

CORINNA TOWNSHIP
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE# 2026-002

**An Ordinance Regulating
Town Road Rights-of-Way**

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Corinna ordains:

Section 1.0 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

1. **Purpose.** The primary objectives of this ordinance are to protect public safety, reduce interferences with public travel, protect the public's interest in its Rights-of-Way, and to provide for the efficient and uniform administration of the Town's road Rights-of-Way. The Board finds that the regulations, requirements, and restrictions, as set forth in this ordinance, are in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the Town's citizens.
2. **Authority.** As a road authority, the Board has broad authority to regulate what occurs within the Town's road Rights-of-Way. This authority is found in Minnesota Statutes, Section 365.10, subd. 17, a variety of sections in Chapters 160, 164, 165, 169, 222, 237, and other Chapters, as well as the Rules associated with those Chapters.

Section 1.1 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meaning given them in this section.

1. **Approach.** "Approach" means the area of the Right-of-Way between the traveled surface of the road and the adjacent property that is intended to provide access for vehicles or equipment from the road to the adjacent property.
2. **Board.** "Board" means the town board of supervisors of Corinna Township, Wright County, Minnesota.
3. **Headwall.** "Headwall" means rock, concrete, masonry, metal, timber, or other similar materials placed on the sides of an approach as support, to prevent erosion, or for decorative purposes.

4. Junk. “Junk” means signs, copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper; synthetic or organic compost, trash, garbage, waste materials, rubbish, rubber, debris; appliances; woodpiles, lumber, or firewood; tires or junked, dismantled, inoperable, or wrecked vehicles or farm, construction, or other machinery or parts thereof; iron, steel, and other ferrous or nonferrous material.
5. Person. “Person” means an individual, corporation, trust, partnership, association, or any other legal entity.
6. Right-of-Way. “Right-of-Way” means the entire width between boundary lines of any way or place under the jurisdiction of the Town when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purposes of vehicular traffic and is maintained by the Town.
7. Traveled Portion. “Traveled Portion” means (1) the part of the Right-of- Way of an unpaved road that is clear of vegetation and covered with gravel, rock, or other earthen materials; (2) the part of the Right-of-Way of a paved road that is between the fog lines on roads with painted white lines on the road’s outside edges; and (3) the entire paved part of the Right-of-Way of a paved road without painted white lines on the road’s outside edges.
8. Vehicle. “Vehicle” has the same meaning as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.01, subd. 2, as amended, to wit: “Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.”
9. Town. “Town” means the organized government of Corinna Township, Wright County, Minnesota.

Section 1.2 CULTIVATION AND LANDSCAPING.

1. Cultivation. No person may cultivate, plant, harvest, or maintain agricultural crops, trees, bushes, or shrubs within a Right-of-Way.
2. Landscaping. No person may cultivate, plant, or maintain grasses, flowers, vegetables, or other vegetation in any manner that obstructs visibility of a road or otherwise interferes with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage a Right-of-Way. No person may place watering systems or sprinkler heads within a Right-of-Way.

Section 1.3 OBSTRUCTIONS AND JUNK.

1. Obstructions. No person may place, maintain, or allow any obstruction in a Right-of-Way other than those specifically permitted by this ordinance, by state law or rule, or by written approval of the Board.
 - a. Items prohibited by this section include, but are not limited to, fences, posts, structures, piled materials, hay bales, vehicles, trailers, campers, boats, pontoons, docks, boat lifts, fish houses, equipment, or any other items that interfere with the safe use or maintenance of the Right-of-Way. Additionally, obstructions include any item or material that blocks, restricts, or interferes with the flow of water within a ditch, culvert, or drainage structure located in the Right-of-Way.
 - b. No person may alter, obstruct, block, divert, or modify the natural or designed drainage pattern within any Right-of-Way, including any ditch, swale, culvert, or drainage structure.
 - c. No person may cause or permit surface water, stormwater, or runoff originating on private property to be discharged, redirected, or concentrated into a Right-of-Way in a manner that:
 - i. impedes or reduces the ability of the Right-of-Way to drain; or
 - ii. causes standing or pooled water to remain in the Right-of-Way; or
 - iii. causes water to flow over, across, or onto the traveled portion of the road; or
 - iv. increases the volume, velocity, or direction of flow beyond the condition that existed prior to the alteration.
 - d. Any person altering drainage in violation of this section shall restore the drainage to its prior condition or to a condition acceptable to the Board.

The Board may require installation, repair, or replacement of culverts or other drainage structures necessary to restore proper drainage.

2. Junk. No person shall place or maintain Junk in a Right-of-Way.

Section 1.4 ALTERATION OF GRADE.

1. No person may alter or change the depth, contour, slope, or drainage characteristics of any ditch or embankment in a Right-of-Way without written approval of the Board.

Section 1.5 UNAUTHORIZED MAINTENANCE.

1. No person may work, maintain, improve, or repair the traveled portion of a Right-of-Way without the written approval of the Board.

Section 1.6 DOING DAMAGE.

1. No person shall cause damage to a Right-of-Way without the written approval of the Board. Any person doing damage within a Right-of-Way with approval of the Board shall restore the Right-of-Way to at least the same condition it was in prior to the damage.

Section 1.7 MAILBOXES, SIGNS, AND NEWSPAPER BOXES.

