

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of a Board Workshop
Held May 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

A Board Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2021 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Barton, Trustees Janssens, Manor, Raymo and Howe.

Others

Present: Community Development Director Kim Fortner, Attorney McCormick and nine (9) people in the audience.

Supervisor Barron reminded everyone that this is only a Workshop, not a Board Meeting; therefore no board action can be taken today. The purpose is to discuss a variety of items. The notice was posted on the doors on May 11, 2021.

ZONING AND GENERAL ORDINANCES

Trustee Howe asked how we came up with the number of businesses in the proposed Marihuana Ordinance.

Kim Fortner responded that the original ordinance that was invalidated was unlimited. She also stated that the time to opt out of recreational Marihuana would have been in November 2019. The Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed and met for the first meeting on January 7, 2021. At that time they looked at 25 businesses being the limit. The draft for that amount was given all members on February 10, 2021 for the next meeting on February 17, 2021. The final meeting for the Committee was on March 10, 2021 and some felt that number was too high but were fine with unlimited cultivation and processing since it is not open to the public.

Trustee Howe brought up the amount of liquor licenses in the Township there are 24 establishments 10 allow on premise consumption and feels like 10 Marihuana businesses should be the cap.

Trustee Manor asked what the justification for limiting a legal business is.

Treasurer Barton agreed with Trustee Howe that we should limit the amount of businesses to 10.

Trustee Manor stated that he does not see a downside to allowing the business into the township.

Attorney McCormick reminded the Board that the permits must be issued on an annual basis and are required to go through the approval process. At this time the businesses can go where ever they want to since we do not have an ordinance in place however they are subject to State law.

Kim Fortner stated that any business that opens up now would fall under retail and greenhouse business under the current General Ordinance.

Audience member #1 stated that the Road Commission hasn't reviewed or approved any of these businesses.

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Kim Fortner stated that they wouldn't need to be approved because the businesses are going into existing buildings that have already been approved.

Audience member #2 asked about the pump and haul violating the current ordinance in place.

Supervisor Barron stated that the pump and haul does not violate the current ordinance and that it was approved by Barry LaRoy as acceptable. It is tracked.

Audience member #3 stated that there are still deficiencies in the ordinance and asked that we step back. Would rather see less in the Township as there is still a stigma.

Treasurer Barton proposed that the Board come to a concession on the amount of businesses to 12.

Audience member #4 stated that she had read about an accident killing 4 people and that they were under the influence of Marihuana. Asked are we not concerned about it getting into the hands of children?

Audience member #5 stated that Marihuana is not a gateway drug the gateway drugs are the pills that doctors are prescribing.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Barron advised the Board that he has received a request from Cheryl Himburg for a raise due to increased responsibilities.

Treasurer Barton stated we can't just change titles to get raises.

Kim Fortner stated that Cheryl's job goes beyond the Administrative Assistant role and stated that she feels that Cheryl does deserve a raise. She also advised the Board that the City of Monroe is trying to get her to work for them and that we would be losing a valuable employee.

Clerk Smith stated that the City does not pay 100% of the medical insurance benefits like the Township does and even if they offer an increase in pay it may be lost in medical insurance premiums.

Trustee Manor stated he is not opposed to reviewing this more in depth. We don't want to lose a good employee.

BLIGHT

Supervisor Barron advised that we are actively pursuing blight within the Township.


Attorney McCormick advised that we are pursuing condemnation of the Nevel property located on Telegraph Road.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Attested:


Alan Barron, Supervisor


Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township