WORK SESSION MINUTES

Attendees: Gary Wall, Kim Markee, Margaret Birch, Tony Bartolotta, Art Frasca, Steve Thomas, Scott Underwood, John Lyman, Matt Covey, Larry Lockwood

Absent: Karen Joliat

Others: Mark Herne (set up a camera)

The meeting started at 4:35 p.m.

Summary of the meeting minutes is below.

- Scott Underwood provided handouts for Marijuana information, and he said there was nothing good about allowing Marijuana in our community. He is reaching out to a State Senator as to what are the legal requirements for the Township to Opt in or Opt out, and hopes to share the reply with us by the end of the week. Matt thinks Pontiac is allowed 20 facilities. Underwood thinks there would be more crime if allowed. Every addict has said to Scott they started off smoking marijuana.
  - Potential employees are difficult to find and hire because they can’t pass the drug test due to marijuana staying in a person’s body for up to 30 days.
  - There is 70% of overproduction in states like California and they are having to send it this way to sell it.
  - There is also a decline in legal marijuana sales because people are using the black market more for less expensive or possibly easier to get.

- Larry Lockwood mentioned we are a “one stop ready community” however, when MDOT gets involved it turns into a longer process and more requirements are added. Sometimes those requirements are very expensive and we’ve seen businesses stop their plans and go elsewhere to other communities such as Culvers did. It was mentioned to get Ruth Johnson and Andrea Schroeder here to get them to talk to MDOT regarding our concerns with their over-excessive requirements causing businesses to not develop in Waterford. Tony was going to reach out to them.

Meeting was adjourned 5:45 p.m.