

**Township Board Policy 2016-01**  
**Georgetown Township Board Ordered Sidewalk and Non-Motorized Path Installation Policy**  
**Adopted by the Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_ with motion \_\_\_\_\_**

**PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for Township Board ordered installation of sidewalks or non-motorized paths.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

The Georgetown Township Board adopted the Sidewalk Ordinance in 2000. The ordinance requires the installation of sidewalks or 8 foot non-motorized paths (along designated streets listed in the ordinance) for new development or developments which receive substantial additions or improvements. In addition, the ordinance gives the Board the authority to order the installation of sidewalks or paths on existing developments for the health, safety and welfare of the residents.

The ordinance further provides that any sidewalks or 8 foot non-motorized paths ordered by the Township Board to be constructed shall be as per the Township specifications and shall be at the sole cost and responsibility of the owner of the property adjacent to the required sidewalk.

At the July and August 2009 meetings, the Utilities Committee discussed and determined to proceed with ordering the installation and construction of sidewalks or paths as per the authority granted in the Sidewalk Ordinance, in areas of the township reasonably necessary to connect existing sidewalks in order to protect the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the township. **All sidewalk and non-motorized path construction ordered to be completed by the Township Board were to be at the sole cost and responsibility of the owner of the property adjacent to the required sidewalk or path.**

**IMPLEMENTATION.**

The Georgetown Township Superintendent is responsible to implement the procedures detailed herein after the Township Board has ordered the installation of sidewalks or non-motorized paths as per this policy.

**PROCEDURES.**

1. When the Township Board determines that sidewalks or non-motorized paths shall be installed in an area it deems reasonably necessary in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township, the installation shall be ordered in concurrence with the ordinance relative to where sidewalks shall be installed and where non-motorized paths should be installed. In any area where sidewalks are required to be installed, the Township Board, at its discretion, may order the installation of non-motorized paths.
2. The cost for the sidewalk or non-motorized path shall be paid in the following manner:

**Options:**

- a. *Property owners may petition for a special assessment for the project.*
- b. *Property owners may petition for a special assessment for the project with the Township to pay a percentage.*
- c. *Property owner agrees to an assessment and hires an approved contractor who bills the Township and the Township collects the assessment from the property owner over a ten year period at 6% interest.*

- d. The Township installs the sidewalk and the property owner is billed at large (everyone pays; people who install their own pay twice).*
- e. Installation shall be by the property own at the sole cost of the property owner.*
- f. If the Township needs right-of-way on the street, the determined amount of right-of-way is deeded to the Township/Ottawa County Road Commission and the Township pays for the installation.*

**EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This policy shall become effective on October 1, 2015.