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Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Pamela Mills

TOWN ATTORNEY
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MAYOR
Lee Withers

TOWN COUNCIL
Brandon Linn
Rodney Phillips
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Mike Upright

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE KNOX BOXES AT NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITH IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRING PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL, EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND CERTAIN MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

WHEREAS, an ordinance is necessary to require certain commercial and residential buildings to install Knox Boxes; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits of installing Knox Boxes include providing immediate emergency access to firefighters leading to increasing Fire Department efficiency; preventing costly forced entry damage and allowing undamaged doors to be re-secured after the emergency; and protecting property, inventory, equipment and supplies as well as firefighters against possible injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of China Grove, that the Code of Ordinances of the Town of China Grove, Chapter 30, Fire Prevention and Protection, be amended as follows:

Section 30-5:

Knox Boxes.

A. Knox Box Required for New Commercial Buildings. All new commercial buildings shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Towns Fire Chief or Official in a location specified by the Towns Fire Official prior to the issuance of the permit of occupancy.

B. Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings with Improvements. All existing commercial buildings constructing improvements that require Planning Board approval shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Towns Fire Official, in a location specified by the Fire Official prior to the issuance of the construction permit.

C. Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings. All existing commercial buildings equipped with automatic fire detection and/or suppression system shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Towns Fire Official, in a location specified by the Towns Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.

D. Knox Box Required for Multi-family Residential Structures. All multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Towns Fire Official, in a location specified by the Towns Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.

E. Knox Box Contents. All Knox Boxes shall contain labeled keys, easily identified in the field to provide access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as the Towns Fire Official may direct.

F. Penalties. Any property or building owner failing to comply with, or in violation of the terms of this Ordinance after notice from the Towns Fire Official, shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500.00). Each day a violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense at the rate of One Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100.00) a day until corrected.

G. Definitions. “Knox Box” means a secure rapid entry system that is designed to be used by Fire Department Personnel in the event of an emergency to gain entry into a structure by using the enclosed owner provided key(s). This box is usually mounted on the exterior of the building in a location that is specified by the local Fire Official. All boxes shall be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) certified and approved by the Township Fire Official.

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2017.

Lee Withers, Mayor

Attested by:

Pamela L. Mills, Town Clerk