

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD VIRTUAL STUDY SESSION MEETING **-APPROVED-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517-349-1232, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 **6:00 pm.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director of Public Works Perry, Fire Chief Hamel, Police Chief Plaga, Community Planning and Development Director Kieselbach, Information Technology Director Gebes, Principal Planner Menser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:02 pm.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, stated she has submitted written comments and spoke in opposition to recreational marihuana.

Robin Schneider, 5876 Cade Street, Haslett, spoke in support to opt-in for recreational marihuana

Cindy Liu, 1575 Maiden Lane, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Wei Li, 2565 Sophiea Parkway, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Zhongxiao Michael Chen, 3812 Viceroy Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Scott DeAnda, 25607 Wedge Street, Calumet, representing Tranquility Fields, a recreational cannabis company that operates a micro-business and retail business, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana and would like to operate a business in the Township

Jerry Richards, 3896 Sunwind Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Jack Zhang, 4719 Powell Road, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Anthony Szilagy, 5317 Okemos Road, Okemos, stated he works for Green Peak Industries, which operates under the SkyMint brand, and spoke support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Kevin Liu, 2690 Morning Glory Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

May Yu, 2690 Morning Glory Drive, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Meghan McFarlin, 515 Cornell Avenue, East Lansing, Public Affairs Manager for Green Peak Industries, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana and stated it would make the medical marihuana facilities more viable

Marcus Baldori, 2267 Mt. Hope Road, Okemos, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana and stated it would make the medical marihuana facilities more viable

Mike McCurdy, 5458 Okemos Road, Okemos, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Carla Galligan, 4367 Aztec Way, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Cat Ebert, 1305 Glen Meadow Lane, East Lansing, MSU Student, East Lansing, representing the MSU Chapter of Student for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), a global non-profit organization, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Bob Baldori, 2719 Mt. Hope Road, Okemos, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Alan Schimone, 108 S Main Street, Ste. A, Royal Oak, Attorney for Cure Leaf TC, one of the Township's medical marihuana facilities, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana and asked to make the current medical marihuana facilities more viable.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:43 pm.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Jackson

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

6. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Discussion on Adult Use Recreational Marihuana

Township Attorney Matt Kushel summarized the February 4, 2021 correspondence on the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, addressed information contained in the memorandum from Clerk Guthrie and Trustees Opsommer and Wisinski and answered inquiries from Trustees.

Discussion:

- Trustee Opsommer reviewed information in “The Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA) and Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA) memorandum (a copy is in the minute book).
- Treasurer Deschaine offered a power point presentation: “What are the benefits and risks of approving up to six recreational marihuana stores in Meridian Township” (copy of presentation is in the minute book)
- Township Attorney Kushel was directed to prepare a written outlined of the process to be followed if the Township decides to proceed with the opt-in for recreational marihuana. Attorney Kushel stated he could have the information available for the March 2 Township Board Meeting

Board consensus to place this item the March 2, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:45 pm.

Lynne Page, 3912 Raleigh Drive, Okemos, spoke about the Board’s promise to wait on a decision to opt-in for recreational marihuana until medical marihuana facilities were operating. She raised questions on the timeframe of the special use permit process and the Ordinance for the medical marihuana facilities

Cat Ebert, 1305 Glen Meadow Lane, East Lansing, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Leszek Gawarecki, 4568 Tacoma Boulevard, Okemos, spoke in opposition to opting in for recreational marihuana

Bob Baldori, 2719 Mt. Hope Road, Okemos, spoke in support for opting in for recreational marihuana

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:4 pm.

8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine announced the annual Township Board Retreat on Saturday, February 20, 2021, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm.