

**BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 29, 2019  
BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP HALL**

PRESENT: Booth, Avery, Mitchell, Stone, Mundt, Attorney McGregor, Sheriff Grace, Commissioner Bondar, 16 electors

ABSENT: None

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

Public comment:

Jon Satkowiak – If there is no legal place for distribution, we lose out on taxation but also in other states there's a huge black market where there are no controls. A legal shop would produce jobs, taxes, and be under state control.

Jim Durfee – For the past 12 years businesses have been unable to employ anyone with a clean record and this will add to it.

Sheriff Kevin Grace – Not in favor of the legalization, but his job is to enforce the law, not make the law. There have been problems in other states, and he thinks we'd be opening ourselves up to issues such as accessibility to younger children, especially with edibles or other food product. Not in favor of businesses.

Jim Durfee – For Sheriff Grace, he understands the breathalyzer will determine if a driver has been drinking, but will it detect marihuana. Because banks don't accept marihuana money at this time, there will be more cash out there and potentially more crime.

Dean Wilson – Let's make sure we understand what the facts are. What do you do with the cash? The House Banking Committee has passed the Safe Banking Act, and Atty. Gen. Barr has interpreted if it is legal in the state they won't prosecute. Believes a regulated product is better than unregulated because it will be required to be tested by a state inspector to be sure it's pure. Unregulated pot can have anything in it including Roundup. He knows he's going to lose money on medical marihuana, and if recreational is not approved he possibly won't open the business.

Jim Durfee – Problem with people coming into the school and killing kids. Increasing the potential by allowing recreational use.

Nick Matthews – Any business coming into the community is a good thing.

Tom Simpson – Will have problems with kids and marijuana, just as they do alcohol. Children are the parents' responsibility.

Bonnie Pylman – Any business into the community good, already have problems with kids using drugs.

Tony Wyrembelski – Trying to hire people at the plant in Grayling and too many people are using drugs. (Booth commented here that many of the positions ARAUCO is trying to fill are skilled positions. Many of the unemployed here are unskilled.)

Karen Mitchell – This is such a high poverty area and we shouldn't promote people using their income to buy drugs. They can grow it themselves if they want it.

Joe Stone – It is a state law, its legal. But we don't know the rules. It's a state law, every resident can grow, smoke, give it away. Recreational marihuana use passed overwhelmingly at the election. He's talked to many people, they wonder why we would make a rule saying it couldn't be sold here.

Avery – Lots of questions about how it's all going to play out.

Travis Young – Smokes marijuana, and growing a plant is difficult. Having everyone growing would create more theft and crime.

Booth - Many of the people who have the medical card smoke it recreationally. There's a black market going on right now of sale of pot.

Jon Satkowiak – There's a large tax on alcohol.

Tom Simpson – Worked for many years, a person doesn't use alcohol or drugs if they want to keep their job.

Ken Friday – Has read and heard a lot about this. Nothing has ever been settled on the tax money. We don't know anything about this yet. Why isn't medical prescribed by a doc and sold by a pharmacy.

Booth – If we do nothing, the state can issue as many licenses here as they want.

Avery – Per MTA, because there are so few opting in, the state may take over and decide where they have dispensaries and change the rules even on medical.

Jon Satkowiak – California requiring 1 pot dispensary for every 4 liquor sales locations.

Dawn Simpson – Those who are going to smoke or not take care of their children won't change.

Joe Stone – If we don't know the rules...

Wilson – 40 dispensaries approved in the state. As of June 1, if they're approved for medical they will be tentatively approved for recreational.

Mitchell – Doesn't like how it looks to have a dispensary on main street.

Wilson – Rules on medical promulgated, doesn't imagine they would be that different than rules on recreational.

Atty. McGregor – Can't put an unreasonable restriction on a pot business (referring to a sign) when you don't have it on other businesses.

Booth – Agree with Stone, no action will be taken tonight, we'll discuss again at the regular meeting on June 20. If we take no action, the state can do what they want. If make an ordinance with limits, the state may take that into account.

Kristi – Biggest thing is referendum. Only 60 people need to sign a petition to get it put on the ballot in this township.

Simpson – If you opt out, only those opting in get a portion of tax.

Resolution 2019-09 for grant from Par Plan for security equipment at Luzerne Fire Hall and Comstock-Nelson Park – Roll Call Vote – Yea – Booth, Mundt, Mitchell, Avery, Stone. Nay – None Resolution 2019-09 Passed

Tree grant application – Stone has found a place up north where we can purchase trees.

Wilson – LARA has 2 working groups now who are drafting proposals for recreational marihuana rules. Suggests we have contact with LARA and see if someone can attend the meeting to answer questions.

Public Hearing adjourned 8:06 p.m.

