

NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP OPEN RECORDS POLICY

Requests

Public records will be available for inspection and copying at the Township Municipal Building during normal business hours of Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, with the exception of holidays and when the secretary is not in the office.

Requests shall be in writing and directed to the Township Secretary at the Township Municipal Building, 149 McHaddon Road, Kittanning, PA 16201. Written requests shall be on a Pennsylvania Office of Open Records Standard Right-To-Know Form and shall include the date of the request, the name and address of the requester, and a clear description of the records sought.

Fees

Paper copies will be \$0.25 per page per side. If mailing is requested, the cost of postage will be charged. Fax copies will be available at the cost of \$1.00 per page. If "True and Correct Certification" is requested, an additional charge of \$2.00 will be added. The Township will require prepayment if the total fees are estimated to exceed \$100.00.

Response

The Township will make a good faith effort to provide the requested public records as promptly as feasible. Township employees shall cooperate with those requesting to review and/or duplicate original Township documents while taking reasonable measures to protect Township documents from the possibility of theft and/or modification. The secretary or a supervisor must be present at the time of inspection. The requester may not remove original Township documents from the municipal building.

The Township Secretary shall review all written requests for access to public records. The Township Secretary shall respond to all such requests in a manner consistent with Act 100 of 2002, the Open Records Law, as soon as possible, but no later than five business days after receiving a written request to access public records.

Appeals Process

If a written request is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file exceptions with the Board of Supervisors within 15 business days of the mailing date of the Township's denial. The exceptions shall state grounds on which the requester asserts that the record is a public record and shall address any grounds stated by the Township for denying the request.

The Board of Supervisors shall make a "final determination" on the exceptions within 30 days of the mailing date of the exceptions. The Board of Supervisors may hold a hearing on the issue during the 30 days. If the Board determines that the denial was correct, it must provide a written explanation to the requester.

The requester may appeal a final determination to the Common Pleas Court or District Justice within 30 days of denial or final determination.