

# Galien Township Planning Commission Public Hearing January 30, 2017, 6:30pm @ Galien Township Office

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Roll Call: Present- L. James, K. Schmitz, J. Richter, C. Carr, C. Lorance. Absent- None

Public Comments:

Steve Schmitz: Stated that at this point we do not have enough information to a good decision. He also questioned why everyone requesting this are non-residents? He is also worried about security of the facilities and the possibility of break ins. Steve also said he doesn't think the tax revenues are substantial enough to allow these facilities.

William Haas: William stated that we are talking about millions of dollars not thousands. He also feels that there is a right way and a wrong way to do this type of project. He stated that medical marijuana is coming no matter what we decide and thinks that we should have an ordinance in place so we are prepared. He also mentioned that back ground checks should be conducted on all applicants.

Jeffrey Hank: Jeffrey stated that these types of businesses mean money for schools, roads and the new laws will mean 10% to 20% for the townships. These types of businesses require anywhere from 20K to 40K to start up and will be very closely monitored. These types of businesses also mean revenues for other businesses not just the growers.

Adam Schwallier: Came to the meeting just to get more information about what was going on. He also mentioned that MSU extension office is offering training and information on the new laws.

Bill Dunlap: Bill owns and operates a medical marijuana business in Illinois. He stated that the new laws and requirements will be very closely monitored and he expects it to mirror the program in Illinois.

Beth Denton: Beth feels that this type of business meshes well with the **agricultural** community. But she wonders how all the new barns and buildings will affect the landscape and appearance of the area. She also questioned if the PC and Township intended to put a limit on the number of grows we would allow? She suggested we start small and tread carefully.

William Haas: William stated he would be interested in having a 1500 plant grow as well as processing plant. He would also like to have his own test and research labs. He is currently looking for land in the township. He also mentioned the possibility of a new credit union in Galien because money from the grows and dispensaries can't be deposited in a bank that is federally insured. He is looking in Galien because he feels it would be more secure than opening his business in a larger downtown area.

Beth Denton: Beth asked if other businesses would come to the township as a result of the grows and dispensaries? She also asked if any of the revenues go towards addition help or treatment.

Michael Slaboch: Michael questioned if Carie and William Haas were in business together. He also stated that he is fine with Carie's proposed business plans.

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Ina Carr: Ina is very concerned that we are considering allowing this type of business to come to the township. She feels we are opening Pandora's Box. She also mentioned that she was concerned about devaluation of the properties next to these types of businesses. She also mentioned that other nearby communities have ordinances against the medical marijuana business. She continued to say that marijuana is highly addictive and abused by many. She went on to say that even though Michigan is allowing for these businesses that marijuana is still illegal on a Federal level. She also voiced concern that we do not have a police force in the township to patrol these places. She is completely against this proposed ordinance amendment. She also questioned if the people who are already growing would need to register with the township when these news laws take effect?

Mike O'Malley: Mike stated that it would be a good idea to make sure that these businesses hire Galien residents as opposed to outsiders. He thinks this should be a project in Galien for Galien.

Shane Clanton: Shane stated that information about this topic is available all over the internet. He urged everyone to get as much information as possible so we can all make an educated and informed decision. He feels allowing the ordinance change will do more good than harm.

Meg Serafino: Meg stated that the Federal government approved medical marijuana for military members and veterans with PTSD. She also mentioned that all employees of the grows and dispensaries would have to pass and back ground check and are required to have 2 years' experience to be eligible for employment.

Carie O'Donnell: Carie stated that she has been growing for several years and is currently a registered caregiver as well as a patient and she suffers from PTSD. She also stated that she only wants a Class C grow not a dispensary. She also went on to say that she does own the Olive Branch road property and that she also intends on using locals to work in her business. She also went on to say that not all types on marijuana get you high. There are several different types of medical marijuana and some are even used to help children with seizure disorders. She also said that she wants to give back to the community any way that she can.

Meeting was closed to public comments at 7:21pm

Planning Commission Members:

K. Schmitz: Kim stated that there is already abuse happening with the current grows in the township. It also concerns her that everyone asking for this ordinance change are not township residents. She also mentioned that the 5K yearly fee is not refundable and is to be used for administrative and enforcement costs. She also mentioned that infrastructure is a big burden to consider for the processing plants.

C. Lorange: Chuck stated that he wants more information before making a decision and suggested we table the topic until after we attend training.

C. Carr: Caleb agreed with Chuck that we need more information before we make our decision and said we need to do our homework.

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J. Richter: Jen stated that she didn't have an issue with recommending the ordinance change to allow for the grows at this time. They are already all over the township and haven't caused any problems at this point. She also stated that we do need more information before making any decisions about the dispensaries.

L. James: Liz also agrees that we need more information and stated that we need to do what is right for the township as a whole. She also mentioned that these operations are for medical use not recreational and will be very closely monitored. She also said the issue should be tabled for now.

K. Schmitz made a motion to table the ordinance amendment. C. Carr supported. Motion carried

C. Carr made a motion to schedule the next public hearing for April 3, 2017 @ 6:30pm. C. Lorance supported. Motion carried.

C. Lorance made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Schmitz supported. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm