

Village Of Alanson

7631 US 31 N Alanson, Mi. 49706

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2018

1. At 7:00 pm President Greg Babcock called the meeting to order.
Village Roll Call: President Greg Babcock, Trustee Marv Blumke, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Preston Grobaski and Trustee Dave Stepanovich
2. Trustee Doug Larson made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2017 Special Meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Preston Grobaski, all in favor. Trustee Marv Blumke made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2017 joint meeting with LAMA and Littlefield Township, Trustee Doug Larson seconded, all in favor. Trustee Preston Grobaski made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from December 1, 2017. This motion was seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All in favor, motion to accept minutes approved.
3. Visitor Comments:
 - President Greg Babcock addressed the meeting before opening the floor to visitors. President Babcock stated he wanted to clear up the misconception that the Medical Marijuana Facility ordinance was a done deal, it is NOT a done deal. There is still a lot of work to be done with both zoning and ordinance committees. The council did not approve the ordinance, just the ability to go forward with looking into options. The public meeting in December was well publicized in the Petoskey News Review as well as the village website and Facebook page. Council has and will continue to talk with and listen to residents' concerns.
 - Pennie Reid of 7628 Milton Rd Alanson was in attendance to express her concern. While she is not against the medical marijuana, her concern is the size of the village. It is only a one square mile village.
 - Monique Kilmer of 7331 Milton Rd Alanson handed council 2 letters from other residents unable to attend and spoke of her concerns that council take the time to educate both themselves and the residents.
 - Greg Warner while not a resident of the village, is a member of the Alanson Improvement Group spoke of his group's belief that this would not be a good thing for the village.
 - Kim Shomin of 9550 Mission Rd Alanson spoke of the beauty and diversity of the village and stated she did not believe such a facility would add to the beauty or appeal of the village.
 - M. Farr spoke on behalf of Tom & Denise Erhart who are interested in opening such a facility and who had presented to council at the special hearing. They believe the problems being spoke of at this point are based on a completely different system that the one that is now starting to take place in Michigan.
 - Larry Williams of Milton Rd stated his belief that talking and educating the public is necessary.
 - Gary Shanley of 7011 US 31 Alanson spoke of his that one of these said facilities was looking to open next door to his house, which could cause his property tax value to plummet. He stated that he did have a potential buyer who stated that if such a facility went in, he would not buy the property. Mr. Shanley also told the board that while he had been an educator for many years, he believes that some adults will buy for the children and he is greatly concerned about this as well.

-Foster Smit of 5325 Old Stage Coach Alanson and a local pastor spoke of seeing the good and bad times in Colorado and Florida. While there are benefits to the medical marijuana, crime rates did increase and he believes it would be a bad idea for the village.

-Ken Smith of Smith Rd Alanson, while not a village resident has deep roots in the community, stated he would not like to see the village be a guinea pig for the state in this matter. His desire is to protect the community.

-Tom Fairbairn Jr. thanked the board for the meeting and for listening to the public. He asked the board to reassess the situation. He expressed concern that there would be more sales "out the back door" and that the state really has no idea on how they will regulate this new law.

-Mike Kolkmeier of 9040 Cedar Lane Alanson attended prior meetings and expressed his desire to open such a facility stated his belief in the seed to sale system working against the black market in Michigan.

-William Culp of 7794 Milton Rd Alanson expressed his concern of the village not having it's own police force to police said facilities. There is a lot of information out there and the council needs to sort out the good and bad.

-Brian Burley with Insurance by Burley of 6244 River St Alanson asked council to consider that nature of the opposition. Those people who are for such a facility do not live in the village and most residents of the village seem to be against it.

-Iris Lesh asked President Babcock about flyers that had been addressed to him at his home address. These flyers were all against any facility in the village. Mrs. Lesh asked how many of the 300 did President Babcock receive. President Babcock stated that while he was not happy with the postcards being mailed directly to his home, he understood. He did state that he had received 71 cards with 45 of them being from people who are not residents of the village.

-Dick Weidenhamer stated he was in attendance for support of residents who were not in favor of such a facility and their belief that this was already a done deal, which after attending the meeting, they discovered it was not.

-Rob DeYoung of 6308 Barney Rd Alanson stated his belief that this would be detrimental to adolescents and he does not believe this is what we want in our community. It would be an absolute mistake and he asked council to further consider the issue.

-Jeff Prater of 7177 US 31 Alanson was in attendance spoke of how he believes certain types of licenses would work if allowed.

-John Morgan of 5889 US 31 Alanson spoke of his belief that this type of facility would only increase the criminal element within the village.

- Roman Benson of Alternative Solutions Plus was in attendance. And gave a presentation in favor of such a facility. This presentation is on paper at the village hall and available for anyone who wished to look it over.

4. Trustee Doug Larson presented a rough draft of both a zoning law and ordinance for such a facility within the village. These are both available for public review at the village hall as well as on the village website. Trustee Larson recommended to the board tabling this issue until after the ordinance codifying process is complete in the spring and that council should head the concerns of the residents. A motion was then made by Trustee Preston Grobaski to table the Medical Marijuana Facility which was seconded by Trustee Marv Blumke. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

-Trustee Doug Larson: Aye

-Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye

-Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye

-Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye

-President Greg Babcock: Aye

-Motion to table accepted.

5. A 5-minute recess was taken at 9:14 pm with President Babcock calling the meeting back to order at 9:19 pm

6.