

# MINUTES

## Thetford Township Board of Trustee ~ Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act and allowable facilities

11/27/2017 4:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Supervisor Stevens

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### In Attendance

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Supervisor Stevens, Clerk Pennington, Treasurer Ayotte, Trustee Congdon, Trustee Piechnik, Trustee Gunnels, Trustee Stanke

Absent: None

Staff Present: Chief Kenny, Attorney Gildner

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### Open Public Hearing

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Motion by Trustee Congdon, second by Supervisor Stevens to open the public hearing at 4:35 pm

Motion Carried

Whether the Township should opt in to the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act and if so, the kinds and numbers of the allowable facilities that the Township should have.

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### Brief Public Comments

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- **Laurel Coe:** I really don't know why we are here, there were meetings, people were invited, people were able to opt-in, How many meetings, three or four? The majority of the board voted for it and yet, here we are again. I think the people have spoken, you just need to listen/ Thank you.
- **Roger Slaughter:** Number one, I think you are in violation of the Public Notice Act as we speak because here I got in the paper where you're meetings are scheduled for 6:30, and nowhere there indicating you even changed the time today. Do you got a memo of some sort that you sent out to the public that you changed the time?
- **Gary Stevens:** We have a regular meeting at 6:30, this was posted weeks ahead of time for a public hearing. Public hearings are different than regular meetings.
- **Roger Slaughter:** Can you show me the post?
- **Gary Stevens:** I believe the Clerk can, yes.
- **Roger Slaughter:** Okay. That'd be fine. Just because you got a handful of people sneaking up in here saying that we want marihuana in this Township, does not necessarily make it true. There are a lot of us that are against it, and there's been other suggestions for manufacturing in this Township that have been turned down and I don't appreciate it one bit when I gotta take my grandkids and go to corner stores to get gas, and all they got's marihuana paraphernalia on every shelf in the store and I got to explain to them what all

that is. Now, there probably is some benefit to medical marihuana; I'm not disputing that, if there is they should go to the drug store and get their drugs just like everybody else in this world does. And if there isn't none, they need to make it so that they got taxes on it just like smoking a cigarette, period. Until yas resolve that problem, I got a problem with it and I think a whole lot more people are going to show you too. Thank you.

- **Trustee Piechnik:** Mister Supervisor, can I have his identification? I think at a public hearing aren't you supposed to identify yourself and give your address?
- **Trustee Congdon:** Yeah if you don't mind, we are just looking for your name and address, just to see if you are in the Township and--
- **Roger Slaughter:** Well, I am in this Township and I've been paying taxes in this township for forty years and right now if you want to know the truth I am paying seventeen millage taxes and not one of them benefit me! So, my address is 3181 East Farrant Road and my name is Roger Slaughter and I think if you just want to make a ton of money off marihuana, you got another thing coming because you're gonna end up being just like all these other states that have done it, and find out there's gonna be more people needing drug rehab than ever before, period.
- **Trustee Gunnels:** Given the nature of the sensitivity to the subject, I would ask that we—If people don't want to give their name and address, that's fine but if they don't, given the sensitivity of the subject, I would be okay with if they did not give us their name and address especially, but also for the record, if you would please, just let us know if you're a resident of the township or you're not. That way we have some indication or some clue as to where you're from.
- **Gary Stevens:** Thank you, that's fine.
- **Juanita Vovan:** My name is Juanita Vovan. I am the owner of June's floral Company at 9313 North Dort Highway here in Mount Morris, Thetford Township. The questions that I have for the board would be; what type of security would be imposed? I would like that addressed for these businesses because we've already seen a few of the businesses in the area that have had break-ins, they've been burned, so that's a concern. The other concern that I have is filtration for the businesses. I understand there is a very large odor that comes with this and we have outdoor sales at my business, and I know that we can't take away every scent but it's just like a dump or any other type of an entity that emits odors. What's going to be done to protect all of the other businesses and the residents in the area? I have some concerns of what the value of my property will become. We've been a business in this community for over 65 years. We are on our fourth generation now and I would like to stay here but I've already been approached by more times than I can count right now of people wanting to purchase my business. And they don't want to buy it because they want it to become a flower shop. I don't want to leave this community, my mother passed away 12 years ago and rather than let this business go, I thought to stay within Thetford Township. I understand that there are business problems and it does have an effect on our income, but those that truly plan to stay, I would like you to have our best interest at heart as well. Thank you.
- **Gary Stevens:** Thank you.

