

TOWN OF RIDGEVILLE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
September 12 , 2022

Board Members in attendance: Chairman, Keith Giraud; 1st Supervisor, Greg Larson; 2nd Supervisor, Jerry Haney; also in attendance was Clerk, Rita Williams and Treasurer, Kathy Cale.

Noted Public Comments will be taken during the agenda item #
The Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Keith Giraud.

1. Pledge to the American Flag

The Pledge to the flag was recited.

Chairman Giraud noted that we had our County Representative, Joey Esterline-District 15, present and even though it was not on the agenda if no one had any objections she would like to update us on some of the things going on in the county. No one had any objections so Ms Esterline noted that she is serving on several committees such as economic development and tourism, health & human services, and natural resources and extension. She also noted that they are working on getting funding for more broadband in the area. She noted that they have lost the current County Ag Agent. There were several other questions from those present.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on August 8, 2022

The minutes of the regular meeting on August 8, 2022 were reviewed and approved with a motion from Jerry Haney and seconded by Greg Larson. Motion Carried.

3. Summary Regarding Dog Kennel Decision

Chairman Giraud noted that we would be summarizing the board decision on the dog kennel and would be taking statements from neighbors and anyone else who would wish to present their concerns. He asked that they limit their comments to 2 or 3 minutes and to be respectful to everyone.

Neighbor, Ryan Green noted that he was concerned about the barking noise and the safety of grandchildren if dog would get loose.

Neighbor, Phil & Monica Haun noted that he had issues with the barking dogs. They are definitely not in favor of a dog kennel in the area.

Neighbor, Jeff Vann, noted that he had shepherd dogs in his yard which he sent pictures to Jeff Leis. No citations were ever done. Wondered what would happen if there was a kennel approved.

Neighbor, Mark & Audrey Zumbrennen, noted the same concerns. They also noted that the financial burden for all of the dogs would be great. Mrs. Zumbrennen noted again about all the barking daily.

Neighbor, Deb Green, asked about the space and acreage to maintain the dog waste and the area kept clean.

Jayme DeWitt asked how many dogs we were talking about. He was new to the area but was assuming that they were over the limit or it would not be an issue. Chairman Giraud noted that yes they are over the limit.

Resident requesting the Dog Kennel:

Tabitha Gnewikow noted that they had reduced the number of dogs.

Dogs do not bark all day long.

Finances do not affect how they take care of the dogs or their children.

She noted that they are not the only ones out there that have dogs running.

She noted that her dogs do not bark unless they have a reason to bark.

They currently have 8 dogs.

Fencing will go around the house (estimated 2 acres) and the waste is being taken care of.

She feels that she is being targeted.

She noted that even with a kennel she could only have 12 dogs and only able to sell 25 puppies a year above that she would have to go to State Licencing and would have to have the proper size kennels, etc.

Chairman Keith Giraud summarized what has been happening and where the board stands on the issue.

March 15 received a request for a CUP for Dog Kennel License.

That brought up some concerns.

He had received video clips of dogs running through neighbors yards and the dogs taking care of their business in those yards.

Keith got permission to go in and look at the area. He took some pictures. The dog kennels were very muddy.

Jerry Haney and Keith visited the area on the 25th and at that time there was sawdust in the kennels.

Jerry and Keith then visited some of the neighbors.

We talked to Audrey Zumbrennen and received some of her concerns.

On April 20th was the county zoning meeting and many of the same neighbors were present.

Alison Elliott noted that the dog house needed to be moved because it was not on the property line.

The Town had asked for neighbors to submit their concerns in writing so they could be read and we would have those concerns on file.

The night of the meeting we did have several videos of the Neas' Property.

Keith did not think that the committee actually read through the letters of concern at that time.

At that same meeting, Jeff Leis, had some concerns over the licensing. The dogs were licensed in December 21st but, prior to that they had not been licensed. There were some concerns that it took 3 months to get those dogs licensed. He also noted that there were floor tiles that needed to be done. There were kennels that were under sized and not up to state code. There were questions about air flow, shade, and it was mentioned that sawdust bedding was not appropriate.

At that time Tabitha was granted a 60 day extension from the Zoning, but the Town of Ridgeville was not in agreement. We still had some concerns along with neighbors and it was noted that the Town does represent all residents and their concerns.

A business plan was submitted to us and we only requested that to understand just what their intentions were with the number of dogs she plans on having at the kennel.

He noted that the board had never asked about the finances.

He noted that we did know that she had been working and had made some progress on cleaning up the proposed kennel area.

He noted that all of the issues had not been met.

He again noted about the licensing and getting some kind of history of licensing.

At this point Jerry Haney noted that the licensing issue is a big safety issue. If the dogs are not licensed then we cannot guarantee that they have had the proper shots, etc. That would be a huge safety issue.

After the April meeting there was a new issue with Dog waste. We were challenged about why we did not pick those bags up. Tabitha was told that the town does not pick up dog waste. We only pick up garbage and recycling. Keith read several texts that he received from Tabitha on why we did not pick those up.

Keith concluded that the town's position was that she is not in compliance and has not met all the concerns, conditions and stipulations requested by the board.

At this point we proceed to # 4 on the agenda.

4. Discussion on Fall Clean Up

There was some discussion. Someone noted that maybe we could have only one day or part of a day. After some discussion it was decided we would not have a fall clean up days. We will re-evaluate this again next year.

5. Road Patrolman Report

Ryan Green asked about the mower and when we might get a different one.

We will take that into consideration since the old mower brakes down a lot and parts are hard to get.

Keith noted that the culverts are in.

Lansing Rd has been graded.

6. Treasurer's Report for August 2022

Treasurer Kathy Cale gave her report for August 2022. She reported \$107,719.98 in the General Fund in Madison. Here at the Norwalk Bank is \$43,017.88 in the Checking Account, \$112,740.16 in the Regular Savings Account, \$20,203.77 in the Lignite Savings Account, \$53,506.31 in the ARPA Savings Account, \$21,330.63 in the Equipment Account and \$120.12 in 1st Community Credit Union-Sparta for a grand total of \$358,638.85 in current Operating Funds. The report stood approved as read.

7. Approval of Bills Paid/To Be Paid

There was a motion from Keith Giraud and seconded by Jerry Haney to approve the payment of the bills for the month. Motion Carried. This includes Ck #14668 dated 8/15/22 through Ck #14699 dated 9/12/22 for a grand total of \$14,672.51.

8. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2022 starting at 7:00 P.M.

9. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Keith Giraud and seconded by Jerry Haney. Motion Carried.

Rita Williams

Clerk