

## Additional Emails for the August 1, 2026 Public Hearing

**From:** Gerard DeVito <Gerardwdevito@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2026 1:49 PM  
**To:** Karan Brozovich <blplan@bluelaketwpkalkaska.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] August 1st Planning Commission meeting

Blue Lake Township Planning Commission,

We are property owners on Starvation Lake and are providing this feedback based on the meeting notice sent earlier this month. We were surprised to learn that there were acreage restrictions in the township for persons who keep small flocks of chickens. We chose this area specifically for its rural nature. There are many rural communities in Michigan that allow chicken ownership. Additionally, egg prices have doubled since avian flu and government free range chicken requirements restricted the number of egg laying chickens in Michigan. Access to locally grown, cheaper, healthier eggs is a benefit to the community. Furthermore, chickens help control ticks and other disease carrying insects with their foraging.

For the foregoing reasons, we strongly believe that a less restrictive chicken policy would benefit the community, and we support adopting the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns about the proposed change in township regulations.

Vicky and Gerard DeVito

10747 Jack Pine Dr. NE

Mancelona, Michigan 49080

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**From:** bighep <bighep@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2026 11:34 PM  
**To:** Karan Brozovich <blplan@bluelaketwpkalkaska.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Aug 1 planning meeting, Support of Proposed Ordinance Changes – Backyard Poultry (Section 3.03)

Dear Members of the Blue Lake Township Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to Section 3.03 (Animals) of the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the keeping of chickens for personal use.

The outlined proposal balances residential flexibility with neighborly consideration. In particular, I strongly support the following elements of the draft:

Exemption from the 75-Foot Setback Rule: Excluding personal-use poultry and their waste management from the 75-foot neighboring structure setback makes keeping a small family flock practical for standard residential lot layouts.

Prohibition of Roosters in Residential Districts: Restricting roosters to parcels greater than 15 acres effectively eliminates early morning noise concerns in Residential, Lakeshore Residential, Commercial, and Rural zones.

No Minimum Lot Size for Personal Use: Allowing personal-use poultry across districts without a minimum lot size requirement ensures that all township residents—regardless of property size—have the opportunity to produce their own fresh eggs and practice sustainable living.

Clear Protections Against Nuisances: Requiring poultry management to align with Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practice Standards (GAAMPS) ensures that coops and runs will be kept clean, well-maintained, and responsible.

Allowing residents to keep a modest number of hens of which supports local food security, encourages natural waste reduction through composting kitchen scraps, and aids in chemical-free pest control. The proposed regulations offer a common-sense approach that protects property values and peace of mind while granting residents greater self-reliance.

Thank you for your hard work and thoughtful approach to updating Blue Lake Township's ordinances. I urge the commission to move forward with approving these proposed changes to Section 3.03.

Sincerely,

Jason Hepner

10677 Jack Pine Dr NE

From: **Ned Milana** <[nedm2000@outlook.com](mailto:nedm2000@outlook.com)>

Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2026, 2:25 PM

Subject: starvation lake chickens

To: Robert VanVynckt <[bobvanvynckt@gmail.com](mailto:bobvanvynckt@gmail.com)>

Hi Bob,

Regarding chickens in our community, I am in full support of having free range chickens and feel they should be allowed.

Roosters, on the other hand would be disruptive and I would not agree with

Chickens have lots of benefits like tick and other insect control, fresh eggs in the neighborhood, providing a nice country feel to our community.

Your chickens and facilities are clean and well maintained which helps a lot as well

Best Regards,

Your neighbor

Ned Milana

10693 Jackpine Drive

Mancelona, Michigan