



DEPARTMENT OF  
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TO: Appleton Board of Health

From: ACA Zak Buruin

Date: April 13, 2026

RE: 26-0327; Dangerous Animal Declaration, Chief and Cello – Update #2

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This memo is intended to provide the Board with an update regarding the status of the action item listed above. To summarize, the item is now moot.

Efforts by the animals' owners and by city staff to work collaboratively to address the safety concerns at issue in this situation have proven unsuccessful. I should note that this does not appear to be the result of any bad faith or lack of urgency by anybody involved. Consequently, the animals' owners made the extremely difficult decision to have the animals humanely euthanized.

Because there is no additional action that could bring about additional compliance with the requirements of local code or other applicable laws, I have advised the appellants that the municipal citations associated with the inciting incident would be dismissed. I have filed a motion to dismiss the citations, and those motions have been granted by the court.

I further advised the appellants that I would share this information with this Board.

Additionally, I commended them on their serious approach to this situation from the start, and for their clear appreciation for the safety issues involved. I know that this is often not the case. I did not want the appreciation of their efforts to do the best they could for everybody under the circumstances to get ignored because the outcome was not what was hoped for.

Finally, I expressed my condolences to them for the loss of their beloved family pets. Such a loss is difficult regardless of circumstances, and it is safe to say that these are not the easiest of circumstances in which to deal with such a loss.

Substantively, the dangerous animal declaration, as well as the appeal of the same, are now moot. This action item can be resolved in any procedurally appropriate manner without the necessity for substantive action.