

**AIRPORT SAFETY ZONING
ORDINANCE**

FOR

FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

International Falls, MN

May 2012

THIS ORDINANCE REPLACES

Falls International Airport Zoning Ordinance and Maps
completed May 21, 1979 and amended June 7, 1993

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TITLE AND INTRODUCTION

FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ZONING ORDINANCE

INTERNATIONAL FALLS – KOOCHICHING COUNTY AIRPORT ZONING BOARD

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING AND RESTRICTING THE HEIGHT OF STRUCTURES AND OBJECTS OF NATURAL GROWTH, AND OTHERWISE REGULATING THE USE OF PROPERTY, IN THE VICINITY OF THE FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY CREATING THE APPROPRIATE ZONES AND ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN THE RESTRICTIONS AND BOUNDARIES OF SUCH ZONES; DEFINING CERTAIN TERMS USED HEREIN; REFERRING TO THE FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ZONING MAPS WHICH IS INCORPORATED IN AND MADE A PART OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FALLS – KOOCHICHING COUNTY AIRPORT ZONING BOARD PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED BY MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 360.061 THROUGH 360.074, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The International Falls – Koochiching County Airport Zoning Board, created and established by joint action of the City Council of the City of International Falls and the County Board of Commissioners of Koochiching County pursuant to the provisions and authority of Minnesota Statutes Section 360.063, hereby finds and declares that:

- A. An airport hazard endangers the lives and property of users of the Falls International Airport, and property or occupants of land in its vicinity; and also if of the obstructive type, in effect reduces the size of the area available for the landing, takeoff, and maneuvering of aircraft, thus tending to destroy or impair the utility of said Airport and the public investment therein.
- B. The creation or establishment of an airport hazard is a public nuisance and an injury to the region served by the Falls International Airport.
- C. For the protection of the public health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare, and for the promotion of the most appropriate use of land, it is necessary to prevent the creation or establishment of airport hazards.
- D. The prevention of these airport hazards should be accomplished, to the extent legally possible, by the exercise of the police power without compensation.
- E. The prevention of the creation or establishment of airport hazards, and the elimination, removal, alteration, mitigation, or marking and lighting of existing airport hazards are public purposes for which political subdivisions may raise and expend public funds.
- F. The Falls International Airport is an essential public facility that serves an important public transportation role and provides a public good.

SECTION II: SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the “Falls International Airport Zoning Ordinance.” Those sections of land affected by this Ordinance are indicated in Exhibit “A”, which is attached to this Ordinance.

SECTION III: DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires:

“*AIRPORT*” means the Falls International Airport located in Sections 10, 14, & 15 of Township 70, Range 24 W, Koochiching County, Minnesota for a total acreage of 636 acres more or less.

“*AIRPORT ELEVATION*” means the established elevation of the highest point on the usable landing area which elevation is established to be 1,185 feet above mean sea level.

“*AIRPORT HAZARD*” means any structure, tree, or use of land which obstructs the air space required for, or is otherwise hazardous to, the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at the airport; and any use of land which is hazardous to persons or property because of its proximity to the airport.

“*COMMISSIONER*” means the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

“*CONFORMING USE*” means any structure, tree, or object of natural growth, or use of land that complies with all the applicable provisions of this Ordinance or any amendment to this ordinance.

“*DWELLING*” means any building or portion thereof designed or used as a residence or sleeping place of one or more persons.

“*ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN A BUILT UP URBAN AREA*” (ERN - BUUA) means an area which, if it existed on or before January 1, 1978 shall be considered a conforming use that shall not be prohibited except as provided below in SECTION V B 5, EXEMPTIONS - ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

“*HEIGHT*,” for the purpose of determining the height limits in all zones set forth in this Ordinance and shown on the zoning maps, the datum shall be mean sea level elevation unless otherwise specified.

“*LANDING AREA*” means the area of the airport used for the landing, taking off, or taxiing of aircraft.

“*LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE*” means a single-family or two-family home.

“*LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL LOT*” means a single lot located in an area which is zoned for single-family or two-family residences and in which the predominant land use is such type of residences.

“*NONCONFORMING USE*” means any pre-existing structure, tree, natural growth, or land use which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance or an amendment hereto.

“*NONPRECISION INSTRUMENT RUNWAY*” means a runway having an existing or planned straight-in instrument approach procedure utilizing air navigation facilities with only horizontal guidance, and for which no precision approach facilities are planned or indicated on an approved planning document.

“*OTHER THAN UTILITY RUNWAY*” means a runway that is constructed for and intended to be used by jet aircraft or aircraft of more than 12,500 pounds maximum gross weight; or is 4,900 feet or more in length.

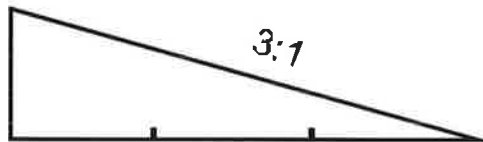
“*PERSON*” means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body politic, and includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, administrator, executor, guardian, or other representative.

“*PLANNED*,” as used in this Ordinance, refers only to those proposed future airport developments that are so indicated on a planning document having the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration, Minnesota Department of Transportation Office of Aeronautics, and the International Falls – Koochiching County Airport Commission.

“*PRECISION INSTRUMENT RUNWAY*” means a runway having an existing instrument approach procedure utilizing an Instrument Landing System (ILS), a Microwave Landing System (MLS), or a Precision Approach Radar (PAR), a Transponder Landing System (TLS), or a satellite-based system capable of operating to the same level of precision guidance provided by the other included systems. Also, a runway for which a precision instrument approach system is planned and is so indicated on an approved planning document.

“*RUNWAY*” means any existing or planned paved surface or turf covered area of the airport which is specifically designated and used or planned to be used for the landing and/or taking off of aircraft.

“*SLOPE*” means an incline from the horizontal expressed in an arithmetic ratio of horizontal magnitude to vertical magnitude.



Slope = 3:1 = 3 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical

“*STRUCTURE*” means an object constructed or installed by man, including, but without limitations, buildings, towers, smokestacks, earth formations, and overhead transmission lines.

“*TRAVERSE WAYS*,” for the purpose of determining height limits as set forth in this Ordinance, shall be increased in height by 17 feet for interstate highways; 15 feet for all other public roadways; 10 feet or the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse the road, whichever is greater, for private roads; 23 feet for railroads; and for waterways and all other traverse ways not previously mentioned, an amount equal to the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse it.

“*TREE*” means any object of natural growth.

“*UTILITY RUNWAY*” means a runway that is constructed for, and intended to be used by propeller-driven aircraft of 12,500 pounds maximum gross weight and less; and is less than 4,900 feet in length.

“*VISUAL RUNWAY*” means a runway intended solely for the operation of aircraft using visual approach procedures, with no straight-in instrument approach procedure and no instrument designation indicated on an approved planning document.

“*WATER SURFACES*” for the purpose of this ordinance, shall have the same meaning as land for the establishment of protected zones.

SECTION IV: AIR SPACE OBSTRUCTION ZONING

A. **AIR SPACE ZONES:** In order to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance, as set forth above, the following air space zones are hereby established: Primary Zone, Horizontal Zone, Conical Zone, Approach Zone, Precision Instrument Approach Zone, and Transitional Zone, and whose locations and dimensions are as follows:

1. **PRIMARY ZONE:** All that land which lies directly under an imaginary primary surface longitudinally centered on a runway extending 200 feet beyond each end of Runway 13/31 and Runway 4/22. The elevation of any point on the primary surface is the same as the elevation of the nearest point on the runway centerline.

The width of the primary surface is:

- a. 1,000 feet for Runway 13/31 (long runway).
- b. 500 feet for Runway 4/22 (short runway).

2. **HORIZONTAL ZONE:** All that land which lies directly under an imaginary horizontal surface 100 feet above the established airport elevation, or a height of 1,285 feet above mean sea level, the perimeter of which is constructed by swinging arcs of specified radii from the center of each end of the primary surface of each runway and connecting the adjacent arcs by lines tangent to those arcs. The radius of each arc is:

- a. 10,000 feet for Runway 13/31 (long runway).
- b. 5,000 feet for Runway 4/22 (short runway).

