electric, telephone, cable and sewer lines, streets, and bridges) that are located in flood prone areas;
- (F) Minimize damage to private and public property due to flooding;
- (G) Make flood insurance available to the community through the National Flood Insurance Program;
- (H) Maintain the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains;
- (I) To help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood prone areas; and
- (J) To ensure that potential buyers are aware that property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

#### **SECTION 152.405 DEFINITIONS.**

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance it's most reasonable

application.

**A ZONE is the Special Flood Hazard Area subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood where base flood elevations have NOT been determined.**

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE (APPURTENANT STRUCTURE) means a structure located on the same parcel of property as the principal structure and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure. Garages, carports, and storage sheds are common urban accessory structures. Pole barns, hay sheds and the like qualify as accessory structures on farms and may or may not be located on the same parcel as the farm dwelling or shop building.

ADDITION (TO AN EXISTING BUILDING) means an extension or increase in the floor area or height of a building or structure.

**AE ZONE is the Special Flood Hazard Area subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood where base flood elevations have been determined by detailed or limited detailed methods.**

**AH ZONE is the Special Flood Hazard Area with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding (usually areas of ponding), where average depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet. Base flood elevations derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone.**

ALTERATION OF A WATERCOURSE means a dam, impoundment, channel relocation, change in channel alignment, channelization, or change in cross-sectional area of the channel or the channel capacity, or any other form of modification which may alter, impede, retard, or change the direction and/or velocity of the riverine flow of water during conditions of the base flood.

**AO ZONE is the Special Flood Hazard Area with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet. Average flood depths derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone.**

APPEAL means a request for a review of the Floodplain Administrator's interpretation of any provision of this ordinance.

AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING means a designated Zone AO or AH on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with base flood depths determined to be from one (1) to three (3) feet. These areas are located where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate, and where velocity flow may be evident.

AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD see "SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA (SFHA)".

BASE FLOOD means the flood having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE) means a determination of the water surface elevations of the base flood as published in the Flood Insurance Study. When the BFE has not been provided in a "Special Flood Hazard Area," it may be obtained from engineering studies available from a Federal, State, or other source using FEMA approved engineering methodologies. This elevation, when combined with the "Freeboard," establishes the "Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation".

BASEMENT means any area of the building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

BREAKAWAY WALL means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or the supporting foundation system.

BUILDING see definition of “Structure”.

CHEMICAL STORAGE FACILITY means a building, portion of a building, or exterior area adjacent to a building used for the storage of any chemical or chemically reactive products.

COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT ACT (CAMA) means North Carolina’s Coastal Area Management Act, this act, along with the Dredge and Fill Law and the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, is managed through North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Coastal Management (DCM).

COASTAL A ZONE (CAZ) means an area within a Special Flood Hazard Area, landward of a V zone or landward of an open coast without mapped V zones. In a Coastal A Zone, the principal source of flooding must be astronomical tides, storm surges, seiches, or tsunamis, not riverine flooding. During the base flood conditions, the potential for wave heights shall be greater than or equal to 1.5 feet. Coastal A Zones are not normally designated on FIRMs. (see also definition of “Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA))

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) consists of undeveloped portions of coastal and adjoining areas established by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CoBRA) of 1982, the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (CBIA) of 1990, and subsequent revisions, and includes areas owned by Federal or State governments or private conservation organizations identified as Otherwise Protected Areas (OPA).

COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREA means a Special Flood Hazard Area extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. The area is designated on a FIRM, or other adopted flood map as determined in Article 3, Section B of this ordinance, as Zone VE.

**COMMUNITY means any State or area or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, which has authority to adopt and enforce flood plain management regulations for the areas within its jurisdiction.**

**COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS) means a program developed by the Federal Insurance Administration to provide incentives for those communities in the Regular Program that have gone beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements to develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding.**

**CRITICAL FACILITY (ALSO CALLED CRITICAL ACTION) means facilities for which the effects of even a slight chance of flooding would be too great. The minimum floodplain of concern for critical facilities is the 0.2 percent chance flood level. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to facilities critical to the health and safety of the public such as: emergency operations centers, designated public shelters, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency response installations, vital data storage centers, power generation and water and other utilities (including related infrastructure such as principal points of utility systems) and installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste.**

DESIGN FLOOD See definition of “Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation.”

DEVELOPMENT means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY means any activity defined as Development which will necessitate a Floodplain Development Permit. This includes buildings, structures, and non-structural items, including (but not limited to) fill, bulkheads, piers, pools, docks, landings, ramps, and erosion control/stabilization measures.

DIGITAL FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (DFIRM) means the digital official map of a community, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), on which both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community are delineated.

DISPOSAL means, as defined in NCGS 130A-290(a)(6), the discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any solid waste into or on any land or water so that the solid waste or any constituent part of the solid waste may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters, including groundwaters.

**DRY FLOODPROOFING means a combination of measures that make a building and attendant utilities and equipment watertight and substantially impermeable to floodwater, with structural components having the capacity to resist flood loads. Please refer to Technical Bulletin 3, Requirements for the Design and Certification of Dry Floodproofed Non-Residential and Mixed-Use Buildings, and available from the FEMA.**

ELEVATED BUILDING means a non-basement building which has its lowest elevated floor raised above ground level by foundation walls, shear walls, posts, piers, pilings, or columns.

ENCROACHMENT means the advance or infringement of uses, fill, excavation, buildings, structures, or development into a special flood hazard area, which may impede or alter the flow capacity of a floodplain.

EXISTING BUILDING AND EXISTING STRUCTURE Any building and/or structure for which the “start of construction” commenced before the community entered the NFIP on October 18, 1983.

EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR MANUFACTURED HOME SUBDIVISION means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community, dated June 1987.

**EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufacturing homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).**

**FLOOD or FLOODING means:**

- (1) A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:**
- (a) The overflow of inland or tidal waters.**
  - (b) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.**
  - (c) Mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flooding as defined in paragraph (a)(2) of this definition and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.**
- (2) The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in paragraph (a)(1) of this definition.**

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP (FBFM) means an official map of a community, issued by the FEMA, on which the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the floodways are delineated. This official map is a supplement to and shall be used in conjunction with the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP (FHBM) means an official map of a community, issued by the FEMA, where the boundaries of the Special Flood Hazard Areas have been defined as Zone A.

FLOOD INSURANCE means the insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) means an official map of a community, issued by the FEMA, on which both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community are delineated. (see also definition of “DFIRM”)

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY (FIS) means an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards, corresponding water surface elevations (if appropriate), flood hazard risk zones, and other flood data in a community issued by the FEMA. The Flood Insurance Study report includes Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (FBFMs), if published.

FLOOD PRONE AREA see definition of “Floodplain”

FLOOD ZONE means a geographical area shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map or Flood Insurance Rate Map that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.

FLOODPLAIN means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source.

FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR is the individual appointed to administer and enforce the floodplain management regulations.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT means any type of permit that is required in conformance

with the provisions of this ordinance, prior to the commencement of any development activity.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT** means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage and preserving and enhancing, where possible, natural resources in the floodplain, including, but not limited to, emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, floodplain management regulations, and open space plans.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS** means this ordinance and other zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances, and other applications of police power. This term describes federal, state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for preventing and reducing flood loss and damage.

**FLOODPROOFING** means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitation facilities, structures, and their contents.

**FLOOD-RESISTANT MATERIAL** means any building product [material, component, or system] capable of withstanding direct and prolonged contact (minimum 72 hours) with floodwaters without sustaining damage that requires more than low-cost cosmetic repair. Any material that is water-soluble or is not resistant to alkali or acid in water, including normal adhesives for above-grade use, is not flood-resistant. Pressure-treated lumber or naturally decay-resistant lumbers are acceptable flooring materials. Sheet-type flooring coverings that restrict evaporation from below and materials that are impervious, but dimensionally unstable are not acceptable. Materials that absorb or retain water excessively after submergence are not flood-resistant. Please refer to Technical Bulletin 2, *Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements*, and available from the FEMA. Class 4 and 5 materials, referenced therein, are acceptable flood-resistant materials.

**FLOODWAY** means the channel of a river or other watercourse, including the area above a bridge or culvert when applicable, and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one (1) foot.

**FLOODWAY ENCROACHMENT ANALYSIS** means an engineering analysis of the impact that a proposed encroachment into a floodway or non-encroachment area is expected to have on the floodway boundaries and flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. The evaluation shall be prepared by a qualified North Carolina licensed engineer using standard engineering methods and hydraulic models meeting the minimum requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program.

**FLOOD ZONE A** geographical area shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map or Flood Insurance Rate Map that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.

**FREEBOARD** means the height added to the BFE to account for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, blockage of bridge or culvert openings, storm surge or precipitation exceeding the base flood, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed. The BFE plus the freeboard establishes the “Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation”.

**FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT FACILITY** means a facility which cannot be used for its intended purpose unless it is located in close proximity to water, limited to a docking or port facility necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, shipbuilding, or ship repair. The term does not include

long-term storage, manufacture, sales, or service facilities.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY** means, as defined in NCGS 130A, Article 9, a facility for the collection, storage, processing, treatment, recycling, recovery, or disposal of hazardous waste.

**HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE (HAG)** means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface, prior to construction, immediately next to the proposed walls of the structure.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE** means any structure that is:

- (1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the US Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (3) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic landmarks in communities with a “Certified Local Government (CLG) Program”; or
- (4) Certified as contributing to the historical significance of a historic district designated by a community with a “Certified Local Government (CLG) Program.”

Certified Local Government (CLG) Programs are approved by the US Department of the Interior in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources through the State Historic Preservation Officer as having met the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended in 1980.

