

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Austinburg Township

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held August 7, 2017

The special hearing on the proposed zoning amendment hearing allowing facilities which could include growing, processing, or distributing of medical marijuana in accommodating commercial or the industrial commercial opened at 7:00pm. Joe Hejduk, Gail Magdu, Jacqueline Quine, David Long, Michael Kovacik, Al and Pat Yarbrough, Ted and Ginny Seifert, Dave Bailey, Shawn Shannon, Steve Schoneman, Wanda Lahnan, Sheree Taylor, Ted Wilms, Norman Jepson, Bryan Lacare, Phil Miller, and Brian and Jean Forman were in attendance.

John Kusar began the meeting by explaining the process of zoning amendments and the results on Township finances should the proposed medical marijuana zoning amendment pass and an operation locate in Austinburg Township. John completed his introduction by reminding those in attendance that the Board of Trustees can vote either tonight or at the next Township Meeting August 21st on this matter. Citizens however can overturn the Board's decision by an electoral ballot initiative.

One resident asked about background checks on workers at grow facilities to which the Board responded they will occur yearly, however most rules have yet to be written by the state on these type of specific matters. Another resident asked why the zoning commission voted against this proposed amendment. The Board shared that they received an official letter giving the results of said vote but no explanation. Audience members shared their knowledge with the benefits of medical marijuana.

A different resident discussed the current tax burden for businesses in the Township and if a facility would contribute financially to the local government. The Board explained such a facility would pay property taxes and has the potential for sales taxes and other excise taxes also. A question of the status in other townships of Ashtabula County was raised by the audience for this issue. The Board explained that several Townships deem the industry an accepted use and thus would not need to place the industry into their zoning text while other townships have outright banned the possibility.

Ted Seifert, who is a member of the Zoning Commission, spoke to the reason for the Zoning Commission's vote against the amendment. Ted attended a zoning conference where he spoke with a lawyer who shared that the township would not benefit from the facility. He also explained that he does not want Austinburg Township's name associated with drugs.

Wanda Lahnan, a member of the zoning board, spoke on the issue. She is concerned about the message this amendment would send to the community. Wanda stated that the County Planning Commission voted in favor of the text, but not the usage of marijuana. She reminded the Board of Trustees that marijuana is still illegal according to the federal government.

Another resident asked about set back rules and regulations of these facilities. The Board shared that the facilities would need to follow both Austinburg Township zoning and Ohio regulations such as distance from schools and other prohibited areas. The question of the effect on surrounding residential property taxes was also raised.

Steve Schoneman spoke on behalf of Grand River Academy to share that the academy is against the growing, producing, and distribution of Medical Marijuana. Another resident asked if the Township could control what company could come into the Township for growing, producing, and dispensing of Medical Marijuana to which the Board responded they cannot.

In closing, citizens discussed the need for greater information on this topic. A vote will be taken by the Board at the August 21st Meeting.

The regular meeting of Austinburg Township opened at 8:30pm. Joe Hejduk, Pat and Al Yarbrough, Ted and Ginny Seifert, Dave Bailey, Brian and Jean Forman, and Bill Wilms were in attendance.

Res. 433-17 John moved to accept the minutes as written. Jerry seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye.

Res. 434-17 Jerry moved to pay the bills of the Township. John seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye.

Receipts totaled \$202,365.98. Expenses totaled \$46,133.01.

John spoke to the background on the Quine property purchase adjacent to the College Street Cemetery. Res. 435-17 John moved to pay the Chicago Title company no greater than

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the sum of \$4,500 for the closing costs. Jerry seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye.

Bill is preparing to do work on the Center Cemetery fence from money donated by the Ashtabula County Snow Mobile Club.

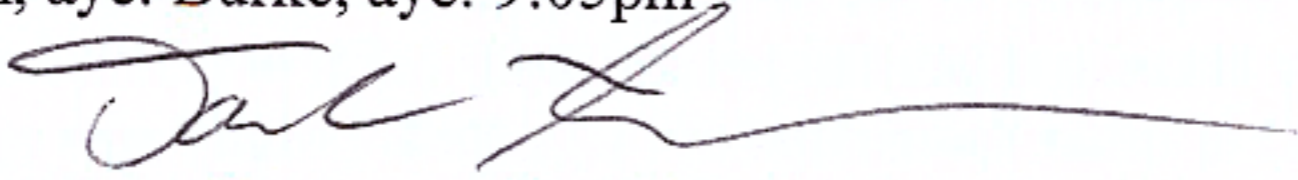
John suggested doing a second newsletter for this Fall as the Fire Department will need to highlight their need for a bond issue. Bill also shared that the state has not finalized Dave Lemponen's paper.

Byron asked Bill about the electrical work in the Township park and the specific details of wiring and light placement. Res. 436-17, Byron moved to authorize the Road Department to purchase up to \$1,000 for grounded lights for Country Days, and Jerry seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye. Byron shared that the County Building Department was happy with the electrical work. The electrician though will need to pull a permit for the festival.

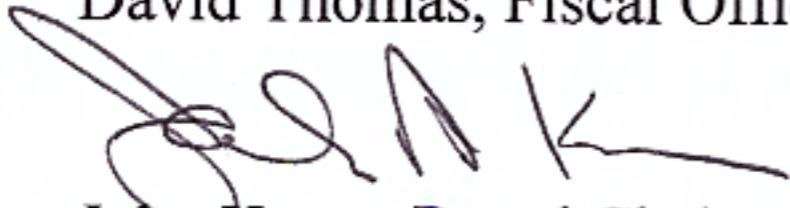
Jerry asked if the OPWC Grant reimbursement was complete. The paperwork will be submitted to the state. There is no update for the OPWC Grant Phase 2.

The signs on college street will be completed soon. Res. 437-17, John moved to have the County make signs on college street that state the speed limit will change to the new school zone limit, and Byron seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye. There is an issue with stolen signs in the Township. Those missing will soon be replaced.

Res. 438-17, John moved to adjourn, and Byron seconded. The roll; Kusar, aye. Dutton, aye. Burke, aye. 9:05pm



David Thomas, Fiscal Officer



John Kusar, Board Chairman