

(c) If the County Commissioners remove any nuisance or menace to the public health or safety as described in subsection (b), the reasonable costs of the removal shall be assessed against the property as a special tax.

(d) A property owner aggrieved by the assessment of a special tax against his property, as provided in this section, may petition the County Commissioners for relief. Upon the receipt of a petition, the County Commissioners shall conduct a hearing within 30 days of the receipt to determine the propriety and reasonableness of the assessment. At the hearing, the burden shall be upon the petitioner to show good cause why the assessment should not be made. The assessment shall be added to the annual tax bill against the property to be collected in the same manner as ordinary taxes are collected and subject to the same interest and penalty for nonpayment, as provided by law for the nonpayment of County taxes. The special tax shall constitute a lien against the property from the date of assessment until paid.

(e) For properties larger than 1 acre, removal of weeds, as contemplated by this section, shall be limited to the removal of any weeds within 50 feet of the nearest property lines bounding the property [upon] ON which the weeds are found to constitute a nuisance or menace to the public health or safety.

(f) The determination by the County Health Officer that a nuisance or menace to the public health or safety exists by reason of the growth of weeds, accumulation of refuse, an abandoned well, the presence of stagnant water, or the presence of combustible material shall be final and constitute prima facie proof that [such] THE nuisance or menace exists. It shall be the duty of the County Health Officer to investigate all complaints of a nuisance or menace to the public health or safety, as described in this section.

(g) If for any reason the County Health Officer refuses or fails to investigate a complaint of nuisance due to the growth of weeds, the County may investigate the complaint and may, on a determination that the vegetation is lawn or weeds and is at or exceeds a height of 12 inches, determine the growth to be weeds which constitute a nuisance under the provisions of this section.

(h) Lands that are enrolled in a State or Federal program that removes the land from crop production for a specified period of time and that has caused the lands to be established and maintained in plant cover to conserve soil, improve wildlife habitat, or serve other public benefit purposes may not be determined to have on them the growth of weeds for purposes of this section. The responsibility for undesirable plant control of these lands shall be that of the State or Federal agency administering the applicable program.

[3-22.] 3-107. Building permits.

(a) Required; exceptions. [Prior to] BEFORE commencing the erection, construction, repair, alteration, or remodeling of any building or structure, a person, firm, or corporation shall make application to the Supervisor of Assessments for Carroll County for a building permit. No erection, construction, repair, alteration, or remodeling shall be undertaken until a building permit has been obtained. However, the County Commissioners of Carroll County may adopt regulation exempting from