

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Margaret Birch, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Alef, Planning
Larry Lockwood, Planning
Rob Merinsky, Planning
Scott Underwood, Chief of Police

Supervisor Wall called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Several Board Members including Chief Underwood toured a Medical Marijuana Provisionary Center (LIV) in Ferndale, and were impressed with their secure, and professional operation.

Even though Chief Underwood was impressed with the facility, he is still against approving marijuana in the Township due to the stress it brings to the community. Chief reviewed information previously sent to the Trustees regarding medical marijuana stating the revenue is extremely small compared to the costs involved to enforce marijuana laws or ordinances. If marijuana usage increases, emergency room visits go up, vehicle crashes go up, minority arrests go up, and the black market thrives because users will reach out to the black market because the cost is less. Impaired driving is difficult to prove with marijuana. Additional training would be required of police officers, and additional police officers would be needed. There are apps (Weedfinder) that charge \$2000 per month for the marijuana centers to advertise.

Trustee Frasca and Clerk Markee were concerned that 66% of Waterford voters that voted "yes" for marijuana, how much information did they have prior to making their vote. When they cast their vote, did they know the growers, and marijuana businesses would want to establish grow operations and provisionary centers in their community? Or did the voters only vote to allow people who need medical marijuana to be able to use it legally? What did the voters really vote for when they voted? If the voters voted to allow the residents the medical usage of marijuana, the residents can purchase marijuana in a close neighboring community that has provisionary centers already such as Walled Lake and Pontiac which are very close to Waterford. The law also allows for the delivery of medical marijuana.

The Planning Department mentioned code enforcement would become busier with enforcing any applicable codes if an ordinance was implemented. There would be concerns with grow operations polluting the environment with herbicides and pesticides trickling into Waterford's abundance of streams and lakes that our residents enjoy. The added businesses could pose issues with being able to meet the infrastructure needs such as road traffic and water and sewer services.

Many Board Members feel if the usage of marijuana increased in the community, it would cost more money for the taxpayers to support more police officers, code enforcers, and infrastructure demands making it a negative financial impact to the residents. When 66% of the residents voted "yes" for marijuana did they know more of their tax dollars would be required to support the legalization of marijuana?

Trustee Joliet pointed out we do not have enough information to write an ordinance, but thought the Orion Township's ordinance (provided by Clerk Markee) was well written.

Supervisor Wall will contact an attorney that is well versed in the marijuana laws and provide additional information at our next working meeting. If an ordinance is written, we would want it to reduce potential lawsuits.

If proponents of marijuana want to address the Board, they should address the Board during the public board meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Wall passed around a letter issued to residents from DPW, explaining DPW has the right to enter their premises when there is a concern regarding water leaks and meter failures. The resident is given 30 days to contact DPW to set up a time, after that DPW employees will knock on the resident's door on two additional dates, and hang a door card each time. If there is still no response, the water will be turned off. The letter was considered rude by a resident, and the letter will be revised slightly to remove some of the bold lettering.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Kim Markee, Clerk

Gary Wall, Supervisor