

**BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC HEARING
October 8, 2019
BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP HALL**

Call Hearing to Order – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Booth, Avery, Stone, Mitchell, Mundt, 11 electors

ABSENT: None

Jon Satkowiak – Presented some statistics from law enforcement and FBI regarding crime since legalization of marihuana in Washington state and Colorado. He feels some of the comments heard previously were emotionally charged but not fact based.

Derek Whitacre – Only 10% of people in treatment for DUI reporting marihuana as their primary drug is still too much. There is a stigma that follows these shops and he doesn't want it here. He moved here to get away from this and now it's moving here.

Dave Klimmek – Votes no on marihuana sales. It won't help individuals. Need to look at costs for law enforcement, sheriff's dept., courts. Thinks the money (tax income) is a deer in the headlights reaction. Requirements for security should be a red flag. There's a stigma attached to living in an area where there are marijuana shops.

Kathy Cox – Hears from customers and friends that they don't want recreational marijuana here. There's a stigma attached to the marijuana. Perfect example of problems are what happened at Big Foot Lodge (when they had the Brews and Canoes bash which lasted nearly all night and resulted in disturbing the peace charges).

Dean Wilson – Issue of security is simple. Cash can't be used in US banking system. When taxes have to be paid, it needs to go to Lansing in cash. The US House of Representatives passed the Fair Banking Act last week, which would authorize banks to accept cash from marijuana sales. No one under 21 is allowed in the shop. License fee is \$72000 (to the state) every year.

Deanna Whitacre – Do we want to have as many drug shops as we have Dollar General stores? Is it all about the money?

Derek Whitacre – Won't the regulations regarding marijuana be abused as well?

Kim Short – South Branch, where there's crime and drugs. She feels safe here and doesn't want it to come here.

Kathie Mitchell – Let the voters decide.

Deanna Whitacre – Worked the election Nov. 2018, and lots of people that never vote were present to vote on the marijuana issue.

Susan Avery – Those people (who don't usually vote) felt it (the marihuana ballot issue) was an important issue for them.

Joe Stone – Every place between here and town can grow, smoke and give it away. Would rather have it go back to the people and let them decide.

Rhonda Mundt – If we opt out and there's a referendum vote, we will not be the ones writing the regulations for the ordinance. The people who promote the referendum will be deciding what facilities we have and we'll have no choice in the matter. That's what happened with the legalization of marihuana and the state had no input into the regulations.

Jon Satkowiak – Everyone mentions crime, but according to Federal statistics violent crime has fallen.

Dave Klimmek – Marijuana is a stepping stone to harder drugs.

Booth – Recreational Marihuana ordinance will be on the agenda at our next meeting when we make a decision. At the governor's discretion, the state can accept applications for "Disadvantaged" areas (those who aren't served by a dispensary)

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Rhonda Mundt
Township Clerk