

Village Of Alanson

7631 US 31 N Alanson, Mi. 49706

Special Council Meeting Minutes

On the Medical Marijuana Licensing Act

December 7th, 2017

6:00 PM

1. President Greg Babcock called the meeting to order at 6pm
2. Village council roll call. Trustee Marv Blumke, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Dave Stepanovich, Trustee Preston Grobaski and President Greg Babcock in attendance.
3. The license types are as follows:
 - Grower (Class A, B or C)
 - Processor
 - Transporter
 - Provisioning Center
 - Safety Compliance
4. President Greg Babcock gave a quick overview on how the meeting was to be handled then gave the floor to village attorney, Bryan Graham.
5. Attorney Bryan Graham advised of the general statutes of differences between both the medical marijuana and the Medical Marijuana Licensing Act. Mr. Graham explained that no matter what is decided, an ordinance or zoning regulation can be revised or postponed. His recommendation is to have in place a licensing ordinance as well as a zoning regulation in place specifically regarding such entities that require the state license within the village limits. Trustee Doug Larson asked about “stacking” where a class C growers license is required to which Mr. Graham advised that yes, stacking would be allowed for the class C growers only. A class C license gives growers the ability to have 1500 plants. Mr. Graham advised this would be an area council would want to look at limiting the class C stacking licenses within the village. Trustee Dave Stepanovich asked if the village was able to impose their own tax, Mr. Graham stated that no, there is not a provision for this under state law. The village can institute a policy of a yearly fee due for the license within the village limits. The facility would then be subject to an additional 3% tax on all sales to be collected by the state and that the village would then receive 25% of that 3% collected.
6. Susan Pulaski with SAFE in Northern Michigan and the Community Health Department spoke out against any such licensing, stating their mission is to prevent underage drinking and drug use. She believes that either a grower or a dispensary would be directed at young people. As her organization believes that marijuana has been genetically altered, it could have a huge impact on the youth. This could cause issues with safety in the village as well as an increase in police presence and could also impact property tax values causing the village lawsuits by property owners.
7. Brothers Mike and Adam Kazanowski along with their partner Mike Kolkmeier gave a presentation on facts about the Medical Marijuana Act, stating there are currently 29 states that it is legal. In response to increased police presence, they stated that Colorado had dropped the sales tax to combat the black market which resulted in lower crime rates from 2012 to

2016. Many statistics were given on the increase in tax revenue and in the creation of new jobs by said licensing in Colorado. Mr. Kolkmeier then stated that the market in Michigan is expected to be the 3rd largest by 2020 and by 2018 the legalization of Medical Marijuana will be on the ballot at election time. This will be regulated heavily by the state and LARA will have a 5 member panel just for this licensing act. Both Mike and Adam Kazanowski grew up in Alanson and along with Mike Kolkmeier would like the opportunity to open a dispensary in the village.

