

**VILLAGE OF DRESSER  
PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 25, 2017  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Cathy Frandsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll Call: Grace Bjorklund, Elina Kuusisto, and Cathy Frandsen. Also present Jodi A. Gilbert/Clerk, Ryan Haass/Police, Bryan “Fatboy” Raddatz, Cassie Petersen, and Nicole Gross. This meeting was posted that a majority of the board members could be present for this meeting. No other public or press was in attendance.

Frandsen asked for public comments on the agenda items.

Nicole Gross – 124 State St E – I currently pay \$3.00/dozen for farm eggs and they are worth it. When you buy eggs from the store you don’t know what you are getting. The Chickens are pumped full of antibiotics and I don’t want my kids to have that stuff. They are also a good Anti-Depressant. Chickens should be kept in containment, I don’t want free range chickens and I don’t want to have 25 chickens. They would be kept in my yard-enclosed so I wouldn’t have to buy eggs. Also my kids have showed chickens at the County Fair and it was good for them. There is not much in this town for the kids to do. I would like 4 chickens/hens - no roosters.

Cassie Petersen – 205 E State Street. I lived in this Village when the chickens were in town and they were running all over the place. I don’t want to hear about chickens getting out and that they are killed by something in the area. We do have foxes, raccoons, hawks etc... in the area and they would definitely take advantage of loose chickens. I just don’t want to put up with it. I understand that there would be regulations but look at the dog regulations and how many people follow them. Not many. You will have loose chickens. There needs to be some kind of regulations on manure, food, etc... we don’t want rats/insects. One other point is I would hate to see a chicken coop that looks like it was made out of just wire and tires. I have always followed the laws about dogs and other people don’t feel the rules apply to them. I don’t want to have roosters crowing. I just hope that you are looking at all of the issues. The Village does not have a contract with animal control so who will I call when the Chickens are running. Do you expect Officer Haass to take care of them? You have to think of that. Haass does a fantastic job with dogs. Do you want to have him dealing with Chickens also?

Nicole Gross – Just have another comment to make chickens eat ticks and mosquitoes. They do make harnesses for chickens. I went from living on a farm to in the Village. I recently had a dog in my yard that terrorized my yard. I did call the owner. Chickens are not going to eat my garden. The neighbor wants eggs, but doesn’t want chickens in their yard. You can also put leg bands on the chickens like they do at the County Fair. That way you can trace the owner.

Bryan “Fatboy” Raddatz stated I have a concern on what the plans are for the chicken coops when a person is all done with the chickens. How long till the building is gone? They do need to be fenced. I am all for it as long as there are no roosters.

Frandsen stated OK I believe we have covered public comments. First item on the agenda is a discussion regarding a revision to Ordinance 9.10 Keeping of animals and poultry regulated – Chicken regulations. As you can see in your packets I did a lot of research on this. I have pulled surrounding communities Ordinances. City of St Croix Falls, Village of Balsam Lake, and the

## Page 2 of 4 - Public Welfare Minutes May 25, 2017

Village of Centuria. I then took it a step farther and looked at the City of Hudson asking what are larger areas doing? I also looked at the City of LaCrosse. I also discovered that the State of WI mandates livestock premises registration which does include chickens. This is a lot of information and there are permits for having Chickens that can be issued. You can see a sample of the City of LaCrosse's application for chicken permit in your packet. I am at this point looking for input from the committee. How do we start to draft this? How do we move forward? Kuusisto stated we do need to make sure they are not running lose. It should only be hens and we do need to limit the number. I like regulations on the structures and the point of not being allowed to keep the coop after the chickens are gone. We do want to regulate for pest control. I am very supportive of having chickens in the Village. We just don't want to have a lot of problems. Bjorklund stated once you do it and then it stays. Over the years things have changed. People are more health aware these days. Also showing animals at the County Fair is great for kids. This topic definitely has its pros and cons. We want to make sure we are protecting the other residents especially the adjoining neighbors. I have looked over the samples and some of them say the same thing. I really liked the City of Hudson. They don't leave any grey areas in their Ordinance. They did their homework and obviously consulted with a lawyer. It is a little lengthy but everything in there is relevant. The one thing is that they don't have anything about if the chickens are gone then the coop is gone. They also limit the number of permits that are issued. I think they allow 15 chicken permits, which is not that many and they were going to review it after a year. You have to submit the application. It is very imperative with a smaller community that this is regulated. We need to have a number of licenses permitted in a year. Just like liquor licensing. We have to look at our own community and come up with a number that fits us. Bjorklund continued Cassie I understand your concern about chickens running all over – so to control that we need a reasonable number of licenses issued. We could allow the Village to revisit it in the future. We need to have specifications on the coop and sanitation. The City of Hudson also says that you can't sell any eggs on site and no slaughter of chickens on the premise. They allow 5 chickens. They have enforcement and a permit fee of \$50.00 – with a \$20.00 renewal. The higher the rate more serious the people will be. The chickens can't be used for fighting. They need to be kept warm in winter and their water can't be frozen. Frandsen stated coming back to the cruelty issue – they are very strict on the coop specs which would address the freezing issue. If you have a \$50.00 permit fee and you buy a chicken or 2 for \$2.00 or \$3.00 and you don't comply you will lose your permit and the fee that goes along with it. Frandsen continued there is a violation of penalty clause. Kuusisto stated I did notice a point where all chickens need to have clean water and food. Bjorklund stated if people are so strong about having chickens I hope that they would provide a good coop. I also like their definition which states this does not include other kinds of fowl. This is just for chickens. I think that is important. Frandsen stated it sounds like a majority of us like the City of Hudson Ordinance. How do we go about putting together a document? This Ordinance also does talk about adjacent residential structures within 25 feet of a coop. Do they need to be a minimum of 10 feet from the property line? The requirement with the State of WI we need to have. I think we can eliminate the other community Ordinances and focus on the City of Hudson. Frandsen asked Bjorklund I am open to input. Bjorklund stated I think we should use Hudson as a guideline. Do you want to gather other information? Frandsen stated at this point we have only had one resident approach us on this topic – I don't want us to rush into this Ordinance only to find out we have missed something big. Kuusisto agreed I like Hudson also – they seem to have everything covered. They limit so many the first year, which is a good thing and working with Haass we would see if there are any issues. Frandsen stated that the people who have chickens currently have 7 chickens. We want to be careful moving forward with this.