**LETTER OF MAP CHANGE (LOMC)** means an official determination issued by FEMA that amends or revises an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map or Flood Insurance Study. Letters of Map Change include:

- (1) Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA): An official amendment, by letter, to an effective National Flood Insurance Program map. A LOMA is based on technical data showing that a property had been inadvertently mapped as being in the floodplain, but is actually on natural high ground above the base flood elevation. A LOMA amends the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map and establishes that a specific property, portion of a property, or structure is not located in a special flood hazard area.
- (2) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR): A revision based on technical data that may show changes to flood zones, flood elevations, special flood hazard area boundaries and floodway delineations, and other planimetric features.
- (3) Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F): A determination that a structure or parcel of land has been elevated by fill above the BFE and is, therefore, no longer located within the special flood hazard area. In order to qualify for this determination, the fill must have been permitted and placed in accordance with the community’s floodplain management regulations.
- (4) Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR): A formal review and comment as to whether a proposed project complies with the minimum NFIP requirements for such projects with respect to delineation of special flood hazard areas. A CLOMR does not revise the effective Flood

Insurance Rate Map or Flood Insurance Study; upon submission and approval of certified as-built documentation, a Letter of Map Revision may be issued by FEMA to revise the effective FIRM.

**LIGHT DUTY TRUCK** means any motor vehicle rated at 8,500 pounds Gross Vehicular Weight Rating or less which has a vehicular curb weight of 6,000 pounds or less and which has a basic vehicle frontal area of 45 square feet or less as defined in 40 CFR 86.082-2 and is:

- (1) Designed primarily for purposes of transportation of property or is a derivation of such a vehicle, or
- (2) Designed primarily for transportation of persons and has a capacity of more than 12 persons, or
- (3) Available with special features enabling off-street or off-highway operation and use.

**LIMIT OF MODERATE WAVE ACTION (LIMWA)** means the boundary line developed by FEMA on coastal map studies marking the approximate landward extent of the 1.5-foot breaking wave of the Coastal A Zones (CAZ).

**LOWEST ADJACENT GRADE (LAG)** means the lowest elevation of the ground, sidewalk, or patio slab immediately next to the building, or deck support, after completion of the building.

**LOWEST FLOOR** means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or limited storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such an enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.

**MANUFACTURED HOME** means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term “manufactured home” does not include a “recreational vehicle”.

**MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

**MAP REPOSITORY** means the location of the official flood hazard data to be applied for floodplain management. It is a central location in which flood data is stored and managed; in North Carolina, FEMA has recognized that the application of digital flood hazard data products has the same authority as hard copy products. Therefore, the NCEM’s Floodplain Mapping Program websites house current and historical flood hazard data. For effective flood hazard data, the NC FRIS website (<https://fris.nc.gov/>) is the map repository. Repositories of historical flood hazard data are available on the Flood.NC website (<https://flood.nc.gov/ncflood/>) and the FEMA Flood Map Service Center website (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>).

**MARKET VALUE** means the building value, not including the land value and that of any accessory structures or other improvements on the lot. Market value may be established by independent certified appraisal; replacement cost depreciated for age of building and quality of construction (Actual Cash Value); or adjusted tax assessed values.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** means structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after

the effective date of the initial floodplain management regulations and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

**NEW MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.**

NON-ENCROACHMENT AREA (NEA) means the channel of a river or other watercourse, including the area above a bridge or culvert when applicable, and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one (1) foot as designated in the Flood Insurance Study report.

OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREA (OPA) see definition of “Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS)”.

POST-FIRM means construction or other development for which the “start of construction” occurred on or after October 18, 1983, the effective date of the initial Flood Insurance Rate Map.

PRE-FIRM means construction or other development for which the “start of construction” occurred before October 18, 1983, the effective date of the initial Flood Insurance Rate Map.

PRIMARY FRONTAL DUNE (PFD) means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes immediately landward and adjacent to the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal dune occurs at the point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep slope to a relatively mild slope.

PRINCIPALLY ABOVE GROUND means that at least 51% of the actual cash value of the structure, less land value, is above ground.

PUBLIC SAFETY and/or NUISANCE means anything which is injurious to the safety or health of an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, or unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) means a vehicle, which is:

- (1) Built on a single chassis;
- (2) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- (3) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck;
- (4) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use, and
- (5) Is fully licensed and ready for highway use.
- (6) Has no attached deck, porch, or shed, and**
- (7) Has quick-disconnect sewage, water, and electrical connectors.**

REFERENCE LEVEL is the top of the lowest floor for structures within Special Flood Hazard Areas designated as Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99. The reference level is the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor for structures within Special Flood Hazard Areas designated as Zone

VE or Coastal A Zone (CAZ).

REGULATORY FLOOD PROTECTION ELEVATION means the “Base Flood Elevation” plus the “Freeboard”. In “Special Flood Hazard Areas” where Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been determined, this elevation shall be the BFE plus two feet. In “Special Flood Hazard Areas” where no BFE has been established, this elevation shall be at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade.

REMEDY A VIOLATION means to bring the structure or other development into compliance with state and community floodplain management regulations, or, if this is not possible, to reduce the impacts of its noncompliance. Ways that impacts may be reduced include protecting the structure or other affected development from flood damages, implementing the enforcement provisions of the ordinance or otherwise deterring future similar violations, or reducing federal financial exposure with regard to the structure or other development.

**REPETITIVE LOSS means flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.**

**REPETITIVE LOSS PROPERTY is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling 10-year period, since 1978. At least two of the claims must be more than ten days apart but, within ten years of each other. A RL property may or may not be currently insured by the NFIP.**

RIVERINE means relating to, formed by, or resembling a river (including tributaries), stream, brook, etc.

SALVAGE YARD means any non-residential property used for the storage, collection, and/or recycling of any type of equipment, and including but not limited to vehicles, appliances and related machinery.

SAND DUNES means naturally occurring accumulations of sand in ridges or mounds landward of the beach.

**SECTION 1316 means that section of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, which states that no new flood insurance coverage shall be provided for any property that FEMA finds has been declared by a duly constituted state or local zoning authority or other authorized public body to be in violation of state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances that are intended to discourage or otherwise restrict land development or occupancy in flood-prone areas.**

**SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS STRUCTURE means any insured property that has met at least one of the following paid flood loss criteria since 1978, regardless of ownership. In either case, two of the claim payments must have occurred within ten years of each other. Multiple losses at the same location within ten days of each other are counted as one loss, with the payment amounts added together.**

- 1. Four or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (including building and contents payments); or**
- 2. Two or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current market value of the property.**

**SHEAR WALL** means walls used for structural support but not structurally joined or enclosed at the end (except by breakaway walls). Shear walls are parallel or nearly parallel to the flow of the water.

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY** means any facility involved in the disposal of solid waste, as defined in NCGS 130A-290(a)(35).

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE** means, as defined in NCGS 130A-290(a)(36), any place at which solid wastes are disposed of by incineration, sanitary landfill, or any other method.

**SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA (SFHA)** means the land in the floodplain subject to a one percent (1%) or greater chance of being flooded in any given year, as determined in Article 3, Section B of this ordinance.

**START OF CONSTRUCTION** includes substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**STRUCTURE** means a walled and roofed building, a manufactured home, or a gas, liquid, or liquefied gas storage tank that is principally above ground.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** means damage of any origin sustained by a structure during any one-year period whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. See definition of substantial improvement.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT** means any combination of repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, taking place during any one-year period for which the cost equals or exceeds 50 percent the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage”, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) Any correction of existing violations of state or community health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the community code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
- (2) Any alteration of a historic structure, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and the alteration is approved by variance issued pursuant to §152.417.

**TECHNICAL BULLETIN AND TECHNICAL FACT SHEET**

(1) A FEMA publication that provides guidance concerning the building performance standards of the NFIP, which are contained in Title 44 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at Section 60.3. The bulletins and fact sheets are intended for use primarily by state and local officials responsible for interpreting and enforcing NFIP regulations and by members of the development community, such as design professionals and builders. New bulletins, as well as updates of existing bulletins, are issued periodically as needed. The bulletins do not create regulations; rather they provide specific guidance for complying with the minimum requirements of existing NFIP regulations.

(2) It should be noted that Technical Bulletins and Technical Fact Sheets provide guidance on the minimum requirements of the NFIP regulations. State or community requirements that exceed those of the NFIP take precedence. Design professionals should contact the community officials to determine whether more restrictive state or local regulations apply to the building or site in question. All applicable standards of the state or local building code must also be met for any building in a flood hazard area.

TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED means having the temperature regulated by a heating and/or cooling system, built-in or appliance.

VARIANCE is a grant of relief from the requirements of this ordinance.

**VE ZONE is the Special Flood Hazard Areas subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance of flooding and high velocity wave action from storm surges and seismic activity. Base flood elevations have been derived from detailed hydraulic analyses.**

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §§ 152.425 through 152.446 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (WSEL) means the height, in relation to NAVD 1988, of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

WATERCOURSE means a lake, river, creek, stream, wash, channel or other topographic feature on or over which waters flow at least periodically. Watercourse includes specifically designated areas in which substantial flood damage may occur.

**X ZONES means areas determined to be low to moderate risk flood zones and are located outside the community's delineated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and include the following:**

**(1) Shaded - is the area of moderate flood hazard and can represent:**

**(a) S0.2% annual chance flood hazard area (500-year flood zone),**

**(b) Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one (1) foot, or**

**(c) Areas of 1% annual chance flood with drainage areas of less than one (1) square mile**

**(2) Unshaded - is the area of minimal flood hazard determined to be outside of the 0.2% annual chance flood (500-year flood zone).**

## **SECTION 152.406 LANDS TO WHICH THIS SUBCHAPTER APPLIES.**

This subchapter shall apply to all special food hazard areas within the jurisdiction, including extra-territorial jurisdictions (ETJ) as allowed by law, of the Town of Swansboro.

## **SECTION 152.407 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

The Special Flood Hazard Areas are those identified under the Cooperating Technical State (CTS) agreement between the State of North Carolina and FEMA in its FIS dated June 19, 2020 for the town and associated DFIRM panels, including any digital data developed as part of the FIS, which are adopted by reference and declared a part of this ordinance, and all revisions thereto.

## **SECTION 152.408 ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT.**

A Floodplain Development Permit shall be required in conformance with the provisions of this ordinance prior to the commencement of any development activities within Special Flood Hazard Areas determined in § 152.427(K) and (L).

## **SECTION 152.409 COMPLIANCE.**

No structure or land shall hereafter be located, extended, converted, altered, or developed in any way without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations.

## **SECTION 152.410 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS.**

This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance and another conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

## **SECTION 152.411 INTERPRETATION.**

In the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions shall be:

- (A) Considered as minimum requirements;
- (B) Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and
- (C) Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

## **SECTION 152.412 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY.**

The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering consideration. Larger floods can and will occur. Actual flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply that land outside the Special Flood Hazard Areas or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of the Town of Swansboro or by any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this ordinance, or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

## **SECTION 152.413 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.**

Violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements, including violation of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variance or special exceptions, shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-215.58. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall be

fined not more than \$100 ~~or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.~~ Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Town of Swansboro from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

## **PART II ADMINISTRATION.**

### **SECTION 152.425 DESIGNATION OF FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR.**

The Planner, hereinafter referred to as the “Floodplain Administrator”, or their designee, is hereby appointed to administer and implement the provisions of this ordinance. In instances where the Floodplain Administrator receives assistance from others to complete tasks to administer and implement this ordinance, the Floodplain Administrator shall be responsible for the coordination and community’s overall compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program and the provisions of this chapter.

### **SECTION 152.426 FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION, PERMIT AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

(A) Application Requirements. Application for a Floodplain Development Permit shall be made to the Floodplain Administrator prior to any development activities located within Special Flood Hazard Areas. The following items shall be presented to the Floodplain Administrator to apply for a floodplain development permit. A plot plan drawn to scale which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following specific details of the proposed floodplain development:

- (1) A plot plan drawn to scale which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following specific details of the proposed floodplain development:
  - (a) The nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the area of development/disturbance; existing and proposed structures, utility systems, grading/pavement areas, fill materials, storage areas, drainage facilities, and other development;
  - (b) The boundary of the Special Flood Hazard Area as delineated on the FIRM, or other flood map as determined in §152.407, or a statement that the entire lot is within the Special Flood Hazard Area;
  - (c) Flood zone(s) designation of the proposed development area as determined on the FIRM, or other flood map as determined in §152.407;
  - (d) The boundary of the floodway(s) or non-encroachment area(s) as determined in §152.407;
  - (e) The Base Flood Elevation (BFE) where provided as set forth in §152.407, §152.427 (K) and (L), or §152.442;
  - (f) The old and new location of any watercourse that will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development; and
  - (g) The boundary and designation date of the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) area

or Otherwise Protected Areas (OPA), if applicable; and

- (h) The certification of the plot plan by a registered land surveyor or professional engineer.
- (2) Proposed elevation, and method thereof, of all development within a Special Flood Hazard Area including but not limited to:
- (a) Elevation in relation to NAVD 1988 of the proposed reference level (including basement) of all structures;
  - (b) Elevation in relation to NAVD 1988 to which any non-residential structure in Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99 will be floodproofed; and
  - (c) Elevation in relation to NAVD 1988 to which any proposed utility systems will be elevated or floodproofed.
- (3) If floodproofing, a Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-34~~ **FF-206-FY-22-153**) with supporting data, an operational plan, and an inspection and maintenance plan that include, but are not limited to, installation, exercise, and maintenance of floodproofing measures.
- (4) A Foundation Plan, drawn to scale, which shall include details of the proposed foundation system to ensure all provisions of this ordinance are met. These details include but are not limited to:
- (a) The proposed method of elevation, if applicable (i.e., fill, solid foundation perimeter wall, solid backfilled foundation, open foundation on columns/posts/piers/piles/shear walls); and
  - (b) Openings to facilitate automatic equalization of hydrostatic flood forces on walls in accordance with §152.441(D) when solid foundation perimeter walls are used in Zones A, AE, AH, AO, and A99;
  - (c) The following, in Coastal High Hazard Areas **and Coastal A Zones**, in accordance with the provisions of § 152.441(D) and § 152.445 (and § 152.446 if applicable):
    - (1) V-Zone Certification with accompanying plans and specifications verifying the engineered structure and any breakaway wall designs;
    - (2) Plans for open wood latticework or insect screening, if applicable; and
    - (3) Plans for non-structural fill, if applicable. If non-structural fill is proposed, it must be demonstrated through coastal engineering analysis that the proposed fill would not result in any increase in the BFE or otherwise cause adverse impacts by wave ramping and deflection on to the subject structure or adjacent properties.
- (5) Usage details of any enclosed areas below the lowest floor.
- (6) Plans and/or details for the protection of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas,

electrical, and water systems to be located and constructed to minimize flood damage.

- (7) Certification that all other Local, State and Federal permits required prior to floodplain development permit issuance have been received.
- (8) Documentation for placement of Recreational Vehicles and/or Temporary Structures, when applicable, to ensure § 152.441(F) and (G) are met.
- (9) A description of proposed watercourse alteration or relocation, when applicable, including an engineering report on the effects of the proposed project on the flood-carrying capacity of the watercourse and the effects to properties located both upstream and downstream; and a map (if not shown on plot plan) showing the location of the proposed watercourse alteration or relocation.

(B) **Permit Requirements.** The Floodplain Development Permit shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A complete description of all the development to be permitted under the floodplain development permit (e.g. house, garage, pool, septic, bulkhead, cabana, pier, bridge, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials, etc.) **including a cost estimate.**
- (2) The Special Flood Hazard Area determination for the proposed development in accordance with available data specified in § 152.407;
- (3) The Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation required for the reference level and all attendant utilities.
- (4) The Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation required for the protection of all public utilities.
- (5) All certification submittal requirements with timelines.
- (6) A statement that no fill material or other development shall encroach into the floodway or non-encroachment area of any watercourse unless the requirements of § 152.444 have been met.
- (7) The flood openings requirements if in Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99 .
- (8) Limitations of below BFE enclosure uses, if applicable (i.e., parking, building access and limited storage only).
- (9) A statement, if in Zone VE **and Coastal A**, that there shall be no alteration of sand dunes which would increase potential flood damage.
- (10) A statement, if in Zones **VE** and **Coastal A**, that there shall be no fill used for structural support.
- (11) A statement, that all materials below BFE/RFPE must be flood resistant materials.

(C) Certification Requirements.

(1) Elevation Certificates

- (a) An Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-33~~ **FF-206-FY-22-152**) is required prior to the actual start of any new construction. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the Floodplain Administrator a certification of the elevation of the reference level, in relation to NAVD 1988. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder prior to the beginning of construction. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to deny a floodplain development permit.
- (b) An Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-33~~ **FF-206-FY-22-152**) is required after the reference level is established. Within seven (7) calendar days of establishment of the reference level elevation, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the Floodplain Administrator a certification of the elevation of the reference level, in relation to NAVD 1988. Any work done within the seven (7) day calendar period and prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder immediately and prior to further work being permitted to proceed. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to issue a stop-work order for the project.
- (c) A final Finished Construction Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-33~~ **FF-206-FY-22-152**) is required after construction is completed and prior to Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy issuance. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the Floodplain Administrator a certification of final as-built construction of the elevation of the reference level and all attendant utilities. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder immediately and prior to Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy issuance. In some instances, another certification may be required to certify corrected as-built construction. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to withhold the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy. The Finished Construction Elevation Certificate certifier shall provide at least 2 photographs showing the front and rear of the building taken within 90 days from the date of certification. The photographs must be taken with views confirming the building description and diagram number provided in Section A. To the extent possible, these photographs should show the entire building including foundation. If the building has split-level or multi-level areas, provide at least 2 additional photographs showing side views of the building. In addition, when applicable, provide a photograph of the foundation showing a representative example of the flood openings or vents. All photographs must be in color and measure at least 3" x 3". Digital photographs are acceptable.

(2) Floodproofing Certificate

- (a) If non-residential floodproofing is used to meet the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation requirements, a Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-34~~ **FF-206-FY-22-153**), with supporting data, an operational plan, and an inspection and maintenance plan are required prior to the actual start of any new construction. It shall be the duty of the

permit holder to submit to the Floodplain Administrator a certification of the floodproofed design elevation of the reference level and all attendant utilities, in relation to NAVD 1988. Floodproofing certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or architect and certified by same. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the certificate data, the operational plan, and the inspection and maintenance plan. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the applicant prior to permit approval. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to deny a Floodplain Development Permit. Failure to construct in accordance with the certified design shall be cause to withhold the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy.

(b) A final Finished Construction Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form ~~086-0-34~~ **FF-206-FY-22-153**), with supporting data, an operational plan, and an inspection and maintenance plan are required prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the Floodplain Administrator a certification of the floodproofed design elevation of the reference level and all attendant utilities, in relation to NAVD 1988. Floodproofing certificate shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or architect and certified by same. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the certificate data, the operational plan, and the inspection and maintenance plan. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the applicant prior to Certificate of Occupancy. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to deny a Floodplain Development Permit. Failure to construct in accordance with the certified design shall be cause to deny a Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy.