When a 5,000-foot arc is encompassed by tangents connecting two adjacent 10,000-foot arcs, the 5,000-foot arc shall be disregarded in the construction of the perimeter of the horizontal surface.

3. **CONICAL ZONE:** All that land which lies directly under an imaginary conical surface extending upward and outward from the periphery of the horizontal surface at a slope of

- 20:1 for a horizontal distance of 4,000 feet as measured outward from the periphery of the horizontal surface.
4. APPROACH ZONE: All that land which lies directly under an imaginary approach surface longitudinally centered on the extended centerline at each end of a runway. The inner edge of the approach surface is at the same width and elevation as, and coincides with, the end of the primary surface. The approach surface inclines upward and outward at a slope of 20:1 for Runway 4/22 (short runway). The approach expands uniformly to a width of 2,000 feet at a distance of 5,000 feet, then continues at the same rate of divergence to the periphery of the conical surface.
 5. PRECISION INSTRUMENT APPROACH ZONE: All that land which lies directly under an imaginary precision instrument approach surface longitudinally centered on the extended centerline at each end of Runway 13/31 (long runway), a precision instrument runway. The inner edge of the precision instrument approach surface is at the same width and elevation as, and coincides with, the end of the primary surface. The precision instrument approach surface inclines upward and outward at a slope of 50:1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 feet expanding uniformly to a width of 4,000 feet, then continues upward and outward for an additional horizontal distance of 40,000 feet at a slope of 40:1, expanding uniformly to an ultimate width of 16,000 feet.
 6. TRANSITIONAL ZONE: All that land which lies directly under an imaginary surface extending upward and outward at right angles to the runway centerline and centerline extended at a slope of 7:1 from the sides of the primary surfaces and from the sides of the approach surfaces until they intersect the horizontal surface or the conical surface. Transitional surfaces for those portions of the precision instrument approach surface which project through and beyond the limits of the conical surface, extend a distance of 5,000 feet measured horizontally from the edge of the precision instrument approach surface and at right angles to the extended precision instrument runway centerline.
- B. HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS: Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, and except as necessary and incidental to airport operations, no structure or tree shall be constructed, altered, maintained, or allowed to grow in any air space zone created in SECTION IV A so as to project above any of the imaginary air space surfaces described in said SECTION IV A hereof. Where an area is covered by more than one height limitation, the more restrictive limitation shall prevail.

C. BOUNDARY LIMITATIONS: The air space obstruction height zoning restrictions set forth in this section shall apply for a distance not to exceed one and one half miles beyond the perimeter of the airport boundary and in that portion of an airport hazard area under the approach zone for a distance not exceeding two miles from the airport boundary.

SECTION V: LAND USE SAFETY ZONING

A. SAFETY ZONE BOUNDARIES: In order to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance, as set forth above, to restrict those uses which may be hazardous to the operational safety of aircraft operating to and from the Falls International Airport, and, furthermore, to limit population and building density in the runway approach areas, thereby creating sufficient open space to protect life and property in case of an accident, there are hereby created and established the following land use safety zones:

1. SAFETY ZONE A: All land in that portion of the approach zones of a runway, as defined in SECTION IV A hereof, which extends outward from the end of the primary surface, which distance shall be:
 - a. 4,933 feet for Runway end 13 (long runway).
 - b. 4,933 feet for Runway end 31 (long runway).
Excluding 19.18 Acres of the southeast corner of Zone A as shown on Exhibit B, Runway 31 Mn/DOT Safety Zones.
 - c. 2,000 feet for Runway end 4 (short runway).
 - d. 1,000 feet for Runway end 22 (short runway).
2. SAFETY ZONE B: All land in that portion of the defined in SECTION IV A hereof, which extends which distance shall be:
 - a. 1,567 feet for Runway end 13 (long runway).
 - b. 1,567 feet for Runway end 31 (long runway).
In addition to 19.18 Acres as described under Exhibit B, Runway 31 Mn/DOT Safety Zones.
 - c. 1,000 feet for Runway end 4 (short runway).
 - d. 2,000 feet for Runway end 22 (short runway).
3. SAFETY ZONE C: All land which is enclosed within the safety zone, as defined in SUBSECTION IV A hereof, and which is not included in Safety Zone A or Safety Zone B.
4. EXCEPTIONS – ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS:
The following described lands are designated as Established Residential

Neighborhoods in Built-Up Urban Areas. Land uses which were in existence in these areas on January 1, 1978, are exempt from the USE RESTRICTIONS of SECTIONS V B 2 and V B 3 below, and are subject to the provisions of SECTION V B 5 below.

Runway end 13 – Liberty Addition				
Liberty Addition is located north of the extended runway centerline – Approximately 2,900 feet from the runway end.				
Parcel ID	Street Address	Acres	Year Built	Note
92-121-07070	1302 22 nd Street W International Falls, MN 56649	0.557	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 7 Lots 7 – 10
92-121-07010	1203 22 nd Street W International Falls, MN 56649	0.958	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 7 Lots 1 – 6
92-121-10090	2205 13 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.632	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 10 Lots 9 – 12
92-121-10070	2215 13 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.325	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 10 Lots 7 – 8
92-121-10010	1203 22 nd Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.323	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 10 Lots 1 – 2
92-121-10030	1203 22 nd Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.325	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 10 Lots 3 – 4
92-121-10050	1203 22 nd Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.326	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 10 Lots 5 – 6
92-121-15110	2229 13 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.426	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 11 – 12
92-121-15090	2229 13 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.319	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 9 – 10
92-121-15070	1202 23 rd Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.314	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 7 – 8
92-121-15010	2224 12 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.328	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 1 – 2
92-121-15030	2222 12 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.335	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 3 – 4
92-121-15050	1200 23 rd Street International Falls, MN 56649	0.326	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 15 Lots 5 – 6
92-121-09090	2204 11 th Avenue International Falls, MN 56649	0.649	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 9 Lots 9 – 12
92-121-09010	2204 11 th Avenue International Falls, MN 56649	0.603	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 9 Lots 1 – 4
92-121-09050	2216 11 th Avenue International Falls, MN 56649	0.622	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 9 Lots 5 – 8
92-121-16110	2219 12 th Avenue International Falls, MN 56649	0.322	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 11 – 12
92-121-16090	2226 11 th Avenue International Falls, MN 56649	0.322	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 9 – 10
92-121-16070	2301 12 th Avenue E International Falls, MN 56649	0.322	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 7 – 8
92-121-16010	2220 11 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.297	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 1 – 2
92-121-16030	2226 11 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.302	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 3 – 4

92-121-16050	2228 11 th Avenue W International Falls, MN 56649	0.294	Platted – May 9, 1910	Block 16 Lots 5 – 6
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Runway end 13				
Parcels are located south of the extended runway centerline – Approximately 4,700 feet from the runway end.				
Parcel ID	Street Address	Acres	Year Built	Note
21-051-00280	4202 County Road 107 International Falls, MN 56649	2.81	Platted – May 9, 1910	
21-051-00282	4208 County Road 107 International Falls, MN 56649	2.80	Platted – May 9, 1910	

B. USE RESTRICTIONS:

1. **GENERAL:** Subject at all times to the height restrictions set forth in SECTION IV B, no use shall be made of any land in any of the safety zones defined in SECTION V A which creates or causes interference with the operations of radio or electronic facilities on the airport or with radio or electronic communications between the airport and aircraft, make it difficult for pilots to distinguish between airport lights and other lights, results in glare in the eyes of pilots using the airport, impairs visibility in the vicinity of the airport, or otherwise endangers the landing, taking off, or maneuvering of aircraft.
- 2a. **ZONE A:** Subject at all times to the height restrictions set forth in Subsection IV B and to the general restrictions contained in Subsection V B 1, areas designated as Zone A shall contain no buildings, temporary structures, exposed transmission lines, or other similar above-ground land use structural hazards, and shall be restricted to those uses which will not create, attract, or bring together an assembly of persons thereon. Permitted uses may include, but are not limited to, such uses as agriculture (seasonal crops), horticulture, animal husbandry, raising of livestock, wildlife habitat, light outdoor recreation (non-spectator), cemeteries, and automobile parking.
- 2b. A Conditional Use is a land use or development which would not be appropriate generally or without restriction throughout the zone district but which, if controlled as to number, area, size, location, or relation to neighborhood, and as to compatibility with official town plans, would not be injurious to the public health, safety, convenience, morals, order, comfort, appearance, prosperity, or general welfare.

- 2c. A Conditional Use in the A Zone may be signs built in conformity with other zoning ordinances so long as the sign does not violate the height restriction established in Section IV B.
- 3. ZONE B: Subject at all times to the height restrictions set forth in Subsection IV B, and to the general restrictions contained in Subsection V B 1, areas designated as Zone B shall be restricted in use as follows:

- a. Each use shall be on a site whose area shall not be less than 2.5 acres.
- b. Each use shall not create, attract, or bring together a site population that would exceed 15 times that of the site acreage
- c. Each site shall have no more than one building plot upon which any number of structures may be erected.
- d. A building plot shall be a single, uniform, and non-contrived area, whose shape is uncomplicated and whose area shall not exceed the following minimum ratios with respect to the total site area:

Site Area at least (Acres)	But Less Than (Acres)	Ratio of Site Area to Bldg. Plot Area	Building Plot Area (sq. ft.)	Max. Site Population (15 persons/Acre)
2.5		14:1	7,700	37
	3	14:1		
3		12:1	10,900	45
	4	12:1		
4		10:1	17,400	60
	6	10:1		
6		8:1	32,600	90
	10	8:1		
10		6:1	72,500	150
	20	6:1		
20	and up	4:1	218,000	300

- e. The following uses are specifically prohibited in Zone B:
Churches, hospitals, schools, theaters, stadiums, hotels, motels, trailer courts, campgrounds, and other places of frequent public or semi-public assembly.
- 4. ZONE C: Zone C is subject only to height restrictions set forth in SECTION 1V B, and to the general restrictions contained in SECTION V B 1.
- 5. EXEMPTIONS – ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

- a. Land uses which existed as of January 1, 1978, in the Established Residential Neighborhoods set forth in SECTION V A 4 above, and as shown on the zoning maps, are subject to the height restrictions of SECTION IV B and the general restrictions of SECTION V B 1. Land uses which come into existence after January 1, 1978, are treated as though they were not in a designated Established Residential Neighborhood and are subject to the Zone A or Zone B restrictions as the case may be.
- b. Land uses in Established Residential Neighborhoods which violate any of the following restrictions are prohibited as safety hazards and must be acquired, altered or removed at public expense. Those conditions are as follows:
 - (1) The following land uses if they exist in Safety Zones A or B and in an ERN-BUUA are considered by the Commissioner to constitute airport safety hazards so severe, either to persons on the ground or to the air-traveling public, or both, that they must be prohibited under local airport zoning ordinances;
 - (a) Any structure which a person or persons customarily use as a principal residence and which is located entirely inside Safety Zone A within 1000 feet of the end of the primary zone;
 - (b) Any structure which a person or persons customarily use as a principal residence and which is located entirely within Safety Zone A or B and which penetrates an imaginary approach surface as defined by SECTION IV A;
 - (c) Any land use in Safety Zone A or B which violates any of the following standards:
 - (i) the land use must not create or cause interference with the operation of radio or electronic facilities on the airport or with radio or electronic communication between the airport and aircraft;
 - (ii) the land use must not make it difficult for pilots to distinguish between airport lights and other lights;
 - (iii) the land use must not result in glare in the eyes of pilots using the airport or impair visibility in the vicinity of the airport.
 - (d) Any isolated residential building lot zoned for single-family or two-family residences on which any structure, if built, would be prohibited by subparagraphs b.(1)(a), (b) or (c) above. An "isolated" residential building

lot is one located in an area in which the predominant land use is single-family or two-family residential structures; and

- (e) Any other land use which presents, in the opinion of the Commissioner, a material danger to the landing, taking off, or maneuvering of aircraft or to the safety of persons on the ground. In making such a determination, the Commissioner shall consider the following factors:
 - (i) possibility that the land use may contribute to or cause a collision of two or more aircraft or an aircraft and some other object;
 - (ii) possibility that the land use may, in case of an aircraft accident, cause an explosion, fire, or the release of harmful or noxious fumes, gases, or substances;
 - (iii) tendency of the land use to increase the number of persons that would be injured in case of an aircraft accident;
 - (iv) effect of the land use on availability of clear areas for emergency landings;
 - (v) flight patterns around the airport, the extent of use of the runway in question, the type of aircraft using the airport, whether the runways are lighted, whether the airport is controlled, and other similar factors.

C. **BOUNDARY LIMITATIONS:** The land use zoning restrictions set forth in this section shall apply for a distance not to exceed one mile beyond the perimeter of the airport boundary and in that portion of an airport hazard area under the approach zone for a distance not exceeding two miles from the airport boundary.

SECTION VI: AIRPORT MAPS

The several zones herein established are shown on the Falls International Airport Zoning Maps consisting of seven (7) sheets, prepared by Short, Elliott, Hendrickson Inc., and dated May 2012, attached hereto and made a part hereof, which maps, together with such amendments thereto as may from time to time be made, and all notations, references, elevations, data, zone boundaries, and other information thereon, shall be and the same is hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

SECTION VII: NONCONFORMING USES

Regulations not retroactive. The regulations prescribed by this Ordinance shall not be construed to require the removal, lowering, or other changes or alteration of any structure or tree not conforming to the regulations as of the effective date of this Ordinance, or otherwise interfere with the continuance of any nonconforming use. Nothing herein contained shall require any change in the construction, alteration, or intended use of any structure, the construction or alteration of which was begun prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, and is diligently prosecuted and completed within two years thereof.

SECTION VIII: PERMITS

- A. **FUTURE USES:** Except as specifically provided in Paragraphs 1 and 2 hereunder, no material change shall be made in the use of land and no structure shall be erected, altered, or otherwise established in any zone hereby created unless a permit therefore shall have been applied for and granted by the zoning administrator, hereinafter, provided for. Each application for a permit shall indicate the purpose for which the permit is desired, with sufficient particularity to permit it to conform to the regulations herein prescribed. If such determination is in the affirmative, the permit shall be granted.
1. However, a permit for a tree or structure of less than 75 feet of vertical height above the ground shall not be required in the horizontal and conical zones or in any approach and transitional zones beyond a horizontal distance of 4,200 feet from each end of the runway except when such tree or structure, because of terrain, land contour, or topographic features, would extend the height or land use limit prescribed for the respective zone.
 2. Nothing contained in this foregoing exception shall be construed as permitting or intending to permit any construction, alteration, or growth of any structure or tree in excess of any of the height limitations established by this ordinance as set forth in SECTION IV and the land use limitations set forth in SECTION V.
- B. **EXISTING USES:** Before any existing use or structure may be replaced, substantially altered or repaired, or rebuilt within any zone established herein, a permit must be secured authorizing such replacement, change, or repair. No permit shall be granted that would allow the establishment or creation of an airport hazard or permit a nonconforming use, structure, or tree to become a greater hazard to air navigation than it was on the effective

date of this Ordinance or any amendments thereto, or than it is when the application for a permit is made. Except as indicated, all applications for such a permit shall be granted.

- C. **NONCONFORMING USES ABANDONED OR DESTROYED:** Whenever the zoning administrator determines that a nonconforming structure or tree has been abandoned or more than 80% torn down, deteriorated, or decayed, no permit shall be granted that would allow such structure or tree to exceed the applicable height limit or otherwise deviate from the zoning regulations. Whether application is made for a permit under this paragraph or not, the zoning administrator may order the owner of the abandoned or partially destroyed nonconforming structure, at his own expense, to lower, remove, reconstruct, or equip the same in the manner necessary to conform to the provisions of this Ordinance. In the event the owner of the nonconforming structure shall neglect or refuse to comply with such order for ten days after receipt of written notice of such order, the zoning administrator may, by appropriate legal action, proceed to have the abandoned or partially destroyed nonconforming structure lowered, removed, reconstructed, or equipped and assess the cost and expense thereof against the land on which the structure is or was located. Unless such an assessment is paid within ninety days from the service of notice thereof on the owner of the land, the sum shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent per annum from the date the cost and expense is incurred until paid, and shall be collected in the same manner as are general taxes.

SECTION IX: VARIANCES

Any person desiring to erect or increase the height of any structure, permit the growth of any tree, or use his property not in accordance with the regulations prescribed in this Ordinance may apply to the Board of Adjustment, hereinafter provided for, for a variance from such regulations. If a person submits an application for a variance by certified mail to the members of the Board and the Board fails to grant or deny the variance within four months after the last member receives the application, the variance shall be deemed to be granted by the Board. When the variance is granted by reason of the failure of the Board to act on the variance, the person receiving the variance shall notify the Board and the Commissioner, by certified mail, that the variance has been granted. The applicant shall include a copy of the original application for the variance with this notice to the Commissioner. The variance shall be effective sixty days after this notice is received by the Commissioner subject to any action taken by the Commissioner pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 360.063, Subdivision 6a. Such variances shall be

allowed where it is duly found that a literal application or enforcement of the regulations would result in practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, and relief granted would not be contrary to the public interest but do substantial justice and be in accordance with the spirit of this Ordinance provided any variance so allowed may be subject to any reasonable conditions that the Board or Commissioner may deem necessary to effectuate the purpose of this Ordinance.

The Board of Adjustment may request review of a variance application by the Mn/DOT Airport Zoning Director prior to making a decision.

SECTION X: HAZARD MARKING AND LIGHTING

- A. **NONCONFORMING USES:** The owner of any nonconforming structure or tree is hereby required to permit the installation, operation, and maintenance thereon of such markers and lights as shall be deemed necessary by the zoning administrator, to indicate to the operators of aircraft in the vicinity of the airport the presence of such airport hazards. Such markers and lights shall be installed, operated, and maintained at the expense of the International Falls - Koochiching County Airport Commission.
- B. **PERMITS AND VARIANCES:** Any permit or variance deemed advisable to effectuate the purpose of this Ordinance and be reasonable in the circumstances, and granted by the zoning administrator or Board, shall require the owner of the structure or tree in question, at his own expense, to install, operate, and maintain thereon such markers and lights as may be necessary to indicate to pilots the presence of an airport hazard.

SECTION XI: AIRPORT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

It shall be the duty of the Koochiching County Zoning Administrator to administer and enforce the regulations prescribed herein. Applications for permits and variances shall be made to the Koochiching County Zoning Administrator upon a form furnished by them. Permit applications shall be promptly considered and granted or denied by them in accordance with the regulations prescribed herein. Variance applications shall be forthwith transmitted by the Koochiching County Zoning Administrator for action by the Board, hereinafter provided for.

SECTION XII: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

- A. **ESTABLISHMENT:** The Board of Adjustment shall consist of five members appointed by the International Falls – Koochiching County Joint Airport Zoning Board, and each shall

serve for a term of three years and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, and two for a term for three years. Upon their appointment, the members shall select a chairperson to act at the pleasure of the Board. Members shall be removable by the Joint Airport Zoning Board for cause, upon written charges, after a public hearing.

B. POWERS: The Board of Adjustment shall have and exercise the following powers:

1. Hear and decide appeals from any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the administrator in the enforcement of this Ordinance.
2. Hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of this Ordinance upon which such Board of Adjustment under such regulations may be required to pass.
3. Hear and decide specific variances.

C. PROCEDURES:

1. The Board of Adjustment shall adopt rules for its governance and procedure in harmony with the provisions of this Ordinance. Meetings of the Board of Adjustment shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the Board of Adjustment may determine. The chairperson, or in his absence the acting chairperson, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All hearings of the Board of Adjustment shall be public. The Board of Adjustment shall keep minutes of its proceedings showing the vote of each member upon each question or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall immediately be filed in the office of the zoning administrator and shall be a public record.
2. The Board of Adjustment shall make written findings of facts and conclusions of law giving the facts upon which it acted and its legal conclusions from such facts in reversing, affirming, or modifying any order, requirement, decision, or determination which comes before it under the provisions of this ordinance.
3. The concurring vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Adjustment shall be sufficient to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of the zoning administrator or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under this Ordinance, or to effect any variation in this Ordinance.

