

Tempers flare over barking dogs; fire services study conducted

BY DIANE NELSON

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Tempers flared Tuesday night as the Clifton Town Board addressed the complaints by neighbors leveled against Luann Skilling, 754th Ave., Prescott, for noncompliance with the local kennel ordinance.

Originally, Skilling had 12 dogs and could not obtain the required kennel license for that number of animals. As a result, she was previously instructed by the Town Board to reduce the number of dogs to five in order to be in compliance.

"They make no effort to control the beasts," said Richard Sanders, N753 County Road QQ, Prescott, of

the remaining nine dogs. "It's very simple: Teach your dogs what to do, take care of them, make them mind. I don't care if you have 25 dogs, I really don't care as long as they don't disturb our lives. I'm paying \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year for my taxes and your dogs are destroying my life with their barking."

While dog owner Luann Skilling was not present at the board meeting, her son Pvt. First Class Skilling was there to speak to the board. Neighbors discussed the issues while Skilling sat quietly and listened. After about five minutes he addressed the accusations.

"We are working on the situation. I am sorry that I don't go out there and kill all

those dogs . . . I sat here and listened to you bad mouth me, my family and my pets," said Skilling as he urged the board to grant him more time to bring the number of animals into compliance.

Nearby neighbor Mary Gribble said, "My concern is that we turn our air on maybe one week. Spring is coming and there is no way we are going to be able to sleep (with the dogs barking). Whenever I'm outside I hear them."

"I will live out there for two weeks straight. I will take a video camera and voice recorder to attest that those dogs are not barking. I will spend my waking hours trying to keep those dogs quiet for you, but I will not . . . I will

not put any of those dogs down," said Skilling.

Sanders and Gribble agreed that they were not suggesting that any of the animals be "put down."

Skilling asked the board to grant him additional time to repair a shed to contain the dogs and to reduce the number of animals.

Board Chair Leroy Peterson granted the Skillings 30 days to bring the number of animals into compliance.

The board was reluctant to say what type of fine will be imposed if the Skillings do not meet the requirements.

CEDAR CORPORATION

TO STUDY FIRE SERVICES

Representatives from Cedar Corporation met with

board members to discuss their plan to study the fire services in River Falls and a portion of the town of Clifton.

Mike Moody, assistant fire chief explained, "The city of River Falls is taking this study on because station locations and a lot of other things affect the ISO (Insurance Services Office) ratings. The ISO rating is what your insurance company uses to determine what your premium rate is going to be."

The ISO evaluates and rates the fire protection provided in communities. The factors used to determine them are the water supply, equipment, personnel, alarm and dispatch and training.

Cedar Corporation will

conduct the study in phases. The first phase will occur over a six month period in which it will gather and interpret existing information and move forward from there.

IN OTHER ACTIONS:

Mike Most of Pierce Pepin sought a blanket permit from the town of Clifton to trim trees in an effort to clear lines. Most will hold off until the permit has been approved.

The board heard discussion with regard to sweeping in Cedar St. Croix. Gregg Eggers, board supervisor said, "The board would approve it if the association pays for it."

No decision has been made to move forward at this time.