ORDINANCE NO. 2020-7

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VERMILLION COUNTY

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING STREET SIGNS AND HOUSE NUMBERS

WHEREAS, the Vermillion County Board of Commissioners deems it vital to the safety of the people of Vermillion County that county roads and structures within the county be correctly identified such that the response of ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles in time of need will be as efficient as possible

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VERMILLION COUNTY as follows:

1. This ordinance shall be known as the Street Sign and House Number Ordinance

2. This ordinance is created pursuant to the Board of Commissioners' authority inherent under Home Rule.

3. The Purpose of this ordinance is to enhance public safety and security, and to generally protect the public health, safety and welfare by improving the ability of emergency response personnel to navigate and locate dwellings and other structures.

4. All county roads shall be labelled in accordance with the county's E911 system and all dwellings and structures located thereon shall be numbered in accordance with that same system.

    a. The County Highway Department shall place such signs, with the advice of the County Sheriff's Office and at the direction of the Board of Commissioners as shall be deemed necessary to adequately identify the location of county roads.

    b. That it shall be a violation of this ordinance punishable by a $500 fine to remove, vandalize, conceal, alter or otherwise change a sign identifying a county road that has been placed by the County Highway Department.

    c. That any dwelling or other structure that has been assigned a number under for a 911 address within the county's 911 system shall have that number clearly visible on the side of the structure of dwelling in such a way that it is clearly visible from the roadway or, if the structure itself is not clearly visible from the roadway then a second sign with number for the structure shall be placed at the point upon the county road where a vehicle would leave the roadway in order to travel to that structure. The number should be clearly visible to vehicles travelling in either direction on the roadway. If neccessary the number shall be placed in more than one location on the structure or more than one sign shall be posted such that the location of the building can be readily determined from vehicles regardless of which direction they are travelling on the roadway.

d. That the owner of a dwelling or structure shall be responsible to maintain house numbers such that they are not covered by vegetation or snow and that they remain visible from the roadway to vehicles that are travelling along that roadway. It shall be a $500 fine to fail to post such numbers except as set forth in paragraph f. below.

e. That it shall be a violation of this ordinance punishable by a $500 fine to remove, vandalize, conceal, alter or otherwise change a number identifying a dwelling or structure that has been placed by the owner.

f. That the owner of a dwelling or structure that has failed to display a number in accordance with this ordinance may be subject to a $500 fine. That fine may be waived by the County Commissioners if, within 30 days of being cited for not having clearly visible numbers posted the owner posts or causes to be posted such numbers and presents proof at a meeting of the County Commissioners.

g. A dwelling that is under construction or renovation shall display its numbers when doing so is feasible for the state of the structure.

h. Should there be a dispute as to whether or not a number is sufficiently visible then the parties shall consult the standards of the National Emergency Number Association.

5. Violators of this ordinance may be enforced by any law enforcement officer able to enforce county ordinances, any official allowed to enforce county zoning or building law, any fire chief of a unit serving an area of the county or any other official designated by the Board of Commissioners to enforce this ordinance.

   For all violations of this Ordinance, each offense shall be considered a separate offense and subject to a fine.

   Each twenty-four (24) hours that a violation occurs will be considered a separate offense and can be cited as such.

6. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

6. Should any section, provision, or part of this Ordinance be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Vermillion County this _____ day of _____, 2020.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
VERMILLION COUNTY, INDIANA:

Tim J Wilson
President

Harry L Crosley

ATTEST: Amy L Wilcox
Auditor of Vermillion County