
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Wall, Supervisor
Kim Markee, Clerk
Margaret Birch, Treasurer
Anthony Bartolotta, Trustee
Karen Joliat, Trustee
Steven Thomas, Trustee
Arthur Frasca, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Travis Haines
James Scott
Josh Bowren
Jessica Bourdon

Brian Henn
Elizabeth Henn
Gary Dovre
David Baetens

Mike Hauswirth
Nate Dawg
Mark Monohon

The meeting started at 1:00 p.m. using GoToMeeting due to COVID-19 in accordance with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-48 and the social distancing requirements with Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-59.

A discussion opened about marijuana (marihuana) and the impact it could possibly have on Waterford Township. Two ordinances were used to reference, one from Orion Township and one from the City of Southfield. Board members reviewed these ordinances and provided input for changes. Orion's ordinance was written for a specific area off Brown Rd. We will remove "recreational" from Orion's ordinance because Attorney Dovre said it was confusing to have a combined ordinance. Waterford Township opted out of recreational marijuana last year, so this discussion focused on medical marijuana.

Supervisor Wall suggested we go around to each Board member and get a poll as to what we want for the five different licenses that can be issued under the MMFLA. Those included the following:

Growers – means a licensee that is a commercial entity located in this state that cultivates, dries, trims, or cures and packages marihuana for sale to a processor or provisioning center. Growers can be categorized by A.- 500 plants, B.- 1,000 plants, and C.-1,500 plants. All Board members agreed to allow Growers in the Township, however, details were not agreed upon such as the number of plants and location allowed for Growers.

Processor – means a licensee that is a commercial entity located in this state that purchases marihuana from a grower and that extracts resin from the marihuana or creates a marihuana-infused product for sale and transfer in packaged form to a provisioning center. All Board members agreed to allow Processors in the Township, however, details were not agreed upon such as location.

Secure Transporter – means a licensee that is a commercial entity located in this state that stores marihuana and transports marihuana between marihuana facilities for a fee. The Board discussed the different kinds of transporters, and with consensus agreed Uber, Lyft or any personal transportation would be prohibited. All Board members agreed to approve Secure Transporters to operate within the Township, and details were discussed such as locations and driver requirements, including the security of the transportation. Details were not finalized.

Safety Compliance Facility – means a licensee that is a commercial entity that receives marihuana from a marihuana facility or registered primary caregiver, tests it for contaminants and for tetrahydrocannabinol and other cannabinoids, returns the test results, and may return the marihuana to the marihuana facility. All Board members agreed to allow Safety Compliance Facilities to operate in the Township. Details were not finalized.

Provisioning Centers – means a licensee that is a commercial entity located in this state that purchases marihuana from a grower or processor and sells, supplies, or provides marihuana to registered qualifying patients, directly or through the patients' registered primary caregivers. Provisioning center includes any commercial property where marihuana is sold at retail to registered qualifying patients or registered primary caregivers. A noncommercial location used by a primary caregiver to assist a qualifying patient connected to the caregiver through the department's marihuana registration process in accordance with the Michigan medical marihuana act is not a provisioning center for purposes of this act. Six Board members agreed to allow Provisioning Centers, with Trustee Joliat against allowing Provisioning Centers in the Township. Trustee Joliat mentioned we need to be concerned with the residents of our Township.

The Board agreed to remove items 5, 6, and 8 from Article VI of the Orion Ordinance. Also, odor filtration was mentioned as a possible requirement to avoid bad smells to our Township. Supervisor Wall mentioned our wellheads need to be protected. Attorney Dovre informed the Board the Michigan Supreme Court said that a municipality could use its zoning ordinances to control environmental concerns of the Township just last week therefore Scott Alef's previous information was denounced by Michigan's Supreme Court updated information. The last thing we want are problems and Supervisor Wall stated anybody that plans to do a facility, will feel the same way, and most likely do a top-notch job.

Trustee Joliat wants a minimum of 1,000 feet from child daycare centers and schools, and several members agreed. Supervisor Wall wants a larger distance for children than for areas for adults. Waterford is mostly residential and it will be difficult to locate a facility 1,000 feet or more. All Board members were concerned with foul odors that would impact the residents.

Trustee Bartolotta and Trustee Thomas mentioned the old Pontiac drive in would be a good area. Possibly, it could be a one-stop shop. The Board agreed to look at different distances for zoning purposes and locations, and would like to see additional maps. Clerk Markee showed the 750' map, and the Board would like to see 1,000' and 1,500'. The map shown was unapproved and was for reference only.

Clerk Markee was concerned of the amount of work this will bring to the Clerk's Office if the Clerk's Office has to review and respond to the applicants since there are two elections coming up this fall, and asked when do we plan to implement this ordinance and Supervisor Wall suggested January 1, 2021. Trustee Joliat thought we would have a commission similar to the Trash Hauler ordinance that would be independently assigned to review the applications.

Clerk Markee mentioned signs, hours of operations, prohibiting drive through facilities, security, and lighting were more items to discuss. Attorney Dovre said he will provide more information to the Board members by emailing it in the next day or so. He will plan to have the draft ordinance information to the Board on Friday, May 22, 2020.

Clerk Markee read some public comments. Mike Hauswirth commended the Board for working on this. Keep in mind the commerce that will be generated. It is not an easy topic.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Kim Markee, Clerk

Gary Wall, Supervisor