- **Cindy Hicks:** Hi, I'm Cindy Hicks. Thetford Township, Genesee Road, Chairman of the Committee that prepared the ordinance for this. I want to thank all of the people that showed up tonight I want to thank the people that participated on the Thetford Township Residents page because there's been a lot of back-and-forth debate on that page and I think it's been very positive for our community. Just to address a couple of issues; I guess that the paraphernalia in the stores- I can Understand where that might be difficult to explain but paraphernalia is no longer illegal in Michigan, that was something that came up in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act in 2008 and I think children and parents have to find a way to discuss these types of things with their children, it's unfortunate but it is part of our law now. I think the smell is the biggest issue facing this business. I did meet Wednesday with a couple of guys that have a business and they come in and consult and help businesses get going, and I was informed of some of the new technologies that they are using to control smell and the most positive one being an ozone generator. They're saying it's not that expensive, it can be placed on or about the exhaust out the grow, and it neutralizes the odor of the terpenes and the plants themselves. You may want to think about requiring that in our ordinance, I don't know if the State is going to. To require that I'm sure they are going to require carbon filters. They have been pretty good about regulations, the State is. So hopefully that's something we should look at, as far as the ozone, there's also another way they can use essential oils at the point of the exhaust point out; my concern with that is, you might have someone that is allergic to the particular essential oil you are using and that's costly. I guess with the ozone generator, there's cost of electricity to run it, the unit itself is probably fairly expensive. With the amount of money these people are having to put in and given to these types of businesses, that shouldn't be an issue for them. So I think that we might want to think about requiring that. As far as security, the state has serious guidelines on the security right now. It's part of the law. All of the businesses will have to have security cameras that go directly to the state. The committee didn't feel that we needed to go any further than what the state's doing because obviously the state has the experts and the research. As the committee Chairman, I just again want to try to make the board understand, that I believe for the businesses to survive in this economy here in our small community, we need to have the grows in order to be providing jobs in this area. If we could bring jobs and people working into this area, we might get a restaurant or two, we may get some ancillary businesses. That's kind of what I'm looking at; cleaning up the commercial district where we have vacant buildings, vacant homes, getting all of this converted over back to commercial, getting the taxes from them and regulating the medical marihuana. So I'm hoping that you're open-minded about the amount of grows that we allow in our facility.
- **Trustee Gunnels:** If I may? Just so everyone knows, Cindy and I have gone through a lot of headstrong debate over this issue and as of this last week, Cindy and I have reached a compromise on a lot of points of this matter. I just wanted to say thank you Cindy, for doing your due diligence and I hope everyone understand that, just because we have some debate, doesn't mean that we can't come together on some agreement to move forward with this. So, again, thank you.