8. Tom and Denise Erhart addressed council expressing their approval for and desire to open a dispensary/education center. Tom Erhart is an attorney while his wife Denise is an RN and has worked with patients who have used the medical marijuana. Mrs. Erhart, while stating she herself has never used it, spoke about seeing with her own eyes, the benefits medical marijuana has for the patients. Mrs. Erhart attended a presentation on a specific type of medical marijuana controlling seizures in infants, this is what caused her to do her own research and her opinion on this issue has changed dramatically since. Both Mr & Mrs. Erhart believe this medical marijuana is a much better option for patients than any opioid. Their desire is to also educate all patients, regardless of age.
9. Rand Marquardt of Little Traverse Township was also in attendance to speak with council. Mr. Marquardt stated he has grown up in this area and his own nephew is a member of The SAFE in Northern Michigan, he believes the medical marijuana is completely, it is a natural plant that has been around forever and people want natural. This is used in clothes, paper, rope, all types of benefits. Mr. Marquardt stated he had discovered the same facts Mike Kolkmeier had spoken about as well as the Erhart's. His group is interested in 3 of the 5 types of licenses, the grower license, the Processor license and the Provisioning Center license. At this time, Trustee Doug Larson asked the other two speakers what types of licenses they were seeking. Mike Kolkmeier stated his group was looking and the Processor License and the Provisioning Center license while Tom and Denise Erhart stated that were only seeking the Provisioning Center License.
10. Roman Benson with wife Christine who own Alternative Solutions Plus were in attendance and asked to address council stating that while his motive was not to present but to persuade council to give this a try. His group is looking at acquiring 3 types of licenses, the class A Grower License, The Processor License and The Provisioning Center License. Mr. Benson spoke about the need for local dispensaries as patients have to travel quite a distance at this point. Trustee Doug Larson asked about how the new Act would affect a caregiver already established. Mr. Benson doesn't believe it will affect a caregiver. The patient can still visit the caregiver as well as utilizing a dispensary. Which is should be stated that in order to enter any dispensary, you will be required to have and show your medical marijuana card before entering said facility. President Greg Babcock asked what the certification process was to receive your medical marijuana card. Mr. Benson advised that a doctor determines if you are eligible based on a certain type of condition and this card is and must be renewed every year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

11. Jeff Prater of 7177 S. US 31 Alanson spoke of the 3 types of licenses he believes could work within the village, the Processor license, the Provisioning Center and the Transport license. Mr. Prater believes that there would be more control on a provisioning center versus a care giver.
12. Stu Fenton of 5407 Petoskey St. Petoskey Mi. who is a prosecuting attorney with Emmet County spoke out against allowing any license within the village. He stated in his experience the drug abuse far outweighs the incidents of the medical marijuana helping patients and he believes

more youth will use, causing more drunk driving incidents and even death. He also stated there are very few legitimate doctors actually prescribing the medical marijuana card.

13. Victor Albright of 6888 Banwell Rd Alanson stated he believes as a parent, this would make marijuana safer.
14. Roman Benson of 7650 Burr Ave Alanson (Alternative Solutions Plus) asked council to educate, learn and study.
15. Pennie Reid of 7628 Milton Rd Alanson spoke of her concerns as she was born and raised in the village. The village covers an area of only 1 square mile. Mrs. Reid also spoke of her concern that none of the people actually seeking the license within the village lives within the village. She also spoke about her concerns on living next to a care giver which creates a very nasty smell surrounding not only their house but her own as well. It should be noted that council is looking into having an ordinance in place for a care giver as this is an option council was unaware of and will be looking into.
16. Gary Cannon of 6775 US 31 Alanson stated his belief that the village could generate more revenue with the Provisioning Center as well as a Class C grower.
17. Matt Austin of Ponshevaing spoke of his belief in the positive effects of the medical marijuana. He stated his own mother is a cancer patient and looking to get her medical marijuana card.
18. Mike Kazanowski of 940 Cedar Lane Alanson spoke of his cousin who is epileptic. His family is very religious and it took some convincing but got the Aunt & Uncle to give it a try with his cousin and with in 6 weeks the seizures she was having diminished, then stopped. She was then able to go back to school and is now in college.
19. Rochelle Schneider of 6126 Bonz St Alanson spoke of her belief in the medical marijuana. Her mother was always in extreme pain and could barely walk, unable to even play with her grandchildren. After starting medical marijuana, she is now enjoying life again almost pain free. Ms. Schneider spoke about making sure she herself would educate her child about the pros cons of medical marijuana versus recreation marijuana.
20. Dawn Whyte of 5690 Valley Rd Alanson believes that this should be seriously looked as with the school of choice in place, Alanson has lost students. No band is offered anymore. Her daughter has chosen another school to receive these benefits no longer available in Alanson.
21. Village Attorney Bryan Graham advised council to maybe put out a survey on the next tax bill that was due to come out or send one out sooner.
22. Mike Kazanowski clarified that applications for licenses not filed by February 2018 would not be eligible.
23. At 8:00 pm meeting was adjourned.