

# Galien Township Planning Commission Public Hearing Minutes

## April 3, 2017 6:30pm @ Galien Township Office

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Chairperson Liz James

Roll Call: Present- C. Lorance, C. Carr, J. Richter, E. James. Absent – K. Schmitz

L. James read the new Public Hearing Policy to all attendees. (See attached)

### Public Comments

#### Opposed to:

Mike Sepic: Mike stated that there are no dosage limitations set by the new laws so a patient could visit the dispensary every day and get up to 2 ½ oz. of medical marijuana (MM) which will make more available for illegal sale. He also mentioned that the majority of card holders have chronic back pain and are abusers of the drug. He also feels that allowing these types of businesses will have an impact on many teens making MM look more acceptable. Mr. Sepic also stated that the \$5000 fee will be closely monitored by LARA and will only be allowed to be used for certain things. He also stated that there have been several auto accidents involving THC.

Donna Potter: Mrs. Potter stated that MM raises your heart rate, increases your BP and can cause heart attacks and it has very adverse effects on a user's health. It can also alter moods and brain development. Smoking MM while pregnant can affect the fetus' brain development. She also mentioned that it can cause short term memory loss and poor mental and physical health. She questioned how these businesses would be tracked and how we would know if all the MM would actually be used for medical purposes.

Ina Carr: Ina is concerned about the health and welfare of everyone in the township if these businesses come. She also doesn't feel that we should be putting a price on the community. She also stated that MM is a gateway drug and is very concerned for our youth.

Chris Schau: Wondered why Galien Township is considering this if Buchanan and Niles already voted yes? He also asked if the residents would have a vote on the subject.

Sheriff Bailey: Sherriff Bailey stated that he would like to ask the PC to vote NO.

Jared Greulich: Asked the PC to remember that this is a farming community. He also stated that he wants to be sure that everyone gets to state their opinion on this. He felt we needed to do a better job publicizing the meetings. He is also concerned with enforcing rules and these businesses bringing crime to the area as well as falling home values and decreased tax revenues.

Barb Truman: Feels these businesses are bringing their garbage to the community.

Michelle Lozmack: Has lived here for 44 years. She hopes that we will get everyone's opinion and feels that we need to find a way to reach more people.

Cliff Radtke: Stated that small communities are the backbone of this country.

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Chris Palmer: Agrees with everything that has been said by the other people opposing the ordinance change. She feels s that Galien is being targeted because of low land prices. She wants the board and the PC to do more research.

In Favor Of:

Samantha McWiggin: Feels that MM businesses are important and a good thing. MM helps people with seizures, anorexia and other medical conditions.

Jeff McWiggins: Jeff stated that everyone will have extensive background checks before being allowed to operate or work in one of these businesses. He also mentioned that everything will be tracked and monitored by the State.

Jeffrey Hank: Stated that there are ZERO MM related deaths while 88,000 die from alcohol use each year. He also mentioned that the tax revenues will go to the township as well as the county to help with police protection. Crime can be kept down with extra security and patrols. Jeffrey also mentioned that he doesn't feel someone who is suffering from an illness should have to buy their MM on a street corner.

Steve Rochman: Can't see how overlooking this opportunity could happen. We have nothing in the township and feels this will bring jobs and good opportunities. He also mentioned that he doesn't understand all the apprehension to this proposal.

Joni Rochman: Is in favor of this. She has a muscle disease and has to take 20+ pills a day to survive. She would like the opportunity to have access to MM and live a productive life. She doesn't feel MM is a gateway drug.

Shirley: Her mom asked her to attend because she is in support of this. She needs access to the MM oils that could be produced here. Her mother has been a drug and alcohol counselor her entire life and would like the chance to work at one of these facilities. She sees this as an opportunity for the township.

Josh Alper: Is a development consultant and has been working and has experience with the state laws that have been in place since 2008. He thinks people should look at this like a manufacturing business. Thinks this is a significant business opportunity for the township.

Michael Slaboch: Asked about where we would be allowing the grow facilities? In residential or industrial areas? He also said he is interested in hearing our intent and is very open to learning more about the subject. Michael also said he knows the stigma is bad but feels that a lot of positives come from MM.

Carie O'Donnell: She has seen MM work for many people. She even knows people who have moved to the area to gain access to MM. She stated that she has every intention of helping the township. Her facility will bring 35 to 40 jobs. She also mentioned this is MM not drug dealers, the Bedford Park Illinois

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grow facility doesn't even have a security fence around it. She feels we should vote tonight because the township needs revenue and feels we should opt in.

Steve Radcliff: Steve is a rep for a group of farmers called Med Farm of Michigan. He has applied for 6000 plant grow with a processing facility. He said that his facility will have 254 hour security guards and stated that he has a 10 million dollar site plan. This is a proposed medical facility and will be very secure. No one will have access except for his workers and the transporters. He says the opportunity is here and feels we should opt in and get some revenue for the township. He plans to employ 30 workers at capacity and will also offer benefits. He brought drawings of his facility and will leave at the office for residents to look at.

Matt Sulkowski: Feels that the residents only seem to have an issue with the dispensary not the other facilities.

Neutral

Gail Grosse: Gail has several questions; she also attended the MSU extension class. She said this reminds her of the casino moving to town. She asked how this would work because it is still against federal law.

Public Comments closed at 7:44pm

L. James said she feels we should move forward and begin the process of seeing what it would take to write an ordinance. She also asked Attorney Senica to check into this issue being put up for a vote to the residents. L. James said she doesn't feel we still know what the residents want and we need more information.

C. Lorange stated that he thinks we should move forward with the ordinance.

C. Carr stated that he feels we should vote NO based on the public comments given at the meeting tonight.

J. Richter said that we need to do more research and feels we should move forward.

C. Lorange made a motion to begin the ordinance writing process. J. Richter supported. Roll call vote: Yes- L. James, C. Lorange, J. Richter. No- C. Carr. Absent- K. Schmitz. Motion carried.

C. Lorange made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. C. Carr supported. Motion carried.

Public hearing was adjourned at 7:53pm