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To: Planning and Zoning Commission Members

From: Kenneth Garrett, Zoning Administrator

Date: May 21, 2026

RE: Text Amendment – Updating the existing hen ordinance that will allow a maximum of 10 hens.

Hearing Date: June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The current Hen ordinance was adopted on 12-13-2023 (attached). That ordinance limited the maximum number of hens to six. A request was made at a recent village board meeting to increase the number of Hens to ten. At the direction of the Village Board the Planning and Zoning Meeting is to consider a text amendment to increase the number of Hens.

In order to determine a base line of allowing more Hens on a property, I reached out Professor Luciano Alves De Oliveira of the University of Illinois's Agricultural Department for guidelines on this increase. This was very helpful in establishing a framework for the increase in Hens from a Coop size and a Run size.

The current ordinance requires 5 square feet per Hen for the Coop area. The Coop/Run cannot exceed 100 square feet.

Per the University of Illinois guidelines, the following criteria was recommended.

5 square feet per Hen for the Coop area.
10 square feet per Hen for the Run area.

Regardless of the number of Hens, the above criteria should be followed. This will require the size of the coops and runs to increase based on the guidelines. This will require a maximum Coop/Run size to be a maximum 150 square feet.

There are guidelines that had recommending between 3-4 square feet per Hen, provided there is a run offering at least 10 square feet per hen. The average of other sources recommended between 4 or 5 square feet per Hen. Those sources were from the University of Oregon and a referenced article on Poultry care. The guidelines in

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establishing a minimum of square feet was to avoid illnesses, stress and boredom, pecking of Hens and fighting. Essentially the more space the better.

Hen Coops/Runs can remain as is. In the event, an applicant wants to increase the number of Hens greater than 6, or greater than what is currently established the Coop/Run shall be increased in size per the recommended sizes. The existing and proposed code changes are attached for your review.

Recommendation:

I recommend establishing a minimum of 5 square feet per Hen per Coop Area and 10 Square Feet of Run per Hen for the Run Area.

Should you have any questions regarding this report feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Garrett
Zoning Administrator – Village of Poplar Grove