

# *Village of Fall Creek*

## *Minutes of Community Relations, Recreation & Health Committee Meeting*

*Wednesday, May 26, 2021*

1. **Call to Order:** 8:00 a.m., virtual meeting at Zoom.us & physical meeting at Village Hall Meeting Room, 122 E. Lincoln Ave., Fall Creek
2. **Roll Call:** Committee Members Present: Chairperson Karen Hurd, Trustees Ben Burch, Matt Mattoon, Tim Raap, Karen Strasburg. Absent: None. Staff Present: Administrator/Public Works Director Jared McKee, Clerk/Treasurer Renee Roemhild. Also Present: Trustee Karen Herbison, 11 citizens. Those noted in attendance include those attending via the virtual meeting.
3. **Certify Open Meeting Law Requirements Have Been Met:** A notice of the meeting and an agenda (including instructions if wishing to attend the virtual meeting) was posted at the three public places and local newspapers were notified.
4. **Adopt Agenda:**
  - MOTION (Burch/Mattoon) to adopt the agenda. PASSED, without negative vote.
5. **Recommendation re: Amending Ordinance Title 6 Animals to Allow for Chickens:** Chairperson Karen Hurd invited attendees to offer comments. Several citizens spoke stating such things as: not in favor of chickens in urban areas; concerned about disposal of waste, attracting rodents, noise, police enforcement time that would take away from more important matters; if considering free-range, the chickens would not stay within property lines.

Burch reported on the petition that was received requesting chickens be allowed. Burch stated of the 109 signatures only 29 were village residents (from 26 households), which calculates to only 3% of the village.

Hurd showed pictures giving an example of what a chicken coop could look like, stating most coops that size house 4 chickens; regarding any concerns of spreading disease, detailed the improbability that a small flock would have that result; provided a survey of municipalities of comparable size to the Village, showing that many allowed between 2 and 6 chickens and have had very few complaints; provided sample ordinances and licensing applications.

The committee discussed doing a simple survey to allow the residents to decide. One will be prepared and those findings will be brought to the Village Board.

6. **Recommendation re: Website and Email Server Improvements:** Discussion took place with the committee's primary concern being to solve the issue with the emails. The Committee Chair had done significant research that she would pass on to the Administrator who could take action to resolve the issue as timely as possible. The committee also discussed their preferences regarding the Village website; will discuss more later.
7. **Recommendation re: Ways to Improve Means of Communication with Villagers:** Due to the length of the meeting, this agenda item was postponed to another time.
8. **Adjourn:**
  - MOTION (Strasburg/Mattoon) @ 10:03 a.m. PASSED, without negative vote.

Renee Roemhild, Clerk-Treasurer