

Village of Wapella Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Zoning Officer, Mark Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mark Miller

Ed Fleck

Andrew Johnson

Sara Goergen

Lisa Merida

Vicky Holland

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes unavailable. No minutes to approve. Will add to next meeting agenda for approval. All agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dennis & Emma Boyce were in the audience as they also have chickens and asked about the ordinance. Mark explained that the Village does not currently have an ordinance which is the reason for this special meeting.

ELECT CHAIRMAN OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mark stated that he could not be the Chairman and he can only be an advisor. He confirmed with the Village lawyer. Ed Fleck, who was nominated at the last meeting and declined, agreed to take the position on condition that there be a secretary. Mark explained that Robin has agreed to be the secretary and Jane will be her back-up if she is not available. Motion made by Vicky Holland to appoint Ed Fleck as Chairman of the Village of Wapella Zoning Board of Appeals. Second made by Andrew Johnson. All voting yes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Review, Discussion and Possible Vote of Proposed Poultry Ordinance (153.117)

Ed and Mark agreed that Mark would conduct the meeting tonight up until the point Ed felt comfortable taking over. Mark felt that the Board would just go through the ordinance and discuss any changes. Mark brought up that chickens and poultry are both used in the ordinance. He asked if it should just refer to poultry or specify chickens. Mark stated that if changed to just chickens then ducks or any other poultry would not be allowed. After much discussion, the board determined that the ordinance should cover all poultry. Recommendation to Village Board would be to change to Poultry.

Andrew asked about whether the quantity allowed should be per species or total. Sara stated she was not comfortable with only 6. She felt it should be based on lot size. Lisa brought up Maroa's which stated a total of 8 for egg production and no more than 12 fowl over 12 weeks of age. Sara asked what the state requirements were. Lisa had talked to the Dept of Agriculture, and they mentioned 8-10 is allowable. Further discussion about size and coupes. Vicky suggested it should be no more than 12. They discussed how chickens are purchased and there is a minimum that must be purchased. Ed asked about once quantity is established would residents having more than the limit would then be grandfathered in. Much discussion

trying to determine if it should be 10 or 12. The Boyce's added their comments about the number of allowable and the fact that their chickens and turkey are raised to feed their family whether it be eggs or meat. Andrew recommended that they go through ordinance item by item instead of jumping around. Mark agreed. Recommendation to the Village Board is to allow 12 hens and roosters prohibited with an exemption for 4H and FFA. Next recommendation is yes to require a permit and an application. Application should be simple. The board agreed there should be an initial application fee and then an annual fee of \$25 and \$5. Mark stated that all other fees to the village must be up to date and residents cannot be in arrears on water bill, etc. He also reviewed all other requirements. They discussed the need for property drawings and that an aerial photo can be taken if needed and any questions. Mark continued down the ordinance items and questions came up about the harvesting of the chickens for meat. Suggesting butchering allowable only for personal use. There would be no free range would be outside of your fenced yard.

Any complaints would be made to Village Clerk and then other authorities would be notified.

The Board reviewed and discussed all items section by section in the ordinance and Mark made note of all recommendations and changes to present to the Village Board and Attorney.

Mark thanked everyone. He asked if there should be a review of the changes before the hearing. The Board agreed. Public has to be notified 15 days prior.

B. Set Date for Public Hearing

Next meeting was set for October 4th, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall. Hearing will be at 8:00pm same night.

Motion to adjourn made by Vicky Holland. The second was made by Sara Goergen. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk