

**CLARK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
& CLARK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
June 27, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

A public hearing was held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Clark Township Community Center concerning the Medical Marihuana Facilities Act (MMFLA) and the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA).

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 7:05PM

Roll Call:

Board of Trustees: Present- Clymer, Patton, Rutledge Absent- Sherlund, Schuster

Planning Commission: Present- Pieri, Kozma, Koster, Patton Absent- Wilcox, Keighley, Spiedel

Others Present: Rob Bloch (Consultant to the Township) Linda Noyes, Mark Wagner, Linda Hurban, Tod Krino, Allen Williams, Dave Murray, Lisa Fitzgerald, Eric Doer (St. Ignace News)

Clymer opened the meeting explaining the purpose of the hearing was to gain public interest and input on the licensure of marihuana within Clark Township. He stated that Mr. Bloch would be running most of the meeting.

Bloch presented an overview of the current laws that have been passed within the state of Michigan. In 2008, voters in Michigan passed the MMA which allowed for the selling, purchase and growth of marihuana for medicinal purposes. One must carry a card and be licensed by the state to either purchase and/or sell marihuana. In 2016, the state began to more closely regulate the MMA law by introducing the MMFLA. LARA (Licensing and Regulatory Affairs) had one year from the time that the MMFLA was adopted to get the rules in regulations in place and did so. In 2018, the MRTMA (recreational marihuana) was passed by voters. LARA must have all the rules and regulations for this act in place by December 16, 2019.

Bloch went on to explain the types of licenses allowable to the Township, should they choose to “opt-in” to the laws. These are outlined in the attached proposed Ordinances. The Township has until October 2019 to choose whether to “opt-in” or “opt-out” of the MMFLA and MRTMA. If no decision is reached by said date, nothing will change as far as medicinal marihuana is concerned, but the sale and use of recreational marihuana would be open within the Township.

Kozma spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission stating that the commission recommended to not “opt-out” of the MMFLA (medicinal) by a 4 to 3 vote. And that they recommended to “opt-out” of the MRTMA (recreational) by a 7 to 0 vote.

Linda Noyes, a part time resident of Clark Township spoke expressing her concern about the lack of scientific knowledge of the use of marihuana. She read excerpts from a pamphlet called **Imprimis** which she left several copies of for the public and Boards to review.

Koster expressed his concerns of how the Zero Tolerance law would be enforced. He sees no benefit to the community moneywise if the Township chooses to “opt-in” to the acts. He said he would like to focus more on what kind of community we want to be and asked if “opting-in” betters our community.

Linda Hurban was curious as to why the Board would choose to “opt-out” of the MRTMA (recreational).

Pieri spoke saying that he sees the possibility of benefits for “opting-in” to the MMFLA (medicinal) but not the MRTMA

Patton said that there still too many unknowns with “opting-in” to the MRTMA (recreational) at this point, LARA does not have all the rules and regulations in place yet.

Bloch stated that Pickford and Detour Village have “opted-in” to the MRTMA but have no retail dispensaries as of yet.

Kozma said that if the MMFLA (medicinal) is opted into, that local medicinal card holders would have a safe place to purchase marihuana. The nearest medicinal dispensary is located in Rogers City, Michigan.

Adjournment: 8:36 PM

Rutledge made the motion to adjourn the public hearing. Patton supported. All ayes. Motion carried.