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**VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE  
BOARD REPORT**

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**TO:** VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**FROM:** WALTER MAGDZIARZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
RENEE HANLON, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
**SUBJECT:** DISCUSSION: KEEPING OF RESIDENTIAL CHICKENS  
**AGENDA:** AUGUST 7, 2018 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
**DATE:** AUGUST 3, 2018

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**ISSUE**

Shall the Village Board discuss the one year evaluation of Residential Chicken Keeping Program.

**DISCUSSION**

On August 1, 2017, the Village Board passed Ordinance 2017-0801 which amended the Village Code to allow for residential chicken keeping within the Village. Recognizing that chicken keeping could have negative consequences, the Village Board decided to embark on a one (1) year pilot program to test the idea. The following are staff findings related to the chicken keeping program:

- Staff received several inquiries about chicken keeping; however, only one (1) application was filed with the Village. This application was on behalf of the chickens residing on Chatsworth Avenue whose existence initiated the complaint that initiated the establishment of the program.
- No formal or informal complaints about the chickens residing on Chatsworth Avenue have been received by staff.
- No formal or informal complaints about unregistered chickens residing in the Village have been received by staff.

The pilot program was initiated with the understanding that the Village Board would re-examine the issue in one (1) year. Upon evaluation, the Village Board may take one (1) of two (2) actions:

1. If the Board determines that chicken keeping has had no negative impact on the community, the Municipal Code may remain as is.
2. If the Board determines that chicken keeping has had a negative impact on the community, Ordinance 2017-0801 may be repealed.

Option 1: Permanently allowing residential chicken keeping.

No action is required. Staff would like to remind the Village Board that the current code allows for a maximum of eight (8) valid chicken keeping permits at any one time throughout the Village (Sugar Grove Municipal Code 5-4-14-F). If the Village Board determines that

there is no need for a limit on the number of chickens allowed within the Village, this section would need to be repealed. Due to the lack of participation in this initial pilot program, it is advisable to leave the permit limitation. If the practice becomes more popular and the limit is in place, we can prevent the Village being inundated with chickens.

Option 2: Prohibiting residential chicken keeping.

An ordinance which repeals Ordinance 2017-0801 would have to be prepared by staff. A public hearing before the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals would have to be noticed and held before the Village Board may consider the repealing ordinance. The chickens residing on Chatsworth Avenue would have to find a new home outside of the Village within six (6) months of the passage of the repealing ordinance.

## **COSTS**

Option 1 would result in no cost to the village.

Option 2 would result in a nominal cost. To revise the municipal code in order to repeal the residential chicken ordinance will require a text amendment to the Village of Sugar Grove Zoning Ordinance and the requisite notification costs.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Village Board leave the residential chicken program as is.