



**VILLAGE OF BARTLETT
COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 3, 2017**

President Wallace called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Arends, Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Hopkins, Reinke, and President Wallace

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Village Administrator Valerie Salmons, Assistant Administrator Paula Schumacher, Assistant to the Village Administrator Scott Skrycki, Interim Finance Director Todd Dowden, Community Development Director Jim Plonczynski, Public Works Director Dan Dinges, Building Director Brian Goralski, Head Golf Professional Phil Lenz, Chief Kent Williams, Deputy Chief Chuck Snider, Deputy Chief Patrick Ullrich, Village Attorney Bryan Mraz and Village Clerk Lorna Giles.

PLANNING & ZONING

Bees, Chickens & Impervious Surfaces

Trustee Reinke stated that they have three principal items for forwarding these matters on to the Zoning Board of Appeals generally described as beekeeping, chickens and impervious surfaces.

Community Development Director Jim Plonczynski stated that as of the last discussion in June, the Board directed staff to do some additional research which they have done regarding beekeeping and insurance, excluding pools on impervious surfaces and additional research on chickens in the different areas where chickens could be kept. They put together the different conditions in a draft text amendment for a Public Hearing in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Trustee Reinke asked for comments regarding beekeeping.

Trustee Camerer stated that he appreciated what the staff has done. He stated that when talking about bees, people have the misconception that they are wasps and they get scared of honeybees where they should not be. He thought they had a lot of potential to do things that will build a better community and a better environment and he thinks the bees are right up there with it.

Trustee Reinke stated that he has received a lot of input from residents and he is a little more skeptical about beekeeping today than he was back in June. He understands that bees are important to the ecosystem but he is very concerned about people who are allergic to bees. He does not think we should do a community apiary and felt that they



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should give specific information to staff about this. It may be problematic from a cost perspective as well as a liability perspective.

Trustee Hopkins agreed against a community apiary. He didn't think the Village needed to spend money on an apiary but if someone wants a hive on their property, they should be allowed to have it. He didn't agree with the annual \$25 fee and thought it should be a one-time fee. He did not anticipate a lot of applications but felt if someone wanted it they should have that option. He spoke about barrier heights and thought it was a good idea on small lots. If someone has a larger lot and you are 50 to 100 feet away from the property line, we shouldn't make them set up a fence around the hives. Instead of 25 allotted permits he would like to see a trigger at 20 permits that requires a review by the Village Board to open it up to review the policies that were set. The less restriction - the better.

Trustee Reinke stated that in regards to bees and chickens, they should restrict the permits like they do with liquor licenses. There should be a fixed number and if we need to create additional ones we can. He thought 25 hives was high. He felt it was scary to some people and felt that they should ease them into it as well as educating them on the process.

Trustee Camerer stated that he does not want to see more regulations if we don't have to. This town is known for over regulating and he hopes to get away from that.

President Wallace asked how many people have requested information regarding hives on their property in the 20+ years that he has been there.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that it has increased recently but prior to that there were none.

President Wallace felt that the 20 permit trigger was a good idea.

Trustee Deyne stated that he thought the comments this evening had a great deal of merit but he has not had anyone contact him about bees or chickens. He was looking forward to see the comments from the Zoning Board.

President Wallace asked if everyone was in agreement on not having a community apiary?

Trustee Camerer stated "not at this time" but he did not want to shut the door on this forever. If we allowed individuals to do this and somehow came up with the land that someone donated, he did not want to shut the door on it.

President Wallace asked if Hanover Park allows people from outside the village to create a hive in their village.



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Mr. Plonczynski stated they have a community apiary and didn't think they do anything but that. He thought Schaumburg was also setting up a community apiary.

Attorney Mraz stated that in drafting the ordinance and putting in a review at 25 permits may be a little problematic. He thought they could direct staff to bring it back at that point but he did not want it to be a condition of its effectiveness.

President Wallace asked if there is any other byproduct from these hives besides honey?

Mr. Plonczynski stated and possibly soap.

Trustee Reinke asked the residents in attendance who were interested in beehives, what size lots they live on.

One audience member responded that his lot was 100 x 100 and the other stated two thirds of an acre.

Trustee Carbonaro thought they should elaborate on the amount of water required for the hives so the neighbor's pool is not a source of water.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that it would have to be on the property of the hive.

Trustee Deyne stated that he would like to have the opportunity to review resident requests with property that is smaller than the ordinance guideline.

Trustee Hopkins asked if they are going to make residents keep the 25 feet from all lot lines, does it matter what the square footage of the lot is?

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they could change the lot size. They thought the bigger size lot would be a little safer for people who are allergic. If you want to make the lot size a standard 8,000 for both, and he is right, the setbacks would have to adhere and they would have to put it in the middle of the yard and 25 feet from property line.

The Board asked for a graphic case study to determine fair setbacks for properties.

President Wallace asked if there was a specific distance that bees fly from the hive.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they can go a long distance to collect pollen. He thought it was several miles.



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President Wallace asked who would be liable if he had an apiary and his neighbor got stung and was allergic and had major medical problems? What liability does the Village hold for passing this ordinance?

Attorney Mraz stated that the Village wouldn't have any liability since it is a proof question. There may well be a lawsuit, which is likely, if that were to happen, not to the Village but to the apiary owner. The Village has certain immunities that are being eroded but nevertheless he believed it would apply in this situation.

President Wallace stated that these are all of the things that we need to discuss.

Trustee Reinke asked if there were any comments about chickens.

Trustee Camerer once again stated that staff did a good job putting together the information as well as the survey that was put out to the Village that was overwhelmingly positive. He stated that they have heard from people with animals and if done properly, could be beneficial from a green standpoint, as well as the environmental standpoint. He thought it was a great direction for the Village to take.

Trustee Hopkins agreed with Trustee Camerer. He asked if the \$25 licensing fee was per year.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that it is a one-time fee for the permit.

Trustee Reinke asked if when staff is learning about other communities and their experiences, are we also getting their input?

Mr. Plonczynski stated that most towns that allow chickens have very little problems.

Trustee Hopkins asked if we restrict homeowners on the amount of dogs or cats they may have?

Mr. Plonczynski stated "yes".

President Wallace stated that he has worked at an egg production facility as a kid and they are the most inhumane places in the world. His biggest concern is the size of the lot and how far the smell will travel.

Trustee Reinke stated that if you are going to have annual permitting, someone from the Village staff will go out and inspect. If it is an inhumane situation, they can act on it.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they will get complaints just like they do now about dogs and other animals.



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Trustee Reinke asked about an annual inspection. Is that part of the annual permit?

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they did not incorporate an annual inspection, but they can.

Trustee Arends asked him to think about what he is suggesting. If this is something the Village would have to do than it will be an expense. For a staff member to go out and inspect beehives and chicken coops, they would have ramifications.

Trustee Hopkins stated that they could review this in a year and if they need to modify it they can do it then. He would like to know how many dog and cat complaints they get every year.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they do code enforcement on dog and cat homes typically when it's an excessive amount of animals and there are complaints. He stated that the police department probably gets a lot more complaints.

He stated that they will create the text amendment and move it forward.

Trustee Reinke talked about impervious surfaces and the exclusion of pools because they are meant to hold water.

Trustee Hopkins stated that in the current ordinance, they use the pool in the calculation – correct? In the winter, the pool is covered - where does the water go? Does this create more drainage problems?

Mr. Plonczynski stated that the pool will hold the rain within the covered pool.

Trustee Reinke stated that they will forward all of this on to the Zoning Board for contemplation and hearings.

Trustee Reinke asked if they are going to do future surveys that they word the survey in a neutral sense rather than seeming like they were advocating a position.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Camerer moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting and that motion was seconded by Trustee Hopkins.



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ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN

AYES: Trustees Arends, Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Hopkins, Reinke

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Lorna Giless
Village Clerk

LG/