- (3) If a manufactured home is placed within Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99 and the elevation of the chassis is more than 36 inches in height above grade, an engineered foundation certification is required per § 152.441(C).
- (4) If a watercourse is to be altered or relocated, a description of the extent of watercourse alteration or relocation; a professional engineer's certified report on the effects of the proposed project on the flood-carrying capacity of the watercourse and the effects to properties located both upstream and downstream; and a map showing the location of the proposed watercourse alteration or relocation shall all be submitted by the permit applicant prior to issuance of a floodplain development permit.
- (5) Certification Exemptions. The following structures, if located within Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99, are exempt from the elevation/floodproofing certification requirements specified in divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this section:
  - (a) Recreational Vehicles meeting requirements of § 152.441(F) (1);
  - (b) Temporary Structures meeting requirements of § 152.441(G); and
  - (c) Accessory Structures that are 150 square feet or less with a cost of \$5,000 or less and meeting requirements of § 152.441(H).
- (6) A V-Zone Certification with accompanying design plans and specifications is required prior

to issuance of a Floodplain Development permit within coastal high hazard areas **and Coastal A zones**. It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to submit to the Floodplain Administrator said certification to ensure the design standards of this ordinance are met. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop or review the structural design, plans, and specifications for construction and certify that the design and methods of construction to be used are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this ordinance. This certification is not a substitute for an Elevation Certificate. In addition, prior to the Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy issuance, a registered professional engineer or architect shall certify the finished construction is compliant with the design, specifications and plans for VE and **Coastal A** Zone construction.

- (D) **Substantial Improvement/Damage** determinations for existing buildings and structures. For applications for building permits to improve buildings and structures, including alterations, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, change of occupancy, additions, rehabilitations, renovations, substantial improvements, repairs of substantial damage, and any other improvement of or work on such buildings and structures, the Floodplain Administrator, in coordination with the Building Official, shall:
- (1) Estimate the market value, or require the applicant to obtain an appraisal of the market value prepared by a qualified independent appraiser, of the building or structure before the start of construction of the proposed work; in the case of repair, the market value of the building or structure shall be the market value before the damage occurred and before any repairs are made;
  - (2) Compare the cost to perform the improvement, the cost to repair a damaged building to its pre-damaged condition, or the combined costs of improvements and repairs, if applicable, to the market value of the building or structure;
  - (3) Determine and document whether the proposed work constitutes substantial improvement or repair of substantial damage; and
  - (4) Notify the applicant if it is determined that the work constitutes substantial improvement or repair of substantial damage and that compliance with the flood resistant construction requirements of the NC Building Code and this ordinance is required.

#### **SECTION 152.427 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR.**

The Floodplain Administrator shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- (A) Review all floodplain development applications and issue permits for all proposed development within Special Flood Hazard Areas to assure that the requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied.
- (B) Review all proposed development within Special Flood Hazard Areas to assure that all necessary local, state, and federal permits have been received, including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1334.
- (C) Notify adjacent communities and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of

Emergency Management, State Coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- (D) Assure that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse so that the flood-carrying capacity is maintained.
- (E) Prevent encroachments into floodways and non-encroachment areas unless the certification and flood hazard reduction provisions of § 152.444 are met.
- (F) Obtain actual elevation (in relation to NAVD 1988) of the reference level (including basement) and all attendant utilities of all new and substantially improved structures, in accordance with § 152.426(C);
- (G) Obtain actual elevation (in relation to NAVD 1988) to which all new and substantially improved structures and utilities have been floodproofed, in accordance with the provisions of § 152.426(C);
- (H) Obtain actual elevation (in relation to NAVD 1988) of all public utilities in accordance with § 152.426(C);
- (I) When floodproofing is utilized for a particular structure, obtain certifications from a registered professional engineer or architect in accordance with § 152.426(C) and 152.441(B);
- (J) Where interpretation is needed as to the exact location of boundaries of the Special Flood Hazard Areas, floodways, or non-encroachment areas (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions), make the necessary interpretation. The person contesting the location of the boundary shall be given a reasonable opportunity to appeal the interpretation as provided in this subchapter.
- (K) When BFE data has not been provided in accordance with §152.407, obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any BFE data, along with floodway data or non-encroachment area data available from a federal, state, or other source, including data developed pursuant to § 152.442(B), in order to administer the provisions of this ordinance.
- (L) When BFE data is provided but no floodway or non-encroachment area data has been provided in accordance with §152.407, obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any floodway data or non-encroachment area data available from a federal, state, or other source in order to administer the provisions of this subchapter.
- (M) When the lowest floor and the lowest adjacent grade of a structure or the lowest ground elevation of a parcel in a special flood hazard area is above the BFE, advise the property owner of the option to apply for a letter of map amendment (LOMA) from FEMA. However, if the property is to be removed from the V Zone it must not be located seaward of the landward toe of the primary frontal dune. Maintain a copy of the LOMA issued by FEMA in the floodplain development permit file;
- (N) Permanently maintain all records that pertain to the administration of this ordinance and make these records available for public inspection, recognizing that such information may be subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.

- (O) Make on-site inspections of work in progress. As the work pursuant to a floodplain development permit progresses the Floodplain Administrator shall make as many inspections of the work as may be necessary to ensure that the work is being done according to the provisions of the local ordinance and the terms of the permit. In exercising this power, the Floodplain Administrator has a right, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter on any premises within the jurisdiction of the community at any reasonable hour for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action.
- (P) Issue stop-work orders as required. Whenever a building or part thereof is being constructed, reconstructed, altered, or repaired in violation of this ordinance, the Floodplain Administrator may order the work to be immediately stopped. The stop-work order shall be in writing and directed to the person doing or in charge of the work. The stop-work order shall state the specific work to be stopped, the specific reason(s) for the stoppage, and the condition(s) under which the work may be resumed. Violation of a stop-work order constitutes a misdemeanor.
- (Q) Revoke floodplain development permits as required. The Floodplain Administrator may revoke and require the return of the floodplain development permit by notifying the permit holder in writing stating the reason(s) for the revocation. Permits shall be revoked for any substantial departure from the approved application, plans, and specifications; for refusal or failure to comply with the requirements of State or local laws; or for false statements or misrepresentations made in securing the permit. Any floodplain development permit mistakenly issued in violation of an applicable State or local law may also be revoked.
- (R) Make periodic inspections throughout the Special Flood Hazard Areas within the jurisdiction of the community. The Floodplain Administrator and each member of his or her inspections department shall have a right, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter on any premises within the territorial jurisdiction of the department at any reasonable hour for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action.
- (S) Follow through with corrective procedures of § 152.428;
- (T) Review, provide input, and make recommendations for variance requests.
- (U) Maintain a current map repository to include, but not limited to, historical and effective FIS Report, historical and effective FIRM and other official flood maps and studies adopted in accordance with the provisions of § 152.407, including any revisions thereto including Letters of Map Change, issued by FEMA. Notify State and FEMA of mapping needs.
- (V) Coordinate revisions to FIS reports and FIRMs, including Letters of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-Fs) and Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs).

**(W) Make substantial improvement and post event damage assessments and determinations:**

**(1) Conduct damage assessments for damaged structures located within the SFHA**

**(2) Complete substantial improvement/damage determinations in accordance with the provisions of Section 152.426 (D).**

**(X) In any lot or lots/areas located outside Coastal High Hazard Areas or Coastal A Zones that**

**will be or have been removed from the special flood hazard area utilizing a Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F), advise the property owner that the top of fill level must meet the community's freeboard elevation at that location. If the top of fill level is below the freeboard elevation, advise the property owner that all new structures, additions to existing buildings or substantial improvement must meet the required community freeboard elevation.**

## **SECTION 152.428 CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES.**

~~(A) Violations to be corrected. When the Floodplain Administrator finds violations of applicable state and local laws, it shall be his or her duty to notify the owner or occupant of the building of the violation. The owner or occupant shall immediately remedy each of the violations of law cited in such notification.~~

~~(B) Actions in event of failure to take corrective action. If the owner of a building or property shall fail to take prompt corrective action, the Floodplain Administrator shall give the owner written notice, by certified or registered mail to the owner's last known address or by personal service, stating:~~

~~—(1) That the building or property is in violation of the floodplain management regulations;~~

~~—(2) That a hearing will be held before the Floodplain Administrator at a designated place and time, not later than ten days after the date of the notice, at which time the owner shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel and to present arguments and evidence pertaining to the matter; and~~

~~—(3) That following the hearing, the Floodplain Administrator may issue an order to alter, vacate, or demolish the building; or to remove fill as applicable.~~

~~(C) Order to take corrective action. If, upon a hearing held pursuant to the notice prescribed above, the Floodplain Administrator shall find that the building or development is in violation of the flood damage prevention ordinance, he or she shall issue an order in writing to the owner, requiring the owner to remedy the violation within a specified time period, not less than 60 days, nor more than 180 calendar days. Where the Floodplain Administrator finds that there is imminent danger to life or other property, he or she may order that corrective action be taken in such lesser period as may be feasible.~~

~~(D) Appeal. Any owner who has received an order to take corrective action may appeal the order to the Flood Management Appeals Board by giving notice of appeal in writing to the Floodplain Administrator and the Town Clerk within ten days following issuance of the final order. In the absence of an appeal, the order of the Floodplain Administrator shall be final. The Flood Management Appeals Board shall hear an appeal within a reasonable time and may affirm, modify and affirm, or revoke the order.~~

~~(E) Failure to comply with order. If the owner of a building or property fails to comply with an order to take corrective action of which no appeal has been made or fails to comply with an order of the Flood Management Appeals Board following an appeal, the owner shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to G.S. §143-215.58 and shall be punished at the discretion of the court.~~

**(A) Stop Work Order: The community may issue a stop work order, which shall be served on the applicant or other responsible person. The stop work order shall remain in effect until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise remedied the violation or violations described therein, provided the stop work order may be withdrawn or modified to enable the applicant or other responsible person to take the necessary remedial measures to remedy such violation or violations.**

**(B) Notice of Violation. If the community determines that an owner, occupant, applicant or other responsible person has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of a permit, or the provisions of this ordinance, it shall issue a written notice of violation, by certified return**

**receipt mail, to such applicant or other responsible person. Where the person is engaged in activity covered by this ordinance without having first secured a permit, the notice shall be served on the owner or the responsible person in charge of the activity being conducted on the site. The notice of violation shall contain:**

**(1) The name and address of the owner or the applicant or the responsible person;**

**(2) The address or other description of the site upon which the violation is occurring;**

**(3) A statement specifying the nature of the violation;**

**(4) A description of the remedial measures necessary to bring the action or inaction into compliance with the permit or this ordinance and the date for the completion of such remedial action;**

**(5) A statement of the penalty or penalties that may be assessed against the person to whom the notice of violation is directed, and;**

**(6) A statement that the determination of violation may be appealed to the community by filing a written notice of appeal within thirty days after the notice of violation (except, that in the event the violation constitutes an immediate danger to public health or public safety, 24-hour notice shall be sufficient).**

**(C) Additional Enforcement Actions. If the remedial measures described in the Notice of Violation have not been completed by the date set forth for such completion in the Notice of Violation, any one or more of the following enforcement actions may be enacted against the person to whom the Notice of Violation was directed. Before taking any of the following actions or imposing any of the following penalties, the Town of Swansboro shall first notify the owner, applicant or other responsible person in writing of its intended action. The Town of Swansboro shall provide reasonable opportunity, of not less than ten days (except, that in the event the violation constitutes an immediate danger to public health or public safety, 24-hour notice shall be sufficient) to remedy such violation. In the event the applicant or other responsible person fails to remedy such violation after such notice and remedial period, the Town of Swansboro may take or impose any one or more of the following enforcement actions or penalties:**

**(1) Termination of utility service and/or withhold or revoke Certificate of Occupancy: The community may terminate utilities and/or refuse to issue and/or revoke a certificate of occupancy for the building or other improvements and/or repairs conducted or being conducted on the site until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise remedy the violation or violations described therein.**

**(2) Suspension, revocation, or modifications of permit: The community may suspend, revoke, or modify the permit authorizing the development project. A suspended, revoked, or modified permit may be reinstated after the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise remedy the violations described therein, provided such permit may be reinstated (upon such conditions as the community may deem necessary) to enable the applicant or other responsible person to take the necessary remedial measures to cure**

**such violations.**

**(3) Civil penalties: Violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements, including violation of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variance or special exceptions shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-215.58.**

**(a) Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$100. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Town of Swansboro from taking such other lawful actions, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 153A, 160A, and 160D, as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.**

**(b) Enforcement by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction may be pursued if the offender fails to remedy the violation, pays assessed fines, and/or fails to file an appeal within the prescribed period of time. In such cases, the general court of justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders as may be appropriate.**

**(D) Administrative appeal; judicial review. Any person receiving a Notice of Violation may appeal the determination of the community, including but not limited to the issuance of a stop work order, the assessment of an administratively-imposed monetary penalty, the suspension, revocation, modification, or grant with condition of a permit by the community upon finding that the holder is in violation of permit conditions, or that the holder is in violation of any applicable ordinance or any of the community's rules and regulations, or the issuance of a notice of bond forfeiture.**

**(1) Any person receiving a Notice of Violation may appeal the determination of the floodplain administrator to the local elected governing body. The Notice of Appeal must be in writing and be received by the floodplain administrator and the clerk within thirty (30) days of the date of the Notice of Violation. In the absence of an appeal, the determination of the floodplain administrator shall be final.**

**(2) All appeals shall be heard and decided by the community's designated Appeal Board, which shall be Flood Management Appeal Board, or their designees. The Appeal Board shall hear an appeal within a reasonable time and shall have the power to affirm, modify, or reject the original penalty, including the right to increase or decrease the amount of any monetary penalty and the right to add or delete remedial actions required for correction of the violation and compliance with the community's flood damage prevention ordinance, and any other applicable local, state, or federal requirements. In the absence of a petition for review of a quasi-judicial decision, the decision of the Appeal Board shall be final.**

**(3) A petition for review of a quasi-judicial decision can be requested by any person with standing aggrieved by a decision or order of the community, after exhausting his/her administrative remedies. The petition shall be received by the clerk of superior court**

**within 30 days of the date of the local governing body decision.**

**(E) Section 1316 Declaration: Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act authorizes FEMA to deny flood insurance to a property declared by the State, County, or Municipal government to be in violation of the local floodplain management ordinance. A Section 1316 declaration shall be used when all other legal means to remedy a violation have been exhausted and the structure remains noncompliant. The community must coordinate a request for Section 1316 declaration to the FEMA Regional Office through the State NFIP Coordinator.**

**Once invoked, the property's flood insurance coverage will be terminated and no new or renewal policy can be issued; no flood insurance claim can be paid on any policy on the property, and disaster assistance will be denied. If a structure that has received a Section 1316 declaration is made compliant with the community's floodplain management ordinance, then the Section 1316 declaration can be rescinded by FEMA and flood insurance eligibility restored.**

#### **SECTION 152.429 VARIANCE PROCEDURES.**

- (A) The Flood Management Appeals Board, as established by the Town of Swansboro, hereinafter referred to as the Appeal Board, shall hear and decide requests for variances from the requirements of this subchapter.
- (B) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Board may appeal such decision to the Court, as provided in Chapter 7A of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- (C) Variances may be issued for:
  - (1) The repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon the determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and that the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure;
  - (2) Functionally dependent facilities if determined to meet the definition as stated in § 152.405, provided provisions of divisions (I)(2), (3), and (5) of this section have been satisfied, and such facilities are protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety; or
  - (3) Any other type of development provided it meets the requirements of this Section.
- (D) In passing upon variances, the Board shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, all standards specified in other sections of this ordinance, and:
  - (1) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
  - (2) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
  - (3) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;

- (4) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
  - (5) The necessity to the facility of a waterfront location as defined under § 152.405 as a functionally dependent facility, where applicable;
  - (6) The availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding or erosion damage, for the proposed use;
  - (7) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
  - (8) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management program for that area;
  - (9) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
  - (10) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and
  - (11) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems, and streets and bridges.
- (E) A written report addressing each of the above factors shall be submitted with the application for a variance.
- (F) Upon consideration of the factors listed above and the purposes of this ordinance, the Board may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes and objectives of this ordinance.
- (G) Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice specifying the difference between the BFE and the elevation to which the structure is to be built and that such construction below the BFE increases risks to life and property, and that the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the BFE may result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to \$25 per \$100 of insurance coverage. Such notification shall be maintained with a record of all variance actions, including justification for their issuance.
- (H) The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain the records of all appeal actions and report any variances to the FEMA and the State of North Carolina upon request.
- (I) Conditions for Variances:
- (1) Variances shall not be issued when the variance will make the structure in violation of other federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances.
  - (2) Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway or non-encroachment area if the variance would result in any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge.
  - (3) Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum

necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.

- (4) Variances shall only be issued prior to development permit approval.
- (5) Variances shall only be issued upon:
  - (a) A showing of good and sufficient cause;
  - (b) A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship; and
  - (c) A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, or extraordinary public expense, create nuisance, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- (J) A variance may be issued for solid waste disposal facilities or sites, hazardous waste management facilities, salvage yards, and chemical storage facilities that are located in Special Flood Hazard Areas provided that all of the following conditions are met.
  - (1) The use serves a critical need in the community.
  - (2) No feasible location exists for the use outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.
  - (3) The reference level of any structure is elevated or floodproofed to at least the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation.
  - (4) The use complies with all other applicable federal, state and local laws.
  - (5) The Town of Swansboro has notified the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety of its intention to grant a variance at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to granting the variance, **in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes §143-215.54A(b).**

### **Part III: PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION.**

#### **SECTION 152.440 GENERAL STANDARDS.**

In all Special Flood Hazard Areas the following provisions are required:

- (A) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure.
- (B) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage in accordance with the FEMA Technical Bulletin 2, *Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements*.
- (C) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages.

- (D) All new electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment, duct systems, and other building utility systems, equipment, and service facilities shall be located at or above the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation (RFPE) and/or specially designed to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components and installed to resist hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses, including the effects of buoyancy, during the occurrence of flooding to the design flood elevation. Utility systems, equipment, and service facilities include, but are not limited to, HVAC equipment, water softener units, bath/kitchen plumbing fixtures, ductwork, electric/gas meter panels/boxes, utility/cable boxes, water heaters, fuel tanks, and electric outlets/switches.
- (1) Replacements part of a substantial improvement, electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment, and other service equipment shall also meet the above provisions;
  - (2) Replacements that are for maintenance and not part of a substantial improvement, may be installed at the original location provided the addition and/or improvements comply with the standards for new construction consistent with the code and requirements for the original structure.
- (E) All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system.
- (F) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the systems and discharges from the systems into floodwaters.
- (G) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located and constructed to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.
- (H) Nothing in this ordinance shall prevent the repair, reconstruction, or replacement of a building or structure existing on the effective date of this ordinance and located totally or partially within the floodway, non-encroachment area, or stream setback, provided there is no additional encroachment below the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation in the floodway, non-encroachment area, or stream setback, and provided that such repair, reconstruction, or replacement meets all of the other requirements of this ordinance.
- (I) New solid waste disposal facilities and sites, hazardous waste management facilities, salvage yards, and chemical storage facilities shall not be permitted, except by variance as specified in § 152.429. A structure or tank for chemical or fuel storage incidental to an allowed use or to the operation of a water treatment plant or wastewater treatment facility may be located in a Special Flood Hazard Area only if the structure or tank is either elevated or floodproofed to at least the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation and certified in accordance with the provisions of § 152.426(C).
- (J) All subdivision proposals and other development proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.
- (K) All subdivision proposals and other development proposals shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage.
- (L) All subdivision proposals and other development proposals shall have adequate drainage provided

to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

- (M) All subdivision proposals and other development proposals shall have received all necessary permits from those governmental agencies for which approval is required by federal or state law, including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1334.
- (N) When a structure is partially located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, the entire structure shall meet the requirements for new construction and substantial improvements.
- (O) When a building or structure is located in more than one flood hazard zone or in a flood hazard zone with multiple base flood elevations, the provisions for the most restrictive flood hazard zone and the highest BFE shall apply.

