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.

Attorney Dovre opened the meeting with reviewing the draft medical marijuana ordinance. Most Department Heads were satisfied with the ordinance except the Fire Department informed him of the new National Fire Protection Association devoting a whole chapter to addressing concerns and issues with medical marijuana facilities/ licenses.

Kristin Goetze, DPW made some suggested improvements relating to sewer discharge, run off and water requirements to the draft ordinance and Attorney Dovre will make the corrections accordingly. Kristin wondered about the noise associated with these facilities, and Attorney Dovre said we have another ordinance in place where noise is addressed, therefore the medical marijuana facilities would have to abide by our current allowed noise decibel specifications.

Trustee Joliat was concerned about the five lane buffer and how that could become a problem with future residents. Clerk Markee was also concerned and asked why do we want to include the five-lane buffer and Supervisor Wall said, because Waterford is mostly residential, and there are very few locations that would qualify if the five-lane buffer was not included.

Attorney Dovre briefly reviewed the zoning ordinance applicable with the medical marijuana for caretakers. Trustee Bartolotta was concerned about allowing caretakers to grow in apartments, and according to Attorney Dovre, there is no state law addressing this issue. Clerk Markee also stated we can’t assume the rental agreement states, “Marijuana or growing of marijuana is NOT allowed”. We want to discourage caretakers growing marijuana in attached housing or any residential housing. If we were challenged, we would point to the nuisance factors affecting the residential area. Attorney Dovre says, “Reasonable zoning regulations could be upheld.”

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.