

**Watson Township Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Public Hearing**  
**August 27, 2008**

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairperson Chuck Andrysiak, called the meeting of the Watson Township Planning Commission Regular Meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All recited the pledge.

**3. Roll Call:**

Present: Chuck Andrysiak, Beverly McKinnon, Jim Baas, Rod Zeinstra David Carter, and Barbara Wrobleski. Mark Sisson, our Township Planner was present. Sixteen persons in the audience.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Chuck asked for approval of agenda. Motion made by Beverly to accept the agenda, seconded by Jim, all approved.

**5. Public Hearing**

Motion made by Jim to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Rod, all approved. Chairman Chuck called the public hearing to order, and read the rules for the public hearing. Secretary Barb read the public notice. Rod moved to include letters from property owners and concerned citizens; Kirk Scharphorn Jr. PCI Inspector and Dawn Wieck; seconded by Beverly; all approved. Mark asked that PCI Inspector make his comments about the kennel. Kirk said the dogs have been removed and the motor home was still there.

1. Dawn Wieck; commented that she got rid of the dogs and she had sent the insurance. She feels the dogs are not barking. She feels she has done everything, she was supposed to do. She did not lie. She made answers to Doug Fuss' Complaints. Her son has been picked on by the people living in the house. She feels she has done all she can. The Judge made a ruling on Friday to be evicted by due process.
2. Mark suggested that we should look at the facts about the special use permit if we reject or give the go ahead to the permit.
3. Open the Hearing to the Public:
  - Randy Clous, 448 Trowbridge St. Allegan; She explained that she is the owner of the RV that Dawn is using. And why she let Dawn use it.
  - Doug Fuss, 1881 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Allegan, He feels that Dawn has lied. He explained that Dawn applied to Yankee Springs and she knows the law. She did the same things she is doing here that she did in Yankee Springs. He feels that she can not give much to the community.
  - Elizabeth Clark, 7550 Louise Apt 130 Jenison. She got a dog from Dawn and is very pleased with it. The dog is two and one half years old and is a German Shepherd; there are others dogs in the area and the dog is very good with them, and never barks. She has no complaint with Dawn or with the dog.
  - Jake Ceplina, 1987 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Allegan, Question? Why won't the dogs chase deer and rabbits?
  - Dawn; No problem. The dogs are not allowed to bark and chase deer and rabbits. About Yankee Springs; she took her name off the agreement to purchase land. Because the owner removed his signature. She was told by Yankee Springs that they ran the Township like Grand Rapids.
  - Lori Boneer Explained what happened in Yankee Springs. Every dog was licensed.

- Also because they had more than three. They had nine adult and younger dogs.
- Rod; Question; Are these dogs for sale at anytime? Would this be a broker?
  - Dawn; No.
  - Doug Fuss; Explained that the Allegan Co. Handbook, explained about kennels and Dawn should know this.
  - Michael Carson, 390 137<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wayland; He does construction at the kennel and the dogs bark only about 30seconds when he drives in. Even when he uses power tools they don't bark. He walked a dog the other day and the dog saw a rabbit and just sat down.
  - Margo Wright, 1803 120<sup>th</sup>, Allegan Said that she was walking by the kennel and someone kept the dogs from barking and there was one in the yard ,so she didn't walk by. No one was there at the barn.
  - Tom Burneck, 1420 Hopkins A friend of family. Comment that he has never seen a dog loose and never heard them bark.
  - Taylor Wieck, 1871 120<sup>th</sup> Allegan Commented; There has never been a time when someone has not been in attendance-He say's that they do not leave the dogs alone-They are too valuable.
  - Karen Reed, 7550 Louise APT.130 Jenison commented; she has known Dawn and Lori a long time and gave them flying colors, about them and their dogs. The dogs are never left unattended; they are too valuable to be left alone.
  - Jake; Where does the caretaker stay?
  - Dawn; Only three at a time at the kennel.
  - Bob Wright, 1803 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Allegan; Comments; That Dawn lives in the shed now and the dogs still bark. Neighbors across the road says the dogs bark a lot. Bob and Margo just got back from camping for three weeks.
  - Tim Engel, 1920 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Allegan; missed other meeting-wanted to know what the dogs were being trained for? Folks can say many things. He was wondering if Dawn can guarantee kids won't get hurt when they are walking in the woods. Very concerned about safety.
  - Taylor Wieck; He has worked in dogs ten years; and has never had an aggressive dog in all that time. Their dogs have never been known to be aggressive.
  - Yvonne Engel, 1920 20<sup>th</sup> St. Allegan. Concerned about safety. She would rather not have the kennel here. Rod explained that we have a liability policy from Dawn. Also Dawn explained that she killed three dogs when they got aggressive.
  - Tim Engel, There is nothing to say 100% that nothing will happen. Taylor Wieck, Pledged that they will do everything in there power to keep the kennel and grounds safe.
  - Tim Engel, What rules were broken? Mark explained what happened.
  - Margo Wright; who's to tell me that a dog won't get loose and bite me?
  - Rod; No assurance.
  - Dawn wanted to make sure that the Planning Commission has the letter of July 29<sup>th</sup>, and that she was following the rules. As she interpreted them.

Jim made the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Beverly, all approved. Mark clarified; To the Planning Commission, is this site a good site for a Kennel? For the P.C. to think about. Does it fit in? Discussion.

Rod made a motion; I move that the Watson Township Planning Commission suspend the motion on June 25, 2008, public hearing granting Dawn Wieck a special use permit for

conducting a dog kennel business. This suspension includes the motion made and all the conditions set forth in the motion made in June meeting. This suspension be for the minimum of 30 days. I make this motion based on the reasons;

1. Dawn Wieck started the operation before the Special Use Permit took effect because not all the conditions of the Special Use motion had been met.
2. The assurance given by Dawn Wieck at the June meeting was to abide by the Special Use Permit conditions listed by the Watson Township Planning Commission motion it took a formal action by the Watson Township Board to remove the dogs and comply with the township ordinances.
3. Watson Township does not wish to grant a Special Use Permit for a dog kennel with the prospect of continually having to enforce the township ordinances and conditions set in any such Special Use Permit motion.
4. This suspension will allow the township to review the applicants request and the past few months' circumstances and the information provided to the township. Allow us to investigate the concerns of the long time township residences in the area. And allow the Planning Commission to review the conditions and terms of the Special Use Permit for a kennel to Dawn Wieck; Seconded by Jim; Vote Chuck yes, David yes, Jim yes, Beverly yes, Rod yes Barb yes.

Mark suggested having a visit to the kennel as a group. Discussion. Rod asked for a special fact finding meeting at 5:30pm at the kennel on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Back up date Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Beverly. All approved.

Jim made a motion to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. Seconded by Rod. All approved.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Chuck asked for approval of minutes. Jim made the motion to accept the motion with the correction of the July Meeting. On page 3 No. 4 it should say "No reason to trust." Seconded by Beverly; all approved.

**7. Public Comments & Communications concerning items not on the agenda:**

None

**8. New Business**

None

**9. Old Business**

1. Gravel Mine annual review

Beverly made a motion to table until next meeting; seconded by Jim, all approved. Mark will make a study for the Planning Commission for next month.

**10. Any other business/on going business**

None

**11. Adjourn meeting**

Jim made the motion to adjourn at 10:37pm; second by Beverly All approved.

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Barbara Wroblewski