**(P) Structural fill, only permitted outside the VE and Coastal A zones, shall not be used unless design and construction of the structural fill accounts for the following:**

**(1) consolidation of the underlying soil under the weight of the fill and the structure,**

**(2) differential settlement due to variations in fill composition and characteristics, and**

**(3) slope stability and erosion control during conditions of the base flood.**

#### **SECTION 152.441 SPECIFIC STANDARDS.**

In all Special Flood Hazard Areas where BFE data has been provided, as set forth in § 152.407, § 152.443 the following provisions in addition to § 152.440, are required:

- (A) Residential Construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure (including manufactured homes) shall have the reference level, including basement, elevated no lower than the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation (RFPE), as defined in § 152.405.
- (B) Non-Residential Construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or other non-residential structure shall have the reference level, including basement, elevated no lower than the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation (RFPE), as defined in § 152.405. Structures located in Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99 may be floodproofed to the RFPE in lieu of elevation provided that all areas of the structure, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, below the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation are watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, using structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy. For AO Zones, the floodproofing elevation shall be in accordance with § 152.447. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the floodproofing standards of this subsection are satisfied. Such certification shall be provided to the Floodplain Administrator as set forth in § 152.426(C), along with the operational plan and the inspection and maintenance plan.
- (C) Manufactured Homes.
  - (1) New and replacement manufactured homes shall be elevated so that the reference level of the manufactured home is no lower than the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation (RFPE), as

defined in § 152.405.

- (2) Manufactured homes shall be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement, either by certified engineered foundation system, or in accordance with the most current edition of the State of North Carolina Regulations for Manufactured Homes adopted by the Commissioner of Insurance pursuant to NCGS 143-143.15. Additionally, when the elevation would be met by an elevation of the chassis thirty-six (36) inches or less above the grade at the site, the chassis shall be supported by reinforced piers or engineered foundation. When the elevation of the chassis is above thirty-six (36) inches in height, an engineering certification is required.
  - (3) All enclosures or skirting below the lowest floor shall meet the requirements of § 152.441.
  - (4) An evacuation plan must be developed for evacuation of all residents of all new, substantially improved or substantially damaged manufactured home parks or subdivisions located within flood prone areas. This plan shall be filed with and approved by the Floodplain Administrator and the local Emergency Management Coordinator.
- (D) Elevated Buildings. Fully enclosed area, of new construction and substantially improved structures, which is below the lowest horizontal structural member in VE Zones:
- (1) Shall not be designed or used for human habitation, but shall only be used for parking of vehicles, building access, or limited storage of maintenance equipment used in connection with the premises. Access to the enclosed area shall be the minimum necessary to allow for parking of vehicles (garage door) or limited storage of maintenance equipment (standard exterior door), or entry to the living area (stairway or elevator). The interior portion of such enclosed area shall not be finished or partitioned into separate rooms, except to enclose storage areas;
  - (2) Shall be constructed entirely of flood resistant materials at least to the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation; and
  - (3) Shall include flood openings to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. To meet this requirement, the openings must either be certified by a professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum design criteria:
    - (a) A minimum of two flood openings on different sides of each enclosed area subject to flooding;
    - (b) The total net area of all flood openings must be at least one (1) square inch for each square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding;
    - (c) If a building has more than one enclosed area, each enclosed area must have flood openings to allow floodwaters to automatically enter and exit;
    - (d) The bottom of all required flood openings shall be no higher than one (1) foot above the higher of the interior or exterior adjacent grade;
    - (e) Flood openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices,

provided they permit the automatic flow of floodwaters in both directions; and

- (f) Enclosures made of flexible skirting are not considered enclosures for regulatory purposes, and, therefore, do not require flood openings. Masonry or wood underpinning, regardless of structural status, is considered an enclosure and requires flood openings as outlined above.
- (4) Shall, in Coastal High Hazard Areas (~~Zone VE~~) **and Coastal A zones**, also meet the requirements of § 152.445.

**(5) Shall not be temperature-controlled or conditioned.**

(E) Additions/Improvements.

- (1) Additions and/or improvements to pre-FIRM structures when the addition and/or improvements in combination with any interior modifications to the existing structure are:
  - (a) Not a substantial improvement, the addition and/or improvements must be designed to minimize flood damages and must not be any more non-conforming than the existing structure.
  - (b) A substantial improvement, with modifications/rehabilitations/improvements to the existing structure or the common wall is structurally modified more than installing a doorway, both the existing structure and the addition must comply with the standards for new construction.
- (2) Additions to pre-FIRM or post-FIRM structures, **except in VE and Coastal A zones**, that are a substantial improvement with no modifications, rehabilitations, and/or improvements to the existing structure other than a standard door in the common wall, shall require only the addition to comply with the standards for new construction.
- (3) Additions to post-FIRM structures, including any modifications, rehabilitations, and/or improvements to the existing structure are:
  - (a) Not a substantial improvement, the addition and/or improvements only must comply with the standards for new construction consistent with the code and requirements for the original structure.
  - (b) A substantial improvement, both the existing structure and the addition and/or improvements must comply with the standards for new construction.
- (4) Any combination of repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a building or structure taking place during a one year period, the cumulative cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started must comply with the standards for new construction. For each building or structure, the one year period begins on the date of completion. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial improvement regardless of the actual repair work performed. The requirement does not, however, include either:

- (a) Any project for improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary or safety code violations identified by the building official and that are the minimum necessary to assume safe living conditions; or
- (b) Any alteration of a historic structure provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure **and the alteration is approved by variance issued.**

(F) Recreational Vehicles. Recreational vehicles shall either **meet the following:**

**(1) Placement of a Recreational Vehicle in the Regulatory Floodway, or Coastal High Hazard Area (VE) is prohibited. This includes both temporary and permanent placement.**

**(2) Temporary Placement**

- (a) Be on site for fewer than 180 consecutive days; or
- (b) Be fully licensed and ready for highway use. (A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and has no permanently attached additions.)

**(3) Permanent Placement.** Recreational vehicles that do not meet the limitations of Temporary Placement shall meet all the requirements for new construction.

(G) Temporary Non-Residential Structures. Prior to the issuance of a floodplain development permit for a temporary structure, the applicant must submit to the Floodplain Administrator a plan for the removal of such structure(s) in the event of a hurricane, flash flood or other type of flood warning notification. The following information shall be submitted in writing to the Floodplain Administrator for review and written approval:

- (1) A specified time period for which the temporary use will be permitted. Time specified may not exceed three (3) months, renewable up to one (1) year;
- (2) The name, address, and phone number of the individual responsible for the removal of the temporary structure;
- (3) The time frame prior to the event at which a structure will be removed (i.e., minimum of 72 hours before landfall of a hurricane or immediately upon flood warning notification);
- (4) A copy of the contract or other suitable instrument with the entity responsible for physical removal of the structure; and
- (5) Designation, accompanied by documentation, of a location outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, to which the temporary structure will be moved.

(H) Accessory Structures. When accessory structures (sheds, detached garages, etc.) are to be placed within a special flood hazard area, the following criteria shall be met:

**(1) When accessory structures (sheds, detached garages, etc.) with a footprint of no more than 600 square feet are placed within A, AO, AH, AE and A99 flood zones, and no more than 100 square feet in VE and Coastal A zones, wet floodproofing may be permitted when the following criteria are met:**

- (1) **(a)** Accessory structures shall not be used for human habitation (including working, sleeping, living, cooking or restroom areas);
  - (2) **(b)** Accessory structures shall not be temperature-controlled;
  - (3) **(c)** Accessory structures shall be designed to have low flood damage potential;
  - (4) **(d)** Accessory structures shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters;
  - (5) **(e)** Accessory structures shall be firmly anchored in accordance with the provisions of § 152.440(A);
  - (6) **(f)** Accessory structures, regardless of the size or cost, shall not be placed below elevated buildings in Coastal A and VE zones;
  - (7) **(g)** All service facilities such as electrical shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of § 152.440; and
  - (8) **(h)** Flood openings to facilitate automatic equalization of hydrostatic flood forces shall be provided below Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation in conformance with the provisions of division (D) of this section.
- (9) **(2)** An accessory structure with a footprint less than 150 square feet or that is a minimal investment of \$5,000 or less and satisfies the criteria outlined above is not required to meet the elevation or flood-proofing standards of this section. Elevation or flood-proofing certifications are required for all other accessory structures in accordance with § 152.426(C).

