

**Town of Pierceton**  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Pierceton Community Building  
April 24, 2023 @ 10:30 am

**Purpose of Meeting**

To discuss the possible variance that would allow chickens to be raised at the property owned by Pierceton Woods Academy.

**Present**

Council members Matt Brubaker and Janet Castle. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Town Marshal Jim Bumbaugh. Town Superintendent Casey Boggs.

**Discussion**

- Council & Town Staff Concerns and Comments
  - The Town Ordinance does not allow farm animals and Janet would rather not have any exceptions.
  - PWA would be under self-enforcement to abide by any restrictions set.
  - Council would not want to override the current ordinance in any way.
  - Residents in town would want chickens also. There is a rumor that a day care in town would like to have chickens.
  - Residents within town limits have privileges that residents outside town limits do not, such as water and sewer and a police presence.
  - Will the coop be covered and who will have access? Will students have access without supervision?
  - Marshal Jim Bumbaugh stated PPD is a small department and will not be animal control in the matter of chickens being owned by residents as a result of PWA receiving the variance. It needs to be made clear to town residents that they cannot have chickens in town. Regulating chickens in town could become a drain on the Police Department.
- Pierceton Woods Academy Comments-Matt Trier, Bob Jones and Tommy Boggs
  - The purpose of adding chickens at PWA is to teach students how to nurture a living thing and to learn how to work hard.
  - Coops will be enclosed.
  - Students will not be allowed to be in the coop without supervision. Coop will be locked with staff holding the key.
  - PWA is not currently requesting goats but will be in the future.
  - Policy regarding chickens can be inspected by DCS to ensure the police is being followed.

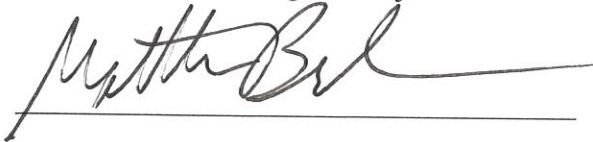
- Milford veterinarian, Tom Smith, has declared there will be no threat of disease.
- Any resident in the town limits would need to be rezoned as agriculture to receive a variance for chickens. PWA stated they are already zoned agriculture with no livestock.
- PWA stated they thought they would have approximately 100 chickens but agreed to reduce the number to 25 per the recommendation from Matt Brubaker.
- Town Attorney, Tammy Keirn
  - The Town Ordinance on farm animals would not be changed if the variance is granted.
  - The variance would be granted by the county on the advisement of the Pierceton Council. Tammy advised that the Town can be more restrictive than the county but not more lenient.
  - Tammy agreed with Marshal Bumbaugh that council needed to make perfectly clear in a public meeting that no chickens will be allowed on any property in the town limits.
  - Tammy inquired if roosters would be an issue and PWA verified only hens would be on the property.

**Other Business**

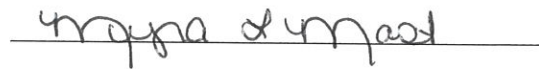
- A quote from Super Seal in the amount of \$7085 was approved for all parking areas on the town property to be paid for from water, sewer and either MVH or CEDIT funds.
- Casey will also be purchasing rubber parking curbs for the police station. A quantity of four will be purchased at \$100 per piece.
- A quote from Carpet Depot was approved to replace carpet at the Senior Center due to carpet that has pulled up, coming unglued and is now a trip hazard. The quote in the amount of \$7493.50 includes carpet, labor, removal of old carpet and the moving of furniture. This was approved to be paid for from the CEDIT fund.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm.



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer