

VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN BOARD OF APPEALS

The Village of Wrightstown Board of Appeals meeting was held at Village Hall, 352 High St., in Conference Room C, on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. following the posted Public Hearing.

Those in attendance included Board of Appeals members: Bradley Bosma, Glenn Buntin, and Bernie Vickman. Others in attendance included: Administrator Travis Coenen, Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Patti Leiternann and residents Steve and Jolene Ducat and Marilyn Maynard

Motion was made by Bernie Vickman with a second made by Brad Bosma to appoint Glenn Buntin as chairman for these proceedings: **Motion carried.**

A review of the current municipal code is as follows:

Ordinance §75-9 Limit on Number of Dogs

No person, except a kennel licensee, shall own, harbor or keep more than three dogs that are more than five months of age except in a place or places where animals are impounded by the Village. If a total of more than three dogs are owned, harbored or kept in or by any one household, the head of the household shall be deemed the person so owning, harboring or keeping such dogs, notwithstanding that the dog licensee or licenses may be issued to other members of the household as owners of such animals.

The applicants, Steve J. and Jolene E. Ducat, requested a TEMPORARY variance to Municipal Ordinance 75-9, Limit on Number of Dogs, so they are able to own, harbor or keep (4) four dogs, more than five months of age, at 1037 Crestview Dr., Wrightstown, WI.

Steve and Jolene Ducat indicated that they are a blended family of five children and four dogs. Two of the dogs are being used as emotional support animals due to the loss of Ms. Ducat's first husband and do not wish to ask their children to dispose either of the two others. Official certification was provided for one dog only, Xenia, the Mastiff Mix. The variance being requested would only be temporary until one of the senior dogs pass away. Ms. Ducat noted that all (4) four dogs are well cared for and are normally fenced in the backyard, however, due to a recent flooring project, they were let out in the front yard for a short time.

Marilyn Maynard was present and stated that often times the dogs are outside in the front yard. She relayed an incident in which Xenia, the Mastiff Mix, was left out, unrestrained, and preventing her from walking home from a neighbor's. (*Chief Greg Deike was able to confirm that a complaint was received by the Police Department*). Ms. Maynard also noted that the Ducat's dogs are left out for lengthy periods and bark uncontrollably.

The Village also received a letter from neighbors James and Kathleen Ollman, 1035 Crestview Dr. The history of the dogs and the validity of two of the animals being needed for support was questioned. They also confirmed that there are extended periods that the dogs are outside, unattended, left to howl, bark and cry. The letter stated that the brick pavers in the backyard are unsanitary due to urine and dog feces not being cleaned up. James and Kathleen have also witnessed the Ducat's dogs running into the road and intimidating walkers passing by and asked the Board of Appeals to deny the variance request.

After deliberation by the Board of Appeals members, a motion was made by Glenn Buntin with a second made by Brad Bosma to approve the variance request with conditions. The conditions are as follows:

- The variance is to immediately be revoked if another ordinance violation occurs (pertaining to any part of the Municipal Dog Ordinance)
- The unregistered Bison Mix (Lola) must immediately be registered
- Once any one of the current (4) dogs pass, the limit not be exceed again

Call of roll: 2 yes votes, Glenn Buntin and Brad Bosma. 1 no vote, Bernie Vickman. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Glenn Buntin with a second made by Brad Bosma to adjourn. **Motion carried.**
(Adjourned at 4:42 p.m.)

Michelle Seidl, Clerk/Treasurer