

CLARK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
January 9, 2020 at 8:00 AM

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 8: 05

Roll Call: Present- Sherlund, Clymer, Rutledge, Patton Absent- Schuster

Others Present: Joe Baker, Dennis Bila, Roman Benson, Rob Bloch, James Keighley, Lisa Fitzgerald

Approval of Agenda:

Sherlund made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Patton supported. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Clymer explained that Donald Moore had contacted him and would be unable to attend the meeting to discuss his lease. Item No. 3 (Donald Moore lease) was removed from the Agenda.

Medical Marijuana ordinance

Rob Bloch briefly spoke on the differences between recreational and medical marijuana.

Jim Keighley explained why the Planning Commission focused more on recreational marijuana vs medical. The main reason being that if something wasn't done concerning recreational, the market would be wide open according to state laws, whereas medical would have no changes.

Roman Benson and Dennis Bila presented their idea for a Medical Provisionary Center in Clark Township. Since 2009, Benson and Bila have had a business based out of Alanson, MI where they aid citizens in retaining a medical marijuana ID card. Their proposed center would only serve those patients in possession of a medical ID card. They would start off with 4-5 employees at the center. Benson and Bila stated they would be in strict compliance with state laws. From Gaylord into the Upper Peninsula, there are nearly 11,000 individuals who possess an ID card and are in need of a safe place to receive the products they need. Benson and Bila stated that they are interested in leasing a building at the Industrial Park from Donald Moore and would like to have the business up and running by April of 2020. Once the business is established, they plan to move forward with state licensing to be able to transport and deliver medical marijuana to those in need and that possess an ID card.

Rutledge questioned what kind of security would be in place at the facility. Benson replied, a 24- hour monitoring system, with a 30-day backup, well lit building and parking, random state inspections of the facility, and that they would be open to have Cal Burnside be involved with their security.

Jim Keighley questioned how employees are hired and asked how the delivery system would work. Each employee would have to pass a criminal background check on a consistent basis. Deliveries would be tracked through GPS and only 10 orders could be delivered at one time.

Sherlund asked where else Benson and Bila have looked to set up a center. They responded with Mio, Big Rapids and Decatur, but expressed that the need is greater in our area.

Patton expressed that she doesn't feel that the center is necessary as most patients already have caregivers in place.

Sherlund stated that the building that Benson and Bila were looking at to lease does not fit the criteria set to have such a business, as it does not meet setback requirements.

No action taken. This will be revisited at the January 15, 2020 meeting.

Airport plowing policy

Airport Committee members recommend that the airport should remain open during the winter. The contract with John Hessel reads that each time the airport is plowed, it comes with a cost of \$780.

Rutledge stated that since the airport is not used for commercial business, she as a taxpayer, does not feel the township should be responsible to keep the airport open and plowed so that a select few "hobby pilots" could use the runway. The cost is too great. She is open to keeping the airport open if said pilots are willing to cover the plowing costs. Joe Baker was in agreement.

Patton questioned if it was required to keep the airport open. Clymer explained that it had to remain open through December 2019 in accordance with grants received.

Patton asked how much was spent in the 2018-19 winter on plowing the airport. Rutledge answered with \$8000 to \$9000.

It was agreed that the airport could remain open if the pilots contributed 100% of the runway plowing fees and the cost of any damage incurred to the runway lights during the snow removal.

Concerns were expressed about what can be stored within the leased airport hangars as well. Clymer is to review the lease wording with the Airport Advisory Committee to make a clear policy of items that can be stored within the hangars.

Patton suggested closing the airport until April 2020.

Motion: Sherlund made the motion that the next time the airport closes due to weather that it remains closed until April 2020. Patton supported.

Roll Call: Yes- Sherlund, Clymer, Rutledge Patton Absent- Schuster

Tim Bright, a township employee, will keep the parking lots and taxiways cleared of snow on a regular basis.

Payment request from Flotation Docking

Flotation Docking submitted a pay request for work completed on the Cedarville Harbor in the amount of \$28,791.10.

Motion: Sherlund made the motion approve the pay request to Flotation Docking in the amount of \$28,791.10. Rutledge supported.

Roll Call: Yes- Sherlund, Clymer, Rutledge Patton Absent- Schuster

Other

Patton feels that the public is not well informed of what is happening within the township. The public is always welcome to attend meetings and come into the Township offices to discuss their concerns. Meeting minutes and agendas can be found on the township website @ clarktwp.org and postings can be found on the bulletin board outside of the township offices.

Adjournment: 10:38 AM

Motion: Patton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rutledge supported. All ayes. Motion carried.