- **Cindy Hicks:** Thank you, too. Thank you for everybody that helped or participated, it wasn't just me, pretty food group of people.
- **Gary Stevens:** Next person wants to speak.
- **Robb LaPeen:** Robb LaPeen, 10092 North Dort Highway. I've been a resident here for fifty years, and the last ten years, I gotta thank marihuana for that because if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be here right now. This is my daily script to meds approved by the local Rite-Aid I guess you could say. Regulated, approved, this is my daily intake. This is what they wanted me to take before they offered me radiation which I denied. Over the last Nine years, I've been making my own oil, I went from seventeen scripts down to an oil I produced myself that I've been producing for nine years. We got a good strain-specific now. Chronic pain patients, post-traumatic stress, M.S, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's you name it. You can go this route, or you can seek an alternative. It works better with no bad side effects whatsoever. I feel better than I did ten years ago. I put this together just to show, this is not new technology, this is old technology. These are actual scripts from the thirties, the mid-thirties; we've got neurological medicine made here in Detroit, cold medicine made in Jackson, Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Our forefathers grew it, they used it, it was the first law in America—you had to grow an acre of it, you had to grow it for taxes. It's something that coming back around, it's not new, it's old technology they just hid it from us for whatever reason. I think there's a good reason why but I've said before, I appreciate this township. This township has helped more people out than you can imagine, so I appreciate everybody here, the patients, the people that showed up, people that don't know about it. We're up for re-education. We need to re-educate the public with the lies that they've told, basically. So I've brought this here, tonight if you want to look at it you can see where the medicines were made and the actual scripts that were written out for it. I just don't know what I'd do without this. I appreciate it. Thank you.
- **Rick Thompson:** My name is Rick Thompson. I live in Flint Township, not in Thetford Township. I've addressed the council a couple of different times. The real reason I wanted to take a microphone today was to let you know about a development of Licensing And Regulatory Affairs posted on the Bureau of Medical Marihuana Regulations website just last week, that they would be issuing the full list of emergency rules, they said next week, which was last week, which means it should be coming up this week some time. SO we should have in our hands all of the documents and all of the requirements of the Licensing And Regulatory Affairs has to give us in order to successfully negotiate the application process that should come up quickly. That doesn't mean we shouldn't have this discussion or that this is not appropriately timed but many of the answers that we've been looking for a long time, that we've talked about over a period of months will be available very quickly. That should give you a little more expedience towards coming to a resolution here in the township because as we know, December 15<sup>th</sup> is just right around the corner. That was the update that I wanted to deliver.
- **Dale (? Inaudible):** Hello my name is Dale. I actually planned to retire here in Thetford. I grew up in a small town, like this community, in Ohio. I have to tell you, much like Rob, am in the same boat. I couldn't in good conscience, continue to abuse opioids and I

switched to simply CBD oil and now we're arguing about something that can't even be argued in California, in Colorado. We can read, it didn't turn everybody into derelicts. The state is doing so well with education. What's so frustrating to me, is that all of the data other than the odor and the fear, there's more fear involved in this process than anything else because I will tell you, having been to Colorado, I am so anxious to be a part of this industry because it's brand-new. How many changes do you get in your life to try something brand-new? Hendry Ford got to do it, the Dodge Brothers got to do it, I never got to do that. I had to work for General Motors and they already had screwed up by then, so here I am. I'm trying to go back to my farm roots and all I'm asking for, is let's use our common sense. Nobody here is going to be spewing out marihuana smells. Trust me, that's already been fixed in Detroit. On December the 16<sup>th</sup>, those guys are going to be open because they already have all the stuff. The reason I am here is I think this is where good people reside, where I came from and where I want to retire at. So I applaud you for opening up to this kind of environment where you actually have a chance to build. One of my pet projects in this whole ordeal, is I want to clean up that trailer park. In fact, I swear to you, if I can get in business, I am going to buy that place and clean it up one at a time.

- **Andrew:** Hi, my name is Andrew. I am from Davison Township. I'd like to address a few things and comments I've heard from the crowd also. As far as the paraphernalia remark about it being in our stores and everything, I think this is a changing community, this is a changing market, this is something we need to get used to. This is no different than seeing your grandfather's syringes for his diabetic insulin at the store at the local Rite-Aid or whatever. These are medical application devices and we need to redirect our thought process towards these types of mindsets to realize it's not harmful. It's just like educating your kids about sex—it's something that is going to have to happen. Marihuana does not increase the addiction rates. It has been proven around the state that it actually lowers opioid addiction. As this man (referring to Dale) and the other man (referring to Rob Lapeen) have proven, it gets people off of it. When I was fifteen years old, I was on fifteen different medications and that is how I was approved for my Michigan Medical Marihuana card for all of these different chronic pain issue that I had. They saw an eighteen-year-old kid with over fifteen different medications and they said "absolutely". Any orders that are going to be admitted from these facilities are not harmful, they are not toxic. No matter how much of a nuisance they may be to somebody, they are no more of a nuisance than cigarette smoke and cigarette smoke can actually cause some harmful effects. Marihuana smoke does not. You're not going to get addicted to it, it might smell, it might be a little annoying, again, this is something that we all have to get used to. It's no different than walking by someone who is smoking a cigarette. It's something that is their American right. The most important thing that I think we need to address with this upcoming option of having the new ordinance is, this is the lowest criminal penalty. People don't need to go to jail over a plant that is literally helping people, its curing people with cancer. I have seen it (marihuana) save a man's life within 24 hours and nine doses of this cannabis oil. Other states and counties within our own state have proven economic growth with approving these types of ordinances. At the end of the day, this is what true entrepreneurship is, this is the American Dream. We need to

support this so that we can all move forward. It is a chance that doesn't really exist within our economy nowadays where the middle-class seems to keep dwindling and disappearing. This is an opportunity for us, the small guy, to stand up and be able to grow and get that middle-class dream again. Thank you.

- **Justin Denaskis:** Good evening, everyone, thanks for giving me some time again this evening. 169 Clarkston Road, Orion Township. I want to come out tonight and thank you for the actions you took at your previous board meeting to formally set the ball in motion to move forward on opting in and siding with the citizens of Thetford Township and surrounding communities supporting the will of the people that you're all entrusted to do up there as board members. By opting in, by moving forward, you get to create that opportunity. For your taxes, new investments, supporting your current businesses and residents, providing access to safe and good medicine. We've talked about this at length at other meetings, so I don't want to spend my time there. In the quest you put forth tonight for the public hearing, it says "Should we opt in or out and if so, what about these facilities, how many and so forth." So I thought I should give you a little (inaudible) as you're looking at this (inaudible) and looking through the draft coordinates, what these facilities are (inaudible) so you can kind of pick and choose and realize what's going to be best for the fabric of Thetford Township. There's all types of businesses, but keep in mind on the grow side of things, you're looking at the grow licenses, there is Class A which allows up to 500 plants. Now if you keep in mind if you allow for outdoor growth, which the state is looking to allow and regulate, you have very low capital start-up (inaudible) facility. Next step would be a greenhouse; so for there, lower capital barrier to entry, half an acre, (inaudible) as much as you want. As we start looking at more brick-and-mortar, biotech space, on average about 10,000 square feet is what most operations are looking for in a Class A. In a Class B, about 15,000 square feet is what they're looking for to kind of make that size growth. Class C, about 20,000-25,000 would be the sweet spot, now again, you can cut those numbers in half as well but that's a pretty good industry average. Look at those types of sizes of boxes when you're thinking about how many grows and where and so forth they should go. As you're looking at opting in, it's really an interweaving of your current land use plan, your future land use plan, your current zoning map, where your businesses are, your demographic and so forth. Really I applaud you to take a free-market approach based on industry data. Just real quickly on the other four types, the processing center which a lot of times is going to co-locate with one of the grows. It can be as small as 500 square feet up to—if you're making a lot of infused products—maybe 5-10,000 square feet and if they are really a big producer. The provisioning center, as you folks know can be as small as 500 square feet up to a couple thousand. Testing labs only require about 500 square feet, but can be up to a thousand 2-thousand, depending. Secured transport based on that business model, anywhere from a couple thousand square feet to ten, fifteen-thousand if you're storing it in-house. So keep in mind, those are the sizes and different footprints and businesses you are considering to allow or not to allow and then you must survey the current businesses you have already and then look at the data. Weed maps (?) has the best data as it relates to industry statistics. They recommend for the retail outlets you allow one-per-7,000 residents. Now again, this is all relative, you will have to look at the greater metropolitan

area to pull those in for us. So really, I applaud you to continue moving forward with your opt-in ordinance, keep in mind what the footprint of these facilities are, and use statistical data based on how you're going to allow and continue to support the businesses that are already in your community looking to expand. Appreciate it.