### **Page 3 of 4 - Public Welfare Minutes May 25, 2017**

Bjorklund stated I have talked to a few people and they are concerned about the number of chickens and the number of people who can have them. We need to have an Ordinance that really regulates them. When you think about people using eggs for their own use - I think 5 chickens would be plenty - 5 eggs a day \* 7 days – that is 35 eggs a week. That is plenty to eat. I don't want to see an egg industry – business. This is to be kept as a personal use. We need to set the regulations and the number and have control of them. Haass stated I am open to the idea. Haass stated how do you award those permits – do they automatically get renewed or do they have to start all over each year. You should have control over the number. They do produce manure and noise. With all of these regulations – who is going to be serious to do this? We need to do what we need to do for the Village and then allow us to evaluate what the Village interest is. Permits shall not be given if they are delinquent on bills etc... – need to look at the enforcement side. How do you get rid of a problem? Citations? A renter would need to have written permission from the owner of the property. A lot of times if you live in a housing development – the homeowners association gives permission. Some of that can become a civil matter – you may want to take that out. The applicant shall be the property owner or renter has permission. Frandsen asked do you want to continue to go through this or come back to discuss this again. Permit dates could be July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> just like the other licensing. Bjorklund stated we can have 3 readings on this. How about everyone put together your comments on the City of Hudson Ordinance – what you want to keep and what should be changed. Let's get these changes to Jodi at the June 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting and then we will set our next committee meeting that same evening. We will meet again in June to discuss a draft document with all of our thoughts.

Discussion was held regarding a revision to Ordinance 9.02 Possession and use of firearms and other dangerous weapons. Frandsen turned the meeting over to Officer Haass. Right now our current Ordinance bans firearms. WI has passed conceal and carry. I have provided you with a copy of the Village of Osceola's Ordinance. They ban firearms from Village owned buildings. Items C and D are points of discussion in the Village of Osceola Ordinance. Do you ban them from Village controlled buildings? When this topic first came up to the Dresser Board they were not interested in banning firearms and posting all of their buildings. If you ban them you have to put up signs. Haass continued I don't have an opinion on this. We do have to change the current Ordinance. Fatboy stated do you want to restrict them? It has not been a problem. When you tell people they can't do something they will complain. Current state law says that they can't go into a Police Department with a gun. Section D is in regards to special events. We don't have any event permits in Dresser so we don't need section D. Haass continued at a minimum I would recommend striking C and D and adopting the rest of the Village of Osceola's Ordinance. The other option would be to Adopt C and ban firearms from Village owned buildings. You don't need section D. Bjorklund stated this is hard with only one police officer. Fatboy stated the way the state law reads any premise or any commercial business has the right to ban firearms on their property. Currently the school does. The business owners can do it, but at this time I am not aware of any that do. Any property can ban it on its own. Making this change gets us legal with the other changes from the State. On the current Dresser Ordinance you would strike #4 and change/repeal #2 and replace it with the Village of Osceola's. Haass stated open carry is legal. The definitions would stay the same. Also you can keep Section #3 Use of firearms. Frandsen suggested lets take this discussion and prepare another document to look at. This can be brought back to the June meeting to review a document with the changes discussed tonight.

**Page 4 of 4 - Public Welfare Minutes May 25, 2017**

Discussion was held regarding a revision to Ordinance 9.03 Throwing or shooting of arrows, stones and other missiles prohibited. Haass stated our Ordinance bans hunting/shooting. We now have to allow hunting per State Statute. I would recommend repealing Ordinance 9.03. Replace it with the Village of Osceola's. When looking at Osceola's do A B C – I have no concerns. It all goes back to C(1). This allows bow hunting. The title would stay the same. The City of St Croix Falls had issued permits for crop damage. They were special tags. Osceola has permits for hunting on Village lands. Hunting Village lands has more restrictions. I don't see us opening up Village lands. Motion Kuusisto/Bjorklund to recommend to the board to repeal Ordinance 9.03 and recreate it with the Village of Osceola's wording as reviewed tonight. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Frandsen asked for any other items for discussion. Haass stated I will have another new Ordinance for you to review at the meeting in June.

Motion Bjorklund/Kuusisto to adjourn at 7:21 PM. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jodi A. Gilbert - Clerk/Treasurer

These minutes have not been approved.