

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 22, 2018**

President Pro Tem Williams called the Workshop Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Jackson-Ash , Williams, Sims

Council Members Absent: Johnson, Wagner

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Sims motioned, seconded by Parsons to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of Redbud Roots, LLC and the moving of any public comments regarding Medical marijuana to under item b.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items:

None

Discussion & Action Items:

- A. Totztsky Farm Lease (See Attachment 1): We have an Amendment to this lease, which includes a rate increase as well as an increase in the acreage to be farmed. Council asked for the addition of the previous rate to be included in the Amendment.
- B. Medical Marijuana (See Attachment 2): Several members of the community and surrounding communities were in attendance for a discussion on the pros and cons of the Village choosing to opt - in to any of the licensing that is currently available under Michigan Law.

Public/Council Comments:

Daniel Bumbalaugh – Dan is a 22 year old from Granger who was molested from the ages of 4-10 ½. Having suppressed the memories for many years, once those memories surfaced, Dan became dysfunctional. He discussed that with the help of medical marijuana, he has been able to turn his life around, and become a productive member of society. He stated that it is a public service to the people of this community for patients, and that this decision should not be about money, but about the patients.

Tom Rose – (See Attachments provided) Tom is a retired pharmacist who lives in Cassopolis. He is not opposed to some of the medical associations regarding marijuana, and stated some are proven and some are not. He has concerns about pharmacists/physicians becoming unethical regarding the sale/use. He discussed potential effects of driving, working and smoking marijuana.

Kim Parsons – Trustee Parsons questioned how statistics for accidents under the influence of marijuana were gauged considering that marijuana stays in the system for at least 30 days. How do you really know if someone is “high” at the time of an accident?

Chief LaValle – Unsure

Trustee Williams – Thought the blood test would tell you.

Dr. Lankowicz – Routine tests for THC is quantifiable, however Europe has these levels quantified, but the US does not.

Victor Fitz – (See Handouts) Chief Prosecutor, Cass County – Mr. Fitz stated that he is opposed to this illegal enterprise and that Jeff Sessions says there is about to be Federal Prosecution for this type of activity. Mr. Fitz presented many items to the Council including information regarding millage stats supporting Cass County Drug Enforcement, Medical Marijuana in Michigan vs. Canada, An article about the rescission of the Cole Memo, and an information pack containing a variety of sites in to retrieve information.

Cynthia Jackson-Ash – Trustee Jackson Ash asked what Councils role in this discussion. Village Manager Sarratore stated that the Village has the opportunity to Opt-in to any or all of the 5 types of licenses that are allowed under Michigan Law. If the Village chooses to opt-in, they need to decide how many & what kind of licenses, and look at zoning issues amongst other things. If the Village does not opt-in, then under the current laws, none of the 5 types of licensed operations would be allowed in Village limits.

Paul Dellinger Reverend, St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Questioned what safeguards would be in place so that someone who purchases under their own marijuana card, then does not turn around and sell their marijuana to others? He would be strongly opposed unless he knew safe guards would be in place.

John Campbell – Attorney, Campbell Law Office – Stated that currently, there is nothing to track diversion. That the system is being put into place to track every seed, who gets it, and when. Currently, there is no regulated system in place for the sale/use of medical marijuana. This creates an unsafe environment for patients as they don't know if what they are getting is good or bad or the strength of it, and is the place they have to get it from safe?

The question is not do we want marijuana or not, it is do we want to regulate the system or not. He believes that the numbers statewide in 2018 show that people want regulation. He cited many patients who are affected by PTSD, seizure disorders, etc. can benefit from the help this provides.

Karl Boersma – Local Attorney- Has major concerns as a local attorney and father of teenagers. Stated that people that are opposed come with tangible data, and that people who are for, have no tangible data on how this drug is any better than the drugs that are currently out there.

Tabitha Pollard – Cass Family Clinic, Ranger Wellness Center – Stated that we already have an opioid problem from regulated prescription drugs. Feels there will still be diversion if we allow a dispensary, it will make it more available within Village limits and more available to the children.

Justin Smith - Member of the community, who is in favor of the Village opting in. He stated that there was a 30% drop in opioid use in Washington after the legalization of marijuana. He stated that there was over 150,000 additional signatures on the petition to add recreational use to the ballot for November 2018 in Michigan. Told Council that this would be a good time to start putting together a plan, and the regulations surrounding it before it is here and too late. Look at how Niles and Buchanan are handling things. Mr. Smith also pointed out that you must be at least 18 to receive a card.

Dr. Lankowicz – Cass Family Medical – Stated that most evidence is antidotal that marijuana has any health benefits. The FDA has not approved this as a treatment and that it is a schedule 1 narcotic because it is addictive. She stated that so far, it is not proven to help the majority and there is no

advice on how to prescribe it, how much to prescribe or when a patient to take it. She does not believe this should be readily available in our community.

Greg Compton, Pastor- Penn Friends Community Church – Pastor at local church, also has teenage children. He would like to see businesses that have a positive effect on the community. If a business comes in, is it going to benefit the whole community? If we choose to accept this, then he believes that we will be very liberal and open to anything, and this would just open the door to other drugs. He does not want Cassopolis to be like Ann Arbor – known for their Hash Bash.

Scott Wellman – Cass County Criminal Investigator – He stated that he believes other crimes are going to happen if this is allowed. People are going to get killed for this. He does not want us to be known as Stoned Lake.

Clyde Prestley – Cassopolis resident, stated that he hosts clinics every week where he has Dr.'s who review patients for their medical cards. The average age of his patient is 55. He stated he had spent almost 2 years bed ridden until he started using CBD, a component of marijuana that does not include THC or get you high. He stated that you can not posses CBD without a card, and that the Dr.'s at his clinics recommend the use of CBD, not THC. However, some ailments require a combination. He encouraged the Council to make sure they were educated prior to making a decision, he invited them to come to one of the clinics he hosts in Niles at the Bell Plaza, and to check out a dispensary, mentioning Niles or Bangor. He encouraged that a decision not be made based on a scare tactic concerning children, as in order to get a card, you need 2 Dr.'s signatures at 18.

Chris Bumbalough, Mother of Daniel Bumbalough – Stated that she agreed with Mr. Prestley. She informed the Council they could make strict ordinances surrounding how they want to allow it, but would like to see it allowed. In addition, she discussed upcoming drug studies for victims of PTSD, and had provided information to Village Manager Sarratore prior to the meeting. (This was given to all of Council prior to the start of the meeting.)

Tex Shetron – Stated he was an average citizen, but that as a plant manager and in combat, he had seen the effects of those who use marijuana, and he believes from his own life experiences this always leads to something else. He stated that if the federal law says no, then the Village should say no, and that if the Village is doing this just for the money, that is the wrong reason.

Kim Parsons – Village Trustee, asked that people look up the story about Jaden David, and the use of CBD oil. She would like to see the Village Opt-in because she wants people to have a safe choice for people who need this type of help.

Leddrew Smith – Cassopolis resident, wants to see safer regulations. He questioned why marijuana was a schedule 1 drug to begin with, and asked if it was because of the race that was using it at the time.

There was additional discussion amongst the Trustees and audience regarding the status in Michigan vs the Federal status of medical and recreational marijuana, CBD vs THC, and what the federal classifications of drugs were.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

None

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Village Manager Sarratore informed everyone about the Imagine Cass event being held at the COA on January 31st, at 6 pm.

Village Manager informed everyone that the regular meeting for February would be held on the first Monday of the month, the 5th, as a joint meeting between Village of Cassopolis Council and the School Board. This meeting will take place at Squires at 6:30 pm.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Pro Tem Williams declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Emilie Sarratore, Village Manager

Reviewed by: _____
Frank Williams Jr, Village Pro -Tem