1. Mailboxes. Mailboxes and newspaper boxes are permitted within a Right-of-Way if they do not interfere with, obstruct, or render dangerous for passage a right-of-way. Mailboxes placed within a Right-of-Way shall be of a “break-away” design approved by the Town and must comply with all of the standards in Minnesota Rules Chapter 8818. The Board may remove and replace mailboxes that do not comply with the standards as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.072 and assess the costs thereof as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429.
2. Signs. No sign of any nature may be placed or allowed to remain in any Right-of-Way except an official traffic sign placed by a government authority or other signage expressly permitted by state law.

Section 1.8 APPROACHES, CULVERTS, AND HEADWALLS.

1. Approaches. No person may, within any Right-of-Way, construct, reconstruct, or remove any approach to a road, any culvert, or any headwall without first obtaining approval by the Board. A person may be required to submit a map or drawing of the existing or proposed approach, culvert, or headwall when seeking approval.
2. Culverts. A person constructing or reconstructing an approach may be required to install a culvert meeting the specifications set out by the Board if the Board determines a culvert is necessary for suitable approach to the road and to promote adequate drainage of the Right-of-Way. Property owners must keep all culverts, aprons, and drainageways serving their property free of sediment, debris, vegetation, ice, or other obstructions that impede drainage.
3. Headwalls. No person may construct or reconstruct any headwall in a way that interferes with the safe use or maintenance of a Right-of-Way.

4. Costs. A person constructing or reconstructing an approach to an existing road or a headwall shall be responsible for paying all of the costs related thereto, including the cost of seeking all necessary approvals and the cost of a culvert if one is required. Property owners are responsible for maintaining all approaches and associated culverts and headwalls serving their property at their own cost.

Section 1.9 BURNING.

No person shall burn any material, whether in or out of a burn barrel, within any Right-of-Way.

Section 1.10 PARKING.

1. Safe Parking Anywhere in Right-of-Way. No person shall park any vehicle, motorized or non-motorized, in any portion of a Right-of-Way at any time in such a way as to unreasonably interfere with the safe use of a road or the maintenance of the Right-of-Way.
2. Winter Parking Within Any Part of Right-of-Way. No person shall park any vehicle, motorized or non-motorized, within any part of the Right-of-Way during the hours of 12:00 midnight through 7:00 a.m. between November 1 and April 1.
3. Snowfall Parking in Traveled Portion of Right-of-Way. No person shall park any vehicle, motorized or non-motorized, within any part of the traveled portion of a Right-of-Way at any time during or after a snowfall until the entire traveled portion of the Right-of-Way is plowed to its customary width.

Section 1.11 TOWN AND CONTRACTORS.

The prohibitions, requirements and restrictions contained in this ordinance do not apply to: the Town; town officers, employees, or agents while operating within the course and scope of their duties for the Town; or contractors while performing services within the scope of a contract with the Town.

Section 1.12 PERMISSION.

1. Limitations. Any person receiving permission or a permit from the Board as provided in this ordinance must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and rules as well as all applicable Town ordinances, resolutions, specifications, regulations, and policies. Any person receiving permission or a permit must comply with all conditions, requirements, and limitations the Board expresses as part of the permission or permit. Failure to comply with

any of the conditions, requirements, or limitations shall void the permission or permit and is a violation of this ordinance.

Section 1.13 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY.

1. Correction Order. Upon discovery of a violation of this ordinance, the Board may issue a correction order to the violator ordering the person to correct the violation by a time certain. If the violator fails to comply with the correction order by the time indicated in the order, the Board may provide for the correction of the violation. Issuance of a correction order does not preclude imposition of the penalty set forth in this ordinance nor the assessment of the costs of correction as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429.
2. Immediate Correction. If the Board determines that the violation creates an immediate threat to public safety, the Board will make a good faith effort to notify the violator to immediately correct the situation. If the Board is not able to promptly reach the violator, or if the violator fails to immediately correct the situation upon notification, the Board may provide for the immediate correction of the violation.
3. Cost of Correction. The cost of correcting a violation shall be the responsibility of the violator. If the Board provides for the correction of the violation, all expenses incurred, including reasonable attorney's fees, shall be billed to the violator. The billed amount, if not paid within thirty (30) days, shall be added to the property tax roll and shall constitute a lien against the responsible person's property which shall be collected and enforced in the same manner as general property taxes pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 366.012 or any other relevant statute. This cost recovery shall be in addition to any penalty or legal or equitable remedy the Township may seek or receive for the violation of this Ordinance.
4. Penalty. Any person who violates this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine and imprisonment as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 609.03, as may be amended. Each day of existence of such violation shall constitute a separate offense. If convicted, the person may be assessed costs of prosecution as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 366.01, Subdivision 10.

Section 1.14 SAVINGS CLAUSE.

1. The failure of the Board to exercise, and any delay in exercising, any right under this ordinance, including enforcement, shall not operate as a waiver

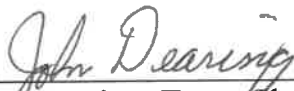
thereof and shall not constitute a waiver of the Town's interest, however created, in any Right-of-Way, easement, or any other type of property interest.

Section 1.15 SEVERABILITY.

1. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or administrative agency of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Adopted this 16th day of June 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Corinna.

BY THE BOARD



John Dearing, Town Chair

Attest: 

Mary Brown, Town Clerk