

MINUTES

MONTCALM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MONTCALM TOWNSHIP HALL

September 21, 2017

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Chairman Karnatz led the Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Chairman Karnatz called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Members present: Richard Karnatz (Chair), Jeff Dolphin (Vice-Chair, arrived at 7:21 pm), James Lantz (Secretary), Robert Hemmes (Zoning Board of Appeals Liaison)
Amy Richards (Township Board Liaison)
- Members absent: None
- Guests/Others present:
 - Mike Nelson (Zoning Administrator)
 - 15 members of the public

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Robert Hemmes and seconded by Jim Lantz. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2017 meeting was made by Robert Hemmes and seconded by Amy Richards. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENT FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

- Mike Nelson stated that he had been approached by a front Turk Lake resident about setback requirements from easements. The Planning Commission members unanimously agreed that, since the Zoning Ordinance does not specify any setback requirements from easements, no setback is required.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING NEW BUSINESS:

- None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Report of information from MTA meeting in August
Vice Chairman Jeff Dolphin reported that he had attended the townships association meeting at Settlement Lutheran Church (Gowen) in August. An attorney for the association discussed the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act. The material presented was largely what we were already aware of. There may be more oversight required of the Township than previously thought.
- Review of latest information from LARA web site regarding Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act
Chairman Karnatz discussed the latest information available, including the recent discussion regarding Co-Location of facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING OLD BUSINESS:

- Attorney Jeanne Reed indicated that she has several clients who are anxious to begin the application process to be licensed under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act. She described the flow of fee and tax dollars from the State to the township. She believes that the Township

should be thinking about who they want to operate these facilities. She indicated that licensing, state-wide, is moving fast.

- Karon Baird stated that she believes that this issue should be voted on by the residents of the Township. She asked if permitting these facilities could jeopardize FEMA, or other, grant funds.

REVIEW DRAFT OF MONTCALM TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE CHANGE PERTAINING TO MICHIGAN MEDICAL MARIHUANA LICENSING ACT, ADDING ANY CHANGES

- Jeanne Reed asked if Section E.8 would prohibit a dwelling on the sale property parcel as a licensed facility. The Commissioners agreed that the final version of the ordinance amendment should clarify this item.
- Commissioners discussed the need to clarify where provisioning facilities can be located in light of the State's new rules about co-location.
- Karon Baird suggested that several places in the draft amendment where it refers to "Township" should be changed to "Township Board."
- The Commission discussed how many of each type of facility to allow.
- The Commission asked Amy Richards to explore a joint work session between the Planning Commission and the Township Board.

ADJOURNMENT

- Jim Lantz moved that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Hemmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Lantz, Secretary