**(3) All other accessory structures exceeding the size restrictions in 152.441 (H)(1) above must comply with the elevation or floodproofing standards and certification requirements in accordance with 152.426(C) and 152.441 (B).**

- (I) Tanks. When gas and liquid storage tanks are to be placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area, the following criteria shall be met:
- (1) Underground tanks. Underground tanks in flood hazard areas shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads during conditions of the design flood, including the effects of buoyancy assuming the tank is empty;
  - (2) Above-ground tanks, elevated. Above-ground tanks in flood hazard areas shall be elevated to or above the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation on a supporting structure that is designed

to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement during conditions of the design flood. Tank-supporting structures shall meet the foundation requirements of the applicable flood hazard area;

- (3) Above-ground tanks, not elevated. Above-ground tanks that do not meet the elevation requirements of this section shall not be permitted in Coastal A and VE Zones. Tanks may be permitted in other flood hazard areas provided the tanks are designed, constructed, installed, and anchored to resist all flood-related and other loads, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of the design flood and without release of contents in the floodwaters or infiltration by floodwaters into the tanks. Tanks shall be designed, constructed, installed, and anchored to resist the potential buoyant and other flood forces acting on an empty tank during design flood conditions.
- (4) Tank inlets and vents. Tank inlets, fill openings, outlets and vents shall be:
  - (a) At or above the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation or fitted with covers designed to prevent the inflow of floodwater or outflow of the contents of the tanks during conditions of the design flood; and
  - (b) Anchored to prevent lateral movement resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of the design flood.

(J) Other Development.

- (1) Fences in regulated floodways and NEAs that have the potential to block the passage of floodwaters, such as stockade fences and wire mesh fences, shall meet the limitations of § 152.444.
- (2) Retaining walls, sidewalks and driveways in regulated floodways and NEAs. Retaining walls and sidewalks and driveways that involve the placement of fill in regulated floodways shall meet the limitations of § 152.444.
- (3) Roads and watercourse crossings in regulated floodways and NEAs. Roads and watercourse crossings, including roads, bridges, culverts, low-water crossings and similar means for vehicles or pedestrians to travel from one side of a watercourse to the other side, that encroach into regulated floodways shall meet the limitations of § 152.444.
- (4) Commercial storage facilities are not considered “limited storage” as noted in this ordinance and shall be protected to the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation as required for non-residential structures.

**SECTION 152.442 STANDARDS FOR FLOODPLAINS WITHOUT ESTABLISHED BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS.**

Within the Special Flood Hazard Areas designated as Approximate Zone A and established in § 152.407, where no BFE data has been provided by FEMA, the following provisions, in addition to § 152.440, shall apply:

- (A) No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, or new development

shall be permitted within a distance of twenty (20) feet each side from top of bank or five times the width of the stream, whichever is greater, unless certification with supporting technical data by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that such encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

- (B) The BFE used in determining the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation shall be determined based on the following criteria:
- (1) When BFE data is available from other sources, all new construction and substantial improvements within such areas shall also comply with all applicable provisions of this ordinance and shall be elevated or floodproofed in accordance with standards in §§ 152.440 and 152.441;
  - (2) When floodway or non-encroachment data is available from a Federal, State, or other source, all new construction and substantial improvements within floodway and non-encroachment areas shall also comply with the requirements of § 152.441 and § 152.444;
  - (3) All subdivision, manufactured home park, and other development proposals shall provide BFE data if development is greater than five (5) acres or has more than fifty (50) lots/manufactured home sites. Such BFE data shall be adopted by reference in accordance with § 152.407 and utilized in implementing this subchapter; and
  - (4) When BFE data is not available from a Federal, State, or other source as outlined above, the reference level shall be elevated or floodproofed (nonresidential) to or above the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation, as defined in § 152.407. All other applicable provisions of § 152.405 shall also apply.\

**SECTION 152.443 STANDARDS FOR RIVERINE FLOODPLAINS WITH BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS BUT WITHOUT ESTABLISHED FLOODWAYS OR NON-ENCROACHMENT AREAS.**

Along rivers and streams where BFE data is provided by FEMA or is available from another source but neither floodway nor non-encroachment areas are identified for a Special Flood Hazard Area on the FIRM or in the FIS report, the following requirements shall apply to all development within such areas:

- (A) Standards outlined in §§ 152.440 and 152.441; and
- (B) Until a regulatory floodway or non-encroachment area is designated, no encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, or other development, shall be permitted unless certification with supporting technical data by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one (1) foot at any point.

**SECTION 152.444 STANDARDS FOR FLOODWAYS AND NON-ENCROACHMENT AREAS.**

Areas designated as floodways or non-encroachment areas are located within the Special Flood Hazard Areas established in § 152.407. The floodways and non-encroachment areas are extremely hazardous areas due to the velocity of floodwaters that have erosion potential and carry debris and potential projectiles.

The following provisions, in addition to standards outlined in §§ 152.440 and 152.441, shall apply to all development within such areas:

- (A) No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other developments shall be permitted unless:
  - (1) It is demonstrated that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in the flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge, based on hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice and presented to the Floodplain Administrator prior to issuance of floodplain development permit; or
  - (2) A Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) has been issued by FEMA **for proposed encroachments resulting in increases in the flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.** A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) must be obtained within six months of completion of the proposed encroachment.
  - (3) **A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) must be obtained within six months of completion of the proposed encroachment, permitted in accordance with § 152.444 (A)(1), if the encroachment results in changes to the floodway/non-encroachment area widths, and/or changes to the stream location.**
- (B) If Division (A) of this section is satisfied, all development shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of this ordinance.
- (C) Manufactured homes may be permitted provided the following provisions are met:
  - (1) The anchoring and the elevation standards § 152.441; and
  - (2) The encroachment standards of division (A) of this section are met.

**(D) Placement of recreational vehicles in the regulatory floodway is prohibited.**

**SECTION 152.445 STANDARDS FOR COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS (ZONE VE) AND COASTAL A ZONES.**

Coastal High Hazard Areas **(Zone VE) and Coastal A zones** are Special Flood Hazard Areas established in § 152.407, and designated as Zone VE. These areas have special flood hazards associated with high velocity waters from storm surges or seismic activity and, therefore, all new construction and substantial improvements shall meet the following provisions in addition to the provisions of § 152.440 and § 152.441.

- (A) All new construction and substantial improvements shall:
  - (1) Be located landward of the reach of mean high tide; and
  - (2) Comply with all applicable CAMA setback requirements.
- (B) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated so that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings or columns) is no lower than the

regulatory flood protection elevation. Floodproofing shall not be utilized on any structures in Coastal High Hazard Areas or Coastal A zones to satisfy the regulatory flood protection elevation requirements.

- (C) All new construction and substantial improvements shall have the space below the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor either be free of obstruction or constructed with breakaway walls, open wood latticework or insect screening, provided they are not part of the structural support of the building and are designed so as to breakaway, under abnormally high tides or wave action without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system or otherwise jeopardizing the structural integrity of the building. The following design specifications shall be met:
- (1) Material shall consist of open wood or plastic lattice having at least 40 percent of its area open, or
  - (2) Insect screening; or
  - (3) Breakaway walls meeting the following design specifications:
    - (a) Breakaway walls shall have flood openings that allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters to minimize damage caused by hydrostatic loads, per § 152.441;
    - (b) Design safe loading resistance shall be not less than 10 nor more than 20 pounds per square foot; or
    - (c) Breakaway walls that exceed a design safe loading resistance of 20 pounds per square foot (either by design or when so required by State or local codes) shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the breakaway wall will collapse from a water load less than that which would occur during the base flood event, and the elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system shall not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components (structural and non-structural). The water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. The wind loading values used shall be those required by the North Carolina State Building Code.
- (D) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be securely anchored to pile or column foundations. All pilings and columns and the structure attached thereto shall be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effect of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components.
- (1) Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood.
  - (2) Wind loading values used shall be those required by the current edition of the North Carolina State Building Code.
- (E) For concrete pads, including patios, decks, parking pads, walkways, driveways, pool decks, etc. the following is required:

- (1) Shall be structurally independent of the primary structural foundation system of the structure and shall not adversely affect structures through redirection of floodwaters or debris; and
- (2) Shall be constructed to breakaway cleanly during design flood conditions, shall be frangible, and shall not produce debris capable of causing damage to any structure. The installation of concrete in small segments (approximately 4 feet x 4 feet) that will easily break up during the base flood event, or score concrete in 4 feet x 4 feet maximum segments is acceptable to meet this standard; and
- (3) Reinforcing, including welded wire fabric, shall not be used to minimize the potential for concreted pads being a source of debris; and
- (4) Pad thickness shall not exceed 4 inches; or
- (5) Provide a Design Professional's certification stating the design and method of construction ~~to be used meet the applicable criteria of this section.~~ **does not adversely affect the structure with which the concrete pad (including patios, decks, parking pads, walkways, driveways, pool decks, etc.) is associated, or nearby structures, by diverting floodwater and waves or creating debris capable of causing significant damage during base flood conditions.**

(F) For swimming pools and spas, the following is required:

- (1) Be designed to withstand all flood-related loads and load combinations. **Flotation calculations should assume the pools/spas are empty.**
- (2) Be elevated so that the lowest horizontal structural member is elevated above the RFPE; or
- (3) Be designed and constructed to break away during design flood conditions without producing debris capable of causing damage to any structure; or
- (4) Be sited to remain in the ground during design flood conditions without obstructing flow that results in damage to any structure.
- (5) Registered design professionals must certify to local officials that a pool or spa beneath or near a VE Zone building will not be subject to flotation or displacement that will damage building foundations or elevated portions of the building or any nearby buildings during a coastal flood.
- (6) Pool equipment shall be located above the RFPE whenever practicable. Pool equipment shall not be located beneath an elevated structure.

(G) All elevators, vertical platform lifts, chair lifts, etc., the following is required:

- (1) Elevator enclosures must be designed to resist hydrodynamic and hydrostatic forces as well as erosion, scour, and waves.
- (2) Utility equipment in Coastal High Hazard Areas (VE Zones) must not be mounted on, pass through, or be located along breakaway walls.
- (3) The cab, machine/equipment room, hydraulic pump, hydraulic reservoir, counterweight and

roller guides, hoist cable, limit switches, electric hoist motor, electrical junction box, circuit panel, and electrical control panel are all required to be above RFPE. When this equipment cannot be located above the RFPE, it must be constructed using flood damage-resistant components.

- (4) Elevator shafts/enclosures that extend below the RFPE shall be constructed of reinforced masonry block or reinforced concrete walls and located on the landward side of the building to provide increased protection from flood damage. Drainage must be provided for the elevator pit.
  - (5) Flood damage-resistant materials can also be used inside and outside the elevator cab to reduce flood damage. Use only stainless steel doors and door frames below the BFE. Grouting in of door frames and sills is recommended.
  - (6) If an elevator is designed to provide access to areas below the BFE, it shall be equipped with a float switch system that will activate during a flood and send the elevator cab to a floor above the RFPE.
- (H) Accessory structures, regardless of size or cost, shall not be permitted below elevated structures.
- (I) A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the design, specifications and plans for construction are in compliance with the provisions of § 152.426, and § 152.445 on the current version of the North Carolina V-Zone Certification form or equivalent local version. In addition, prior to the certificate of compliance/occupancy issuance, a registered professional engineer or architect shall certify the finished construction is compliant with the design, specifications and plans for VE Zone construction.
- (J) Fill/Grading
- (1) Minor grading and the placement of minor quantities of nonstructural fill may be permitted for landscaping and for drainage purposes under and around buildings and for support of parking slabs, pool decks, patios and walkways.
  - (2) The fill material must be similar and consistent with the natural soils in the area.
  - (3) The placement of site-compatible, non-structural fill under or around an elevated building is limited to two (2) feet. Fill greater than two (2) feet must include an analysis prepared by a qualified registered design professional demonstrating no harmful diversion of floodwaters or wave runup and wave reflection that would increase damage to adjacent elevated buildings and structures.
  - (4) Nonstructural fill with finished slopes that are steeper than five (5) units horizontal to one (1) unit vertical shall be permitted only if an analysis prepared by a qualified registered design professional demonstrates no harmful diversion of floodwaters or wave runup and wave reflection that would increase damage to adjacent elevated buildings and structures.
- (K) There shall be no alteration of sand dunes or mangrove stands which would increase potential flood damage.

(L) No manufactured homes shall be permitted except in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision. A replacement manufactured home may be placed on a lot in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision provided the anchoring and elevation standards are in compliance with this section of the subchapter.

(M) ~~Recreational vehicles may be permitted in coastal high hazard areas provided that they meet the recreational vehicle criteria of § 152.441.~~ **Placement of recreational vehicles in the Coastal High Hazard Area or Coastal A zone is prohibited.**

**(N) For decks and patios the following shall be required:**

~~(N)~~ **(1)** A deck that is structurally attached to a building or structure shall have the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member at or above the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation and any supporting members that extend below the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation shall comply with the foundation requirements that apply to the building or structure, which shall be designed to accommodate any increased loads resulting from the attached deck. The increased loads must be considered in the design of the primary structure and included in the V-Zone Certification required under § 152.426.

~~(O)~~ **(2)** A deck or patio that is located below the Regulatory Flood Protection Elevation shall be structurally independent from buildings or structures and their foundation systems and shall be designed and constructed either to remain intact and in place during design flood conditions or to break apart into small pieces to minimize debris during flooding that is capable of causing structural damage to the building or structure or to adjacent buildings and structures.

~~(P)~~ **(O)** In Coastal High Hazard Areas, development activities other than buildings and structures shall be permitted only if also authorized by the appropriate state or local authority; if located outside the footprint of, and not structurally attached to, buildings and structures; and if analyses prepared by qualified registered design professionals demonstrate no harmful diversion of floodwaters or wave runup and wave reflection that would increase damage to adjacent buildings and structures. Such other development activities include but are not limited to:

- (1) Bulkheads, seawalls, retaining walls, revetments, and similar erosion control structures;
- (2) Solid fences and privacy walls, and fences prone to trapping debris, unless designed and constructed to fail under flood conditions less than the design flood or otherwise function to avoid obstruction of floodwaters.
- (3) Docks, piers, and similar structures.

**SECTION 152.446 ~~RESERVED~~ STANDARDS FOR COASTAL A ZONES (ZONE CAZ) LIMWA.**

~~Structures in CAZs shall be designed and constructed to meet V Zone requirements, including requirements for breakaway walls. However, the NFIP regulations also require flood openings in walls surrounding enclosures below elevated buildings in CAZs (see Technical Bulletin 1, Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures). Breakaway walls used in CAZs must have flood openings that allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters to minimize damage caused by hydrostatic loads.~~

~~Openings also function during smaller storms or if anticipated wave loading does not occur with the base flood.~~

~~(A) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated so that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings or columns) is no lower than the regulatory flood protection elevation. Floodproofing shall not be utilized on any structures in Coastal A Zones to satisfy the regulatory flood protection elevation requirements.~~

~~—(B) All new construction and substantial improvements shall have the space below the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor either be free of obstruction or constructed with breakaway walls, open wood latticework or insect screening, provided they are not part of the structural support of the building and are designed so as to breakaway, under abnormally high tides or wave action without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system or otherwise jeopardizing the structural integrity of the building. The following design specifications shall be met:~~

~~—(1) Material shall consist of open wood or plastic lattice having at least 40% of its area open;~~

~~—(2) Insect screening; or~~

~~—(3) Breakaway walls shall meet the following design specifications:~~

~~—(a) Breakaway walls shall have flood openings to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. To meet this requirement, the openings must either be certified by a professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the design criteria in § 152.441; and~~

~~—(b) Design safe loading resistance shall be not less than ten nor more than 20 pounds per square foot; or~~

~~—(c) Breakaway walls that exceed a design safe loading resistance of 20 pounds per square foot (either by design or when so required by state or local codes) shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the breakaway wall will collapse from a water load less than that which would occur during the base flood event, and the elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system shall not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components (structural and non-structural). The water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. The wind loading values used shall be those required by the North Carolina State Building Code.~~

~~(C) Concrete pads, including patios, decks, parking pads, walkways, driveways, etc. must meet the provisions of § 152.445(E).~~

~~(C) All new construction and substantial improvements shall meet the provisions of § 152.445(C).~~

~~(D) A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the design, specifications and plans for construction are in compliance with the provisions of § 152.426 and § 152.445, on the current version of the North Carolina V Zone Certification form or a locally developed V Zone Certification form.~~

~~(E) Recreational vehicles may be permitted in Coastal A Zones provided that they meet the recreational vehicle criteria of § 152.441.~~

~~(F) Fill/grading must meet the provisions of § 152.445(J).~~

~~(G) Decks and patios must meet the provisions of § 152.445(N) and (O).~~

~~(H) In coastal high hazard areas, development activities other than buildings and structures must meet the provisions of § 152.445(P).~~

#### **SECTION 152.447 STANDARDS FOR AREAS OF SHALLOW FLOODING (ZONE AO).**

(A) Located within the Special Flood Hazard Areas established in § 152.407, are areas designated as shallow flooding areas. These areas have special flood hazards associated with base flood depths of one (1) to three (3) feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist and where the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate. In addition to § 152.440 and § 152.441, all new construction and substantial improvements shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The reference level shall be elevated at least as high as the depth number specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), in feet, plus a freeboard of two feet, above the highest adjacent grade; or at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade if no depth number is specified.
- (2) Non-residential structures may, in lieu of elevation, be floodproofed to the same level as required in division (1) of this division (A) so that the structure, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, below that level shall be watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. Certification is required in accordance with § 152.426 and § 152.441.
- (3) Adequate drainage paths shall be provided around structures on slopes, to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

#### **SECTION 152.448 STANDARDS FOR AREAS OF SHALLOW FLOODING (ZONE AH).**

Located within the Special Flood Hazard Areas established in § 152.407, are areas designated as shallow flooding areas. These areas are subject to inundation by 1-percent-annual-chance shallow flooding (usually areas of ponding) where average depths are one (1) to three (3) feet. Base Flood Elevations are derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone. In addition to § 152.440 and § 152.441, all new construction and substantial improvements shall meet the following requirements:

- (A) Adequate drainage paths shall be provided around structures on slopes, to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

### **PART IV: LEGAL STATUS PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 152.460 EFFECT ON RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES UNDER THE EXISTING FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE.**

This ordinance in part comes forward by re-enactment of some of the provisions of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance enacted June 1, 1987 as amended, and it is not the intention to repeal but rather to re-enact and continue to enforce without interruption of such existing provisions, so that all rights and liabilities that have accrued thereunder are reserved and may be enforced. The enactment of this ordinance shall not affect any action, suit or proceeding instituted or pending. All provisions of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance of the Town of Swansboro enacted in June 1, 1987, as amended, which are not reenacted herein are repealed.

**SECTION 152.461 EFFECT UPON OUTSTANDING FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMITS.**

Nothing herein contained shall require any change in the plans, construction, size, or designated use of any development or any part thereof for which a floodplain development permit has been granted by the Floodplain Administrator or his or her authorized agents before the time of passage of this ordinance; provided, however, that when construction is not begun under such outstanding permit within a period of six (6) months subsequent to the date of issuance of the outstanding permit, construction or use shall be in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 152.462 EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This subchapter became effective June 8, 2020.

This Ordinance amendment shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners in regular session, June 23, 2026.

Attest:

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William Justice, Mayor

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Alissa Fender, Town Clerk