

MINUTES

MONTCALM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MONTCALM TOWNSHIP HALL

October 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Chairman Karnatz called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Planning Commission members present: Richard Karnatz (Chair), Jeff Dolphin (Vice-Chair), James Lantz (Secretary), Robert Hemmes (Zoning Board of Appeals Liaison), Amy Richards (Township Clerk & Planning Commission Liaison)
- Township Board members present: Mike Adams, Supervisor, Rose Hyde, Treasurer, Tim Rau, Trustee, Steve Sprague, Trustee
- Guests/Others present:
 - 12 members of the public
- Mike Nelson indicated that he is still pursuing the topic of a private road that is not in compliance with the zoning ordinance.

WORK SESSION:

- Chairman Karnatz thanked the Township Board members for joining us for a general discussion of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (Act).
- Chairman Karnatz provided a brief recap of the legalization of medical marihuana in Michigan and summarized the Planning Commission discussions to date.
- A general discussion followed, with each member of the Township Board and of the Planning Commission providing input.
- The Township Board members commended the Planning Commission on their work to date.

- One Trustee stated that he would like the Planning Commission to develop a draft ordinance amendment for “opting out” of the Act, in addition to the current draft “opt-in” language.
- One Trustee stated that he would prefer that we do nothing related to the Act.
- The Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk encouraged the Planning Commission to continue to research the issues surrounding implementation of the Act, regulations under development, and the impact of these facilities on our township.
- All agreed that, due to the complexity of this topic, the Planning Commission is unlikely to have any recommendation prior to the spring of 2018.
- The recommendation of the Planning Commission, if any, would then go to the Township Board for further consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING OLD BUSINESS:

- Several comments, both in support of and opposed to allowing medical marihuana facilities, were shared by those in attendance.
- Public comments included a request that the Planning Commission consider the wishes of the Township residents, and that the Planning Commission consider the impact on the quality of life in our Township.

ADJOURNMENT

- Jeff Dolphin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Hemmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Lantz, Secretary