

## **Forest Township Application for Zoning Variance**

What is a Variance? A variance is an exception to the established regulations that are set forth in the Forest Township Zoning Ordinance.

When is a variance necessary? A variance may be necessary when a landowner wishes to build or develop his/her property and the rules of the Forest Township Zoning Ordinance prohibit him/her from doing so. The property for which variance is requested must be located in Forest Township Conservation District as described in the ordinance and be subject to greater restrictions than those in the Becker County Zoning Ordinance.

Can Anyone get a variance? No. the courts have said that the applicant has a “heavy burden of proof” to show that there are no options and there is a “hardship” of the property in following the rules of the Township Ordinance.

Who decides if I will get a variance? The Township Board of Adjustment makes the decision on all variance matters and the decision will be made as outlined in Section 10 of the current Forest Township Zoning Ordinance.

When will my variance request be decided? The Board of Adjustment meets on an “on call” basis and a request for meeting should be directed to the Township Board. After receiving the application for variance along with the designated fee, the Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Meeting and subsequently issue a ruling on the variance request.

What will be my fee? The Township Board will, from time to time, establish fees which can be obtained from the Township Clerk, the Township website or will be posted at the Township Hall.