

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2018**

This was a joint meeting between the Watervliet Charter Township Board and the Planning Commission.

Present: Joseph Stepich, Glen Giannetti, Scott McKee, Colleen Curtis, Kevin Schuhknecht.

Upon conclusion of the Township Board's call to order, K. Schuhknecht called the Planning Commission to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call was taken.

Township Supervisor Dan Hutchins explained that the meeting was being held as an informational session on the newly passed voter initiative to legalize recreational marijuana in Michigan as well as gather information on and decide as to whether the Township was going to permit Medical Marijuana facilities.

Township Attorney Jessica Fette explained that the Township has the option of participating, or opting-in, to permit medical marijuana facilities, meaning they could allow any of five different types of facilities in the township, and any number of each facility by adopting an ordinance controlling all the permitted facilities or just certain types of state statute approved facilities. She also explained that, if the Township so chooses, they could opt-out, not adopt an ordinance, and not permit any facilities relating to Medical Marijuana. She further explained that state laws and regulations of the recreational facet of the voter initiative are still being worked on by the state legislature and laws relating to such, more than likely, would not be promulgated until sometime in 2020. However, she stated that recreational marijuana is now legal in the state and if the Township wishes to exercise some control of the act, an ordinance controlling its existence in the township must be passed or it would be "a free for all." If no action was taken by the Township Board the township would simply be at the mercy of whatever the state legislates.

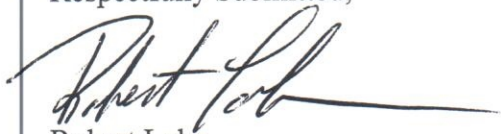
Both the Board and Commission heard from the owner of a provisioning center located in Bangor as well as several other citizens voicing their desire to see some kind of Medical Marijuana facilities in the township. At the conclusion of citizen input, the Township Board voted unanimously to direct the Planning Commission to study the matter and provide the Township Board with a recommendation to either opt-out or to opt-in with a specific number and type of facilities they wish to permit in the township, and in which specific zoning districts, along with a draft controlling ordinance.

The Commission agreed to meet on January 8, 2019 to begin the deliberation of a desirable recommendation.

With there being no further business before the Commission, C. Curtis made a motion to adjourn. K. Schuhknecht seconded and the motion carried.

The Planning Commission's participation in the joint meeting was closed at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lohr", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Lohr
Zoning Administrator