

ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 43 FIRST READING JUNE 15, 2026  
INTRODUCED BY: RUTH CAVANAGH SECOND READING WAIVED  
THIRD READING WAIVED

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1024.09 OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH RUSSELL’S CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSPECTION AND CLEANING OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITHIN THE VILLAGE TO BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH GEUGA PUBLIC HEALTH’S OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, Section 1024.09 of the Village’s Codified Ordinances requires that septic systems be inspected and cleaned at least once every three years and requires the property owner to notify the Building Inspector with a certificate showing such system to be in proper operating order;

WHEREAS, Geauga Public Health is now administering its Operation & Maintenance Program applicable to septic systems, which provides for, among other things, the inspection and cleaning of septic systems pursuant to its schedule; and

WHEREAS, Council for the Village of South Russell desires to amend Section 1024.09 of the Village’s Codified Ordinances to provide for the inspection and cleaning of septic systems within the Village to be administered solely through Geauga Public Health’s Operation and Maintenance Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Village of South Russell, Geauga County, Ohio that:

**SECTION 1.** Section 1024.09 of the Village of South Russell’s Codified Ordinances currently provides as follows:

“(a) Every septic system installed in the Village as of September 23, 1996, shall have been inspected and cleaned no later than September 23, 1997, by a company or individual licensed, or otherwise approved, by the Geauga County Health Department, unless the owner of a septic system can demonstrate his/her system was so cleaned and inspected and in satisfactory working order within one year prior to September 23, 1996. Thereafter, effective January 1, 2021, every septic system shall be inspected and cleaned at least once every three years, commencing with the date of the inspection referred to in this subsection (a) or, within three years after installation if installed after September 23, 1996. It shall be the duty of the owner of the property whereon such septic system is located to keep such septic system in proper working condition at all times and to notify the Building Inspector, immediately after the triennial inspection and cleaning, by certificate from the inspecting company or individual, that such system is in proper operating order.

(b) In addition to the requirements set forth above that the company or individual performing the inspections and cleaning required under this chapter be licensed, or otherwise approved, by the Geauga County Health Department, said company or individual

must, in addition, register with the Building Inspector on a form to be supplied by said Inspector and shall pay to the Village a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for such registration.


(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section, is guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor. Each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this section is committed, continued, or permitted shall be considered a separate offense.”

**SECTION 2.** Section 1024.09 of the Village of South Russell’s Codified Ordinances is hereby deleted and amended to read in full as follows:

“Every septic system existing or to be installed in the Village shall be inspected and cleaned pursuant to, and administered by, Geauga Public Health’s Operation & Maintenance Program.”

**SECTION 3.** It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees on or after December 2, 1975, that resulted in formal actions, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 4.** That this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety of the inhabitants of the Village and to reduce duplicative efforts by having Geauga Public Health administer its Operation & Maintenance Program for the inspection and cleaning of septic systems in the Village; wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected to Council, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its passage by this Council.

  
Mayor – Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Fiscal Officer

I certify that Ordinance No. 2026-43 was duly enacted on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE 2026, by the Council of the Village of South Russell, and published in accordance with the Codified Ordinances of the Village.

  
Fiscal Officer