- **Debra Skinner:** Hi, my name is Debra Skinner and I live at 9453 North Vassar Road. I've been a resident of Thetford for 24 years and a patient of cannabis for (?) years. I only got three minutes (inaudible) today but I have fibromyalgia, degenerative arthritis, I have spurs in my spine about 5 or 6, I have a spur in my big toe, the doctor diagnosed me for the third time with C.A, I don't use no kind of pills, pills DO NOT WORK. PILLS DO NOT WORK. Everything I take is cannabis medical marihuana, that's all I take, okay. It don't make nobody no criminal and this is what a medical marihuana patient look like, the look like anybody. Thank you. And I got all the papers to show you I only have three minutes.
- **Troy Wolcott:** 10092 N. Dort. I want to thank you for being up there. I've watched the Thetford Township page, the resident's page, and some of you have been beat up pretty bad. The only thing less forgiving than social media is sitting up there. I've been on many boards in my life and it is the only thankless job that I've ever had. I volunteered, and I've got elected, so I want to thank you. I have a medical marihuana card, I got it because I was in extreme back pain so I went into a dispensary and met Rob Lapeen and he saved my life. I only use CBD oil, I don't use anything with THC but I wouldn't have been introduced to CBD oil without meeting him and going to try to find an alternative to the Vicodin, Norco and Valium I was taking on a daily basis. I left a career of 22 years, a very nice, respectful, lucrative career in higher education because I want to help people like Debra. I know Debra because she is one of our patients. I want to thank you for being progressive, I want to thank you for all of the scars that you're going to bear, and I want to thank you for helping the township. I want to thank you for bringing the jobs by approving and opting-in and again, it's a thankless job so I just want to publically say "thank you" to each one of you.
- **Jeremy Reminski:** I live in Forest Township and I am the Director for the Genesee County Compassion Club located at 6340 N. Genesee in Genesee Township. Genesee County Compassion Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping patients and caregivers. Our organization was formed in 2009, we now have close to 30,000 members consisting of patients and caregivers from around the state, mostly Genesee County and quite a few from Thetford Township. We have been able to do this with 100% compliance of state law. We do not sell, produce, hold or transfer marihuana. WE rely on the patient and caregiver system established by the state. We have 23 employees, we see an average of 200 members daily, and we pay over six-figures a year in taxes. I want to thank the council for allowing me to speak and for the special attention and time for this matter. I want to thank especially, Councilman Mr. Gunnels for reaching out to myself and others in the community in the medical marihuana business to ensure transparency and also well-informed government (inaudible). I've come here this evening to offer support and any information that can be use in this decision-making process. In addition to being the director, I've also been a court-certified expert witness in cannabis cultivation and also processing for multiple cases and multiple counties across Michigan. I've been a former instructor for Oaksterdam University, the nation's first cannabis school. I've also been a

caregiver for the past 8 years. I'd like share three important points that need to be considered in this process. Number 1: there are now 2 medical marijuana programs in Michigan. The law passed in 2008 is still in full-effect. Patients can produce their own medication or elect a caregiver to do so. A caregiver can serve up to five patients (inaudible) themselves. This allows a caregiver to grow up to 72 plants and hold up to 15 ounces of useable product. Caregivers has the ability to be reimbursed for costs associated with producing the medication. A law passed in 2016 allows an additional source for patients seeking medication. The Patient-Caregiver Reimbursement Model is a stark contrast for companies seeking to create a profit for their shareholders on top of adding costs, patients, licenses and taxes. Number 2: legalization is coming. If it's not in 2018, it will likely be soon thereafter. With that being said legalization is not here yet. The current industry's dependent on its current consumer, which is the patient. Number 3: I'd like to remind everyone that this is for medical use. Most patients are on fixed incomes, including disability, pension and V.A. benefits. Medical marijuana is not covered by insurance. The state is eager to create a revenue source. I understand the "Green Rush" mentality but when dollar signs are in the air, people's needs tend to take a back seat. As an individual who comes in regular contact with patients in the area, I can tell you that I have not heard of complaints for more access or concerns for the lack of medication. I have heard from numerous perspective entrepreneurial businesspeople looking to get in on the business. I would implore the council to continue its steadfast commitment to its community, its people and its patients in making these decisions for Thetford Township.

- **Chief Kenny:** Good evening, Bob Kenny. I'm your Chief of Police for those of you that don't know me. I was selected to sit on the committee that helped bring this ordinance to fruition. I was told by certain people there that my presence there was somewhat intimidating to the medical marijuana community. I have pretty good rapport with the businesses that are in this township. Many have come to me asking what my thoughts are on the new law that is coming into effect and once it may come into effect and my reply has always been the same and I have not wavered from that. As long as the businesses, the growers, the patients conform to a state law, I will go forward and say, they will not have any problem from my police department. Medical marijuana is an industry that is here, it's not going anywhere. It does have some benefits for this Township and maybe for the County. I realize the task that you have been given as the board to make the decisions here is not an easy one because there are going to be people that are here that do not support the medical marijuana community. I can tell you in the time that I have been here, the time that they have been here, I have had no problems with any of the businesses any of the caregivers, any of the patients and I believe that this business deserves a chance in our township. Thank you.
- **Steve Green:** I live on Delaware Avenue in Flint, formerly 1651 Scott Road here in Thetford Township. I just want to thank you for considering us. I think it's a very important topic that you should be considering, obviously. I wanted to underscore some things that were said up here a few minutes ago. The idea that there are times when corporate comes in and starts to take up space that's been put together by a much more cottage industry especially when its connected to the medical community. Many times the medical community is thrown under the bus with some of these issues. I just want to

make sure that the township understood that as a medical patient and caregiver myself, that we don't do that. The patients are the center of this conversation, not the style of it, and it should always remain that way. As it relates to what happens going forward, anything is possible, we don't know what the future brings. We know that legalization is likely coming we want to make sure that the township looked at this issue from a law enforcement standpoint but this should be the least of concern for the law enforcement in the area. it should be the last thing on the list of things that they have to take care of or do. This is not a criminal issue, this is a medical issue.

- **Jon Erber:** 5177 East Vienna Road. I wanted to ask, I am a little confused on how this works because I'm not as smart as a lot of the people here who laugh and scoff, and that's fine. I'm used to that. I have more money but it doesn't matter. What I'd like to know is how did four of you opt-in to vote for this prior to the Public Hearing? I was under the impression that we were going to come back on this date-in-time and talk about whether or not we were going to have a Public Hearing or not and whether or not we were going to be involved but then prior to a meeting there was a vote that was entered and added to the agenda before the people even spoke about this topic. In other words, I guess what I'm trying to find out Mister Chairman is, I was under the impression there was going to be a public forum where we voice our concerns on whether or not we were going to have it, whether we are for it or not but yet, four members have already voted prior to this forum. In other words, I hear people come up and say it's a done deal, we voted for it. In other words, why is everybody even here talking about whether or not—what's the public forum for? In other words, really doesn't matter we say we are for it or we're not because there has already been a vote, but that vote as my understanding was not going to take place until after we had a public forum. So I'm just confused about that. There's a lot of people that are much more intelligent, all I know is I want an accurate depiction of the events and the records and maybe we can ask our attorney who's sitting over here as well because we pay him an inordinate amount of money and I don't mind paying him but we should get some clarification if he's here, we should find out how that works. I'm confused, As a tax-paying member, I'm just confused at how we have—we were willing to do one thing we said we were all going to do one thing and now we did something different. I find that fascinating. That I do. Only in the Green Triangle, if I'm going to understand this ordinance, so that means if you don't like in that area or if you don't own a business in that area, than you can't operate one of these supposed "pot farms" or whatever you want to call them. I mean, is that how that works? In other words would that be in that area? I think that's ridiculous too. If it's so great and everybody's for it, why don't we just let everybody do it? We don't though. You get some AG property, you telling me I can't grow that there? Because I'm understanding the ordinance will be in that certain little area. Also the least criminal charge priority that should be the number one thing. If pot's so great, you all say how great it is, I hear all these people talk about how great it is, than why would we have any police do anything about any of it. My big thing is I just wanted to understand if I'm understanding this correctly is that; four members of this board voted to approve an ordinance prior to the Public Hearing talking about it. To opt-in—no you can't vote for an ordinance, you're absolutely correct because it hasn't been presented to you but you already opted to opt-

in prior to this even being coming. What if everybody came in from the Township came in and said “We don’t want it.”? You’re still opting in so this Public Hearing has no forum. Has no forum, correct?

- **Chris Sempowski:** I am a new resident to Thetford Township. I just wanted to ask that you guys open your mind up to the possibility of not restricting the locations to just the Green Triangle. The only reason that I suggest that you consider it is, the fact of the amount of energy that is used for indoor facilities, mostly for the cultivation aspect or if you were just to consider allowing a small Class-A grower on Agricultural property that would go under a greenhouse, or use sunlight as a source of not using so much energy which we already have an issue with in this country creating so much gases that are depleting our ozone layer as we speak. I just wanted to ask you guys to consider that possibility of opening it up at least for smaller growers. I understand that if you have a 1,500 plant count license and the state allowed that you are able to stack your licenses, Class-C licenses that have multiple 1,500 licenses on Agricultural property, it creates problems for the neighbors I understand that. But a smaller count of 500 plants and controlling the odor is an issue that you can’t necessarily achieve as well with outdoor, you can with greenhouses. I just wanted you guys to consider the possibility of using some of the (inaudible) places that can eliminate some of that greenhouse effect and limit some of that energy consumption.
- **Ron Trebilla (?):** I’m Ron Trebilla (?) from High Caliber Meds. 9423 North Dory Highway. I’ve been attending these meetings for almost four years now. A few things I’d like to address. We are not trying to ram-rod anything through, we’ve talking about this openly for a number of years, with not just this board but the previous board. When I first came into this community I bid a cookie-cutter-type of ordinance, fill-in-the-blanks just to get this rolling. That was in October of ’15. Now, there is basically a cut-off date. There’s not some action by December 15<sup>th</sup>, myself and all the others are going to have to close their doors if they want to apply for a license. As far as law enforcement, local law enforcement has been more than kind to us but state, FANG and others aren’t so supportive and we are open to these types of issues December 15<sup>th</sup> if there’s not an ordinance and we’re not following the process forward. As far as corporations getting in there, at this point, there’s none. It’s basically all Mom n’ Pops, they’re all local guys within 20 miles. That’s all I have to say.
- **Theo Gantos:** Good afternoon. Thetford Resident. I want to draw your attention to this recent guide from the MML that I believe Supervisor Stevens has some copies of. A couple of the things this covers, it is basically written for the municipal lawyer. Attorney Gildner, perhaps you’ve seen this? A couple of the things they wanted to talk to you about is deciding whether to opt-in. What kind of arguments, cautious, skeptical, should you just wait or not, what sort of issues are involved and what you have actually to do ordinance-wise to comply. I think that as long as you protect the rights of the caregivers and patients now to make sure that they continue to get **(CASSETTE CHANGE)** There are people who do actually rely on this for radiation or chemo and they have decided that this is the correction they want to go, to have a continuous supply and producing a whole tube of oil a day for serious prostate or other issues serious disfigurement or surgical alternatives with serious side effects adds a lot of anxiety to patients. They do talk about

in here, don't just get crazy with multiplication, it's not just a matter of adding up the amount you are allowed to charge times the number of people that are going to apply, and then say "Oh this is all the revenue we are going to have and we can use it for whatever we want". (inaudible) Even the statute says that all expenses; everything you take in, has to be allocated directly to costs of enforcing the program. You can't just go build a children's' recreation area or outfit the cemetery or buy a new firetruck, it's got nothing to do with these things. That being said, there are going to be significant costs; You're going to need code enforcement, you're going to need a lot of work in the Planning Commission, you're going to need to come up with different types of discretionary rules so you don't get sued for some of these things. There are quite a few suggestions in this, I suggest you read this pretty carefully. One of the things they talked about numbers to create—this is pretty important it talks about nor are communities likely to see a substantial revenue from the tax provided for it in the statute. <sup>1</sup>"Assume for this discussion, gross retail sales throughout the state of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000.00). The state's 3% excise tax on provisioning centers would raise \$30,000,000. Under the MMFLA, only 25% (\$7,500,000) of that would go to Michigan municipalities. That amount is split among municipalities "In proportion to the number of marijuana facilities within the municipality" So, if you're only authorizing one you get a very small piece. You authorize ten, you get a ten times larger piece. Assume your city gets 1% of that revenue; that's \$75,000, that's assuming sales across the state of one billion dollars which is three times larger than the Wolford Report-- which what the state is basing their economic valors-- is projecting. "For many municipalities that, that amount may not justify the increased costs that result from opting in (and for many smaller communities considering one or two provisioning centers, the 1% number seems high)." It may cost you more than you think, there could be quite a lot of infrastructure issues. Writing this ordinance is not something to be done by a person with a word-processor in one hand and the phone talking with the attorney in the other, this requires professional work to make sure that we don't expose the township to liability. People can sue if for some reason we choose some kind of technique that isn't lawful, you have to do these things or you don't. These are things that are best left to the attorney. I've tried to help the entire township here with these suggestions. I also think that it is a good idea in general to do this, but let's be cautious, let's do this by procedure. Thank you very much.

