

individual or corporation of its legal rights as provided by law.

2.3.3 APPENDICES. Appendices referenced in the text of the Construction Codes shall be considered an integral part of the Construction Codes.

2.3.4 REFERENCED STANDARDS. Standards referenced in the text of the Construction Codes shall be considered an integral part of the Construction Codes. If specific portions of a standard are denoted by code text, only those portions of the standard shall be enforced. Where construction code provisions conflict with a standard, the construction code provisions shall be enforced. Permissive and advisory provisions in a standard shall not be construed as mandatory.

2.3.5 MAINTENANCE. All buildings, structures, and electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards, which are required by the Construction Codes when constructed, altered, or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order. The owner, or his designated agent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures, and electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems.

## **2.4 DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING AND INSPECTIONS**

2.4.1 THE DEPARTMENT. There is hereby established a department of Lowndes County to be called the Department of Permitting.

2.4.2 RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYEES. An officer or employee connected with the Department shall not be financially interested in the furnishing of labor, material, or appliances for the construction, alteration, or maintenance of a building, structure, service, system, or in the making of plans or of specifications thereof, unless he is the owner of such. This officer or employee shall not engage in any other work, which is inconsistent with his duties or conflict with the interests of the Department.

2.4.3 RECORDS. The Building Official shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of the business of the Department. The records of the Department shall be open to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Open Records Act.

2.4.4 LIABILITY. Any officer or employee, or member of the Board, charged with the enforcement of the Construction Codes, acting for the Governing Authority in the discharge of his duties, shall not thereby render himself personally liable, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability, for any damage that may occur to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his duties. Any suit brought against any officer or employee or member because of such act performed by him in the enforcement of any provision of the Construction Codes shall be defended by the Governing Authority until the final termination of the proceedings.

2.4.5 REPORTS. The Building Official shall submit annually a report covering the work of the Department during the preceding year. He may incorporate in said report a summary of the