SECTION XIII: APPEALS

- A. Any person aggrieved, or any taxpayer affected by any decision of the zoning administrator made in his administration of this Ordinance may appeal to the Board of Adjustment. Such appeals may also be made by any governing body of a municipality, county, or airport zoning board, which is of the opinion that a decision of the zoning administrator is an improper application of this Ordinance as it concerns such governing body or board.
- B. All appeals hereunder must be commenced within 30 days of the zoning administrator's decision, by filing with the zoning administrator a notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. The zoning administrator shall forthwith transmit to the Board of Adjustment all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken. In addition, any person aggrieved, or any taxpayer affected by any decisions of the zoning administrator made in his administration of this Ordinance who desires to appeal such decision shall submit an application for a variance, by certified mail, to the members of the Board of Adjustment in the manner set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 360.068, Subdivision 2.
- C. An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the zoning administrator certifies to the Board of Adjustment after the notice of appeal has been filed with it, that by reason of the facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in the Board of Adjustment's opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall not be stayed except by order of the Board of Adjustment on notice to the zoning administrator and on due cause shown.
- D. The Board of Adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for hearing appeals, give public notice and due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. Upon the hearing, any party may appear in person, by agent, or by attorney.
- E. The Board of Adjustment may, in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, reverse or affirm, in whole or in part, or modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision or determination, as may be appropriate under the circumstances, and to that end shall have all the powers of the zoning administrator.

SECTION XIV: JUDICIAL REVIEW

Any person aggrieved, or any taxpayer affected by any decision of the Board of Adjustment, or any governing body of a municipality, county, or airport zoning board, which is of the opinion that a decision of the Board of Adjustment is illegal may present to the District Court of

Koochiching County a verified petition setting forth that the decision or action is illegal, in whole or in part, and specifying the grounds of the illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within 30 days after the decision is filed in the office of the Board of Adjustment. The petitioner must exhaust the remedies provided in this Ordinance before availing himself of the right to petition a court as provided by this section.

SECTION XV: PENALTIES

Every person who shall construct, establish, substantially change, alter or repair any existing structure or use, or permit the growth of any tree without having complied with the provision of this Ordinance or who, having been granted a permit or variance under the provisions of this Ordinance, shall construct, establish, substantially change or substantially alter or repair any existing growth or structure or permit the growth of any tree, except as permitted by such permit or variance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days or by both. Each day a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. The airport zoning administrator may enforce all provisions of this Ordinance through such proceedings for injustice relief and other relief as may be proper under the laws of Minnesota Statutes Section 360.073 and other applicable law.

SECTION XVI: CONFLICTS

Where there exists a conflict between any of the regulations or limitations prescribed in this Ordinance and any other regulations applicable to the same area, whether the conflict be with respect to the height of structures or trees, the use of land, or any other matter, the more stringent limitation or regulation shall govern and prevail.

SECTION XVII: SEVERABILITY

A. In any case in which the provision of this Ordinance, although generally reasonable, is held by a court to interfere with the use or enjoyment of a particular structure or parcel of land to such an extent, or to be so onerous in their application to such a structure or parcel of land, as to constitute a taking or deprivation of that property in violation of the constitution of this state or the constitution of the United States, such holding shall not affect the application of this Ordinance as to other structures and parcels of land, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

B. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the parts so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION XVIII: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect on the (replace with a number) day of (replace with the month), 2012.

Copies thereof shall be filed with the Commissioner through the Office of Aeronautics, State of Minnesota, and the Register of Deeds, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

Passed and adopted after public hearing by the International Falls – Koochiching County Joint Airport Zoning Board this (replace with a number) day of (replace with the month), 2012.

Chairperson

Member

Member

Member

Member

EXHIBIT A

FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ZONING ORDINANCE

This Ordinance affects all or a portion of the following sections of land:

NAME AND NUMBER OF TOWNSHIP	AIR SPACE OBSTRUCTION ZONING: Section IV of Ordinance; Page 2 of Zoning Maps.	LAND USE SAFETY ZONING: Section V of Ordinance; Page 3 of Zoning Maps.
City of International Falls Township T 70 N R 24 W	Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11	Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11
City of International Falls Township T 71 N R 24 W	Sections: 32, 33, 34, 35	Sections: 32, 33, 34, 35
Unorganized Territory of Rainy Lake – Koochiching County Township T 70 N R 24 W	Sections: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27	Sections: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27