
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Wall, Supervisor
Kim Markee, Clerk
Steve Thomas, Treasurer
Anthony Bartolotta, Trustee
Marie Hauswirth, Trustee
Janet Matsura, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Monohon, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Phil Karmo	Justin Dunaskiss	Joellen Shortley
David George	Daryl Reppuhn	Jeff Schroeder

Agenda included:

1. Marijuana Adult Use Recreation
2. Opportunity for Trustees to Discuss Topics of Concern
3. Public Comments

Supervisor Wall led the Pledge of Allegiance and started the meeting by asking Trustee Matsura what her thoughts were on recreational marijuana. Trustee Matsura said it would have to go to the Board for a vote. She also said, it does not sound like marijuana is good for our residents, and Clerk Markee referred to the informational email that she sent on 4-12-22, which had many facts from States that allow recreational marijuana. Those facts are below:

- In Colorado, the crime rate increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation since legalization of recreational marijuana – we will need more police officers – which will cost more money to the Township.
- In Colorado, the number of intoxicated with marijuana and involved fatal traffic crashes increased 88% - again more police officers will be required.
- The commonly conceived “Woodstock Weed” has a THC concentration level of 1-3%, and today’s average weed contains around 17.1% THC. Concentrates and edibles are more potent containing on average 55.7% of THC. The strength of the THC has increased over 14% since 1969.
- Marijuana use can have severe consequences for mental health, and is increasingly linked to the onset of psychosis and schizophrenia.
- Suicides among young people aged 15 to 19 years old where marijuana was present according to toxicology reports increased 19.4%.
- The University of Michigan’s Monitoring the Future survey, near daily use of marijuana dramatically increased from 2018 to 2019 with 6.4% of 12th graders, 4.8% of 10th graders and 1.3% of 8th graders reported near daily usage, which was an 85.7% increase from 2018 to 2019.
- Edibles are beautiful to look at, making them enticing to eat among young people. Some eat brownies laced with Marijuana not even knowing there is marijuana in them.
- In Anchorage, school suspensions for marijuana use and possession increased more than 141%.
- In Colorado, calls to the poison control centers have risen by 210% between the four-year averages before and after recreational legalization.
- In Washington, the calls increased 70% to poison control centers.
- Marijuana hospitalizations increased since the legalization of it; in Colorado – 101% Increase; in Alaska – 45% increase.

- Central Oregon hospitals saw nearly a 2,000% increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana poisoning.
- According to SAM, indoor cultivation of one kilogram of marijuana requires 5.2-megawatt hours of electricity and releases 4.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which equates to one passenger car in one year. Toxic fertilizers are also harming our environment.
- AAA – Triple AAA insurance opposes the legalization of marijuana recreational use because of its inherent traffic safety risks and because of the difficulties in writing legislation that protects the public and treats drivers fairly.
- If you would like to fact check the above information, please visit: [Smart Approaches to Marijuana – Smart Approaches to Marijuana \(learnaboutsam.org\)](http://learnaboutsam.org).

The information below was provided by Chief Underwood that was shared to all Trustees:

Medical Marijuana Law Discussion

Current Michigan law relating to medical marijuana provides for **Qualifying Patients** and **Primary Caregivers** to grow, cultivate, sell, and possess marijuana and marijuana infused product with restrictions.

Qualifying Patients may possess:

2.5 ounces of usable marijuana
 12 marijuana plants
 Shall have been diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating condition

Primary Caregiver:

2.5 ounces of usable marijuana for each qualifying patient he/she is connected to, up to five (5) patients
 12 marijuana plants for each qualifying patient
 21 years of age, no felony convictions in the last ten (10) years, no felony convictions involving illegal drugs or assaultive crimes

The most recent legislation, effective as of December 20, 2017 has expanded the current medical marijuana law. Public acts 281, 282, and 283 allow increased growing, wider distribution, and actual retail locations to sell marijuana to qualifying patients. The distribution chain is basically that of manufacturer, distributor, and retailer. Separate license distinctions are described below:

Grower: A commercial grower licensed to cultivate, dry, trim or cure, and package marijuana to a licensed processor. Growers are separated by class based on the number of plants they are permitted to grow; Class A – 500, Class B – 1000, Class C – 1500.

Processor: Buys marijuana from a licensed grower and sells to a provisioning center.

Provisioning Center: Authorized by license to purchase and transfer (sell) marijuana from a licensed grower or processor to a registered qualifying patient.

Secure Transporter: Authorized by license to store and transport marijuana between licensed facilities upon request by a person who has legal custody of that marijuana.

Safety Compliance Facility: Licensed to test and certify that marijuana is reasonably free of chemical residues.

One could be vertically licensed under this act. Meaning, one person could be a grower, processor, and provisioning center at the same time. However, secure transporters and safety

compliance facilities must be licensed and act independently.

In order to allow any of the above five licensed facilities in the Township, the board would be required to adopt an ordinance authorizing any such facility to do so. It's important to note the board is not required to adopt any such ordinance. If no ordinance is adopted, none of these facilities would be able to locate in the Township.

If the Township chooses to adopt an ordinance authorizing any or all of these facilities, it could contain specific requirements with respect to zoning restrictions, licensing fees up to \$5000, and limiting the number of facilities allowed to locate in the Township.

Potential Revenue

The state will establish a Medical Marijuana Excise Fund mainly funded by a three percent (3%) tax on all **provisioning centers** gross retail income. There is no mention of any tax on the other four licensees identified in the distribution chain. Seventy five percent (75%) of revenue from the excise fund is to be distributed to counties, county sheriff's, the State of Michigan, Michigan State Police, and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards. The remaining twenty five percent (25%) of revenue is to be distributed to municipalities in which these facilities are located, allocated in proportion to the number of facilities within the municipality.

Benefit v Risk

The debate about legalization of medical marijuana and so-called recreational use of marijuana is not new. Those in favor of medical marijuana are strong in their belief and passionate in their argument. They assert that marijuana can be helpful to people diagnosed with illness in the following areas: (see attachment)

Neurological
Pain/Sleep
Mood/Behavior
Gastro-Intestinal
Cancer/HIV-AIDS/Fatigue/other

The police department takes no position on the merits of marijuana use for medical purposes. We have no expertise in medical research or development of drugs and their medical uses. We believe, in considering whether to adopt an ordinance authorizing these facilities to operate in our community, the board must weigh the risk against any benefit or perceived benefit.

The only benefit or perceived benefit that we see is financial. The Township could generate fees related to licensing, inspection, and compliance. In addition, we recognize there is the potential to generate additional revenue by adding businesses to the tax roll. However, how many businesses will opt to locate in another community if marijuana facilities are permitted in Waterford Township. There is also revenue generated within the marijuana excise fund, of which a portion will be distributed to municipalities. As stated above, this is a three percent (3%) tax of gross retail sales of provisioning centers, with no mention of any taxes or distribution from the other four licensees. In addition, these funds will be allocated in proportion to the number of facilities within the township.

Those who oppose the medical marijuana and recreational use movement point to a number of factors. Specifically:

Increased exposure and availability to children and others who
Thirty percent (30%) of users may have a marijuana use disorder
The connection between marijuana use and psychiatric disorders
Marijuana use leading to the use of other illicit drugs
Risk of throat and lung cancer as well as other lung health problems

From a law enforcement perspective, we have several concerns.

1. The potential for an increased risk of larcenys, burglaries, and other related crimes in and around these facilities.
2. An increase in drug possession and sales of other illicit drugs in and around these facilities
3. Potential to attract a criminal element from outside of our community that may have otherwise not come to Waterford Township. (As far back as 2012 the US DOJ indicated that half of all prisoners were drug abusers or drug dependent.)
4. The increased cost in terms of personnel and time to properly police all issues associated with these facilities, including enforcement and compliance.
5. Increase in people operating motor vehicles under the influence of marijuana and other drugs.
6. The perception of Waterford Township and potential damage to the image of our community.
7. Manufacturing, possessing, and delivering marijuana is still against federal law. The federal government has taken no action to change this and there is no real indication of what they'll do in the future.

Clerk Markee said, "so in answer to Trustee Matsura's resident concerns, there are some issues that are very concerning."

Trustee Bartolotta said he was in favor of recreational marijuana, and was concerned about the facts that Clerk Markee talked about above. Clerk Markee asked Trustee Bartolotta to bring facts to the table in favor of recreational marijuana.

Treasurer Thomas said he is concerned that we approved six medical facilities and we do not have any that are opened yet. Let's get the ones we previously approved for medical up and running before we start anything for recreational.

Trustee Hauswirth also said let's wait and see how the current medical marijuana facilities do before we consider recreational.

Chief Underwood also mentioned it would be a good idea to wait and see how the current medical facilities go before allowing recreational.

Supervisor Wall said, "The reason we are having this meeting is because we received a letter from the current approved six medical facilities requesting us to consider recreational and he thought it would be good for us to meet since we received this letter from them". He is also looking forward to his 50-year class reunion to ask his fellow classmates about the differences of the marijuana a long time ago to the current marijuana. In the past, there were many seeds and it was the Mexico marijuana. Now people can purchase it safely in their local community. Although the "black market" is still alive.

Trustee Hauswirth said we should bring in an expert to discuss recreational, before making a final decision. It would be part of our research and discovery to understand the impact to our community.

Chief Underwood said we should also look and think about what we want our community to be and become. What type of community do you want to have?

Clerk Markee mentioned if we do recreational, most likely we would need to hire additional people, one for the Clerk's Office and three police officers, and on average municipalities only get back about \$28,000 per recreational facility, therefore this may not be enough to pay for the additional people that would possibly be required.

David George said their facility has been delayed due to COVID.

Phil Karmo said that there has not be any theft in the facilities that he has visited. If we do not offer it here, residents will go elsewhere and get it.

Justin Dunaskiss said residents want adult use marijuana like the ones in Burton, Bay City, Davison, Lapeer, Madison Heights, and Lennox. Regulated stores gives more control on the product. The inventories would be kept separate for medical and recreational.

Jeff Schroeder, Bloomfield Township Attorney, said after COVID the medical marijuana business tanked. There are over 80% of the medical marijuana users that are not renewing their medical cards because they can buy it from an adult use facility without a card. He thinks, on average, each facility brings in around \$56,000 to the community. Assessor fees would increase the value of the buildings therefore the taxes would increase. Clerk Markee mentioned it is still illegal under Federal Law. Mr. Schroeder also said that some of the biggest issues are with the employees working at the stores where he has heard that sometimes theft occurs. If that is the case, this needs to be reported to the local and state police as soon as possible to protect the owner of the marijuana facility.

Trustee Bartolotta said, let's just let them have recreational. It would be helping the local businesses.

Chief Underwood said he was not concerned about the marijuana facilities having a security problem, because they are secured with an on-site security guard and cameras. He was more concerned with the area crime and traffic / collisions increasing.

Clerk Markee said she talked with Ann Arbor and they have no restrictions on the number of facilities they can have. Joellen Shortley, Township Attorney said Ann Arbor allows both medical and recreational.

Daryl Reppuhn, resident, said Waterford voters voted 67% in favor of marijuana being allowed in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.