**November 21, 2019 Zoning Case: Z05-19**

**Dawn & Jack McDonough**

**1604 Saxonburg Blvd.**

**Tarentum, PA 15084**

**Attendees**: Scott Woloszyk, George Hollibaugh, Sean Parkinson and James Smullin

**Absent Member(s):** Joseph Gizienski and Neil Tristani

**Other Attendees:** William Payne, Code Enforcement Officer

 Branden Fulciniti, Solicitor

Variance: From requirements of Ordinance No. 394: Article V, Section 5.4

Property is zoned R-2 (Semi Suburban Residential)

**Case Z05-19**: *Represented by Dawn McDonough*

Zoning violation was issued at 1604 Saxonburg Blvd. for animal husbandry (raising of pig). Animal husbandry is not permitted in an R-2 zone. Owner classifying pig as an emotional support animal.

Mrs. McDonough stated that pig is an emotional support pig. It’s a mini Kune pig and not a barn animal. This animal has helped her with her depression issues, considered like a dog. Has researched surrounding districts and other townships/municipality recognize mini pigs as pets. Dexter, the pig, does not smell and is well taken care of. Dexter was 8 weeks old when the McDonough family adopted him, have had him for 2 years (15 to 20-year life expectancy). Front yard fenced. Dexter cannot get out of fence, always on lead with someone if out of area. He is mostly indoors, sleeps on couch, neutered and up to date on all vet shots. Manure compost is in backyard, use on garden beds and neighbors would take for their use also.

Mrs. McDonough used to have panic attacks before Dexter. Feels she is more social and interacts with others now and credits that to having Dexter. Emotional support is amazing, will nudge her when she needs support. He gets her “going” and is a constant companion. Would be devastated if she was not able to keep him.

Public comments: No negative comments from public

Public comments in favor:

* Andrea Martin, Pittsburgh Squealers Rescue: If Dexter has to be rehomed, it would be hard emotionally for both Dexter and Mrs. McDonough.
* Ivy Patterson, Indiana Township: Has 2 mini pigs. Feels they are loving and provide emotional support. Just like owning a dog. These pigs have no smell, get along with other pets, smart and good pets.
* Albert Muto, Mrs. McDonough’s father: Noticed a change in his daughter for the better and credits Dexter for her transformation. Not sure what would happen to his daughter if she is not able to keep Dexter.

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* Shelby, Mrs. McDonough’s daughter: “Dexter brought her mom back”. Her mom babysits for her two children and Dexter is wonderful with them.
* Miss Kaufman, Plum: Has 2 pigs. Feels they give more emotional support than dogs.
* Jack Robinson, Pittsburgh Squealers Rescue (Frazer Twp.): These animals are quiet, no noise, no smell. Clean as the environment that you keep them in.
* Dawn Bosser, Springdale: Her mom lives next door to the McDonough’s. When visiting her mom, her children play with Dexter as if he was a dog. Even though her mom lives next door to Dexter you don’t even know he is there.

Mrs. McDonough stated that she would do whatever she has to in order to be permitted to keep Dexter. Would like for the Township to recognize mini Kune pigs as pets.

After a brief recess, the Zoning Hearing Board **OVERTURNED** the zoning violation for Mrs. McDonough to be allowed to keep the emotional support pig with conditions.. First motion by Mr. Smullen and second motion by Mr. Parkinson. Conditions are:

1. Manure shall not be stored within 15 feet of the property line.
2. All manure shall be stored in a manner that does not create a nuisance by reason of odors or pest vector attraction.
3. Fencing for Dexter must be properly maintained to prevent him from roaming.
4. The residence must be properly maintained to prevent the pig from roaming freely on the property.
5. The pig shall not travel beyond the property line unless leashed and accompanied by a person capable of properly controlling him.
6. All animal feed must be stored in a manner that does not create pest vector attraction.
7. All fences or structures that currently do not have permits must obtain permits.
8. Annual veterinary visits must occur to ensure proper rabies and vaccinations as well as deworming protocol.
9. Ruling is only valid for Dexter.
10. Ruling can be terminated if the Code Enforcement Officer finds violations that are not corrected within 30 days of violation notice. A violation of stated conditions shall also be deemed a violation of West Deer Township’s Zoning Ordinance.

Voting was unanimous.