- **Trustee Congdon:** There is one thing that I would like to ask of the people that are here, at some point I know that we are going to go to the Planning Commission with this but if there is anybody with input or would like to have some input on quantities of each Class and why, I would be interested in hearing that. So, if there is anybody who would like to address that, I'd be happy to hear that. I thought while I had everybody here, it would be a good time to get a little input in relationship to that.
- **Theo Gantos:** Two schools of thought, you either try to limit it or allow your zoning to limit it. If you limit it, then how do you pick? That opens up a can of worms. Is it first-come-first-serve, do you have to have criteria, are they subjective/objective, who gets to choose, then you potentially open it up to litigation.

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<sup>1</sup> (Michigan Municipal League, 2017, November 15) Michigan Marijuana Facilities – Opt In/Opt Out

- **Trustee Gunnels:** I have a recommendation it's not even 5:30- yet, we have had a hour of the Public Hearing, comments seem to be dwindling down at the moment. I do agree with college John Congdon here that I would like to have correspondence. I think that would be needed. But I was just wondering if we could possibly take a 5-minute break and just reconvene in 5 minutes and continue for another hour as the meeting doesn't start until 6:30.
- **Motion by Eric Gunnels at 5:27 pm to adjourn for break, supported by Shelly Ayotte. All Yeas. Motion Passed.**
- **Motion by Gary at 5:40 pm to Call Meeting Back to Order, Supported by Leanne. All Yeas. Motion Passed.**
- **Trustee Gunnels:** Why don't we give the audience a few more minutes to get up and speak if anyone has anything that hasn't spoken yet? If no one comes forward, I suggest that maybe we have some correspondence or maybe call people back up to the microphone to possibly ask them some questions that anyone on the board might have, or try to adjust some concerns for the public.
- **Trustee Congdon:** classifications. What do you think and why, that's what I'm interested in. Let's just say you think we should have 4 Class-B licenses and why do you think that? That's what I'm interested in just for input for my benefit.
- **Chuck Coe:** You were talking about how many facilities and going by population of the township which is 7,000. The thing if it is, it that the majority—not the majority—it isn't the township's people that are supporting these facilities right now. We are getting a lot of people from all over the county and further that are coming up here. They've had two expositions at the track there where they have had thousands of people that have come up to this. Most of our growing facilities here are grouped in one small area and it could be said that one could serve all of the township but they aren't serving just the township they're serving other people, they are bringing business in from everywhere, just like Menard's or anybody else. They are not depending on just the local population so that should be considered.
- **Trustee Piechnik:** I'm interested in medical marihuana. I've heard the oil is being used quite often and is very helpful and I asked Eric about it, and if anybody else would like to give me some information on it, I would like to know how many plants does it take to make a quantity that is usable, whether a small one can afford to have that type of method of extracting. Can somebody let me know on that? I've seen the values, but then I see caregivers that have patients and they will not have the facilities, or can they have the facilities to extract that oil to serve the patients or can they go to the dispensary and buy it from that. So if somebody can give me some information, I would appreciate it.
- **?:** Well, first I'd like to address the original question about the plants and the numbers, what would be able to be facilitated per facility. I think that we bring that back to the original statement, what's most important is that we pay attention to the patients. This number should, even if we have a higher number for more professional growers, you still should have a lower-class license even if it's in the limits of 50, 100, 200 plants so that smaller growers can still get into this as well, local people the entrepreneur as we were talking about. To address your question about the RSO, if you're talking about good-

quality material you're looking at about an average of 2 pounds of material and out of that 2 pounds that you would get, approximately, a 14% return on that. SO you will get somewhere around 60-100 grams. It really depends on the material you are getting out of that and how often the material needs to be used. As far as what that really means as far as the gram dosage, if you stretch a typical treatment out and try to get the most bang for your buck, one syringe would last you potentially about 7-14 days because out of 1cc which is a typical dose that you would want to take 2-3 times a day for a period of about 3 months to see that alleviate the cancer symptoms. I, personally, have seen a 266% success rate in terminating cancer and that is just within the last 3 years with five different people. It takes an average of three months doing 2-3 times a day to cure cancer.

- **Trustee Piechnik:** The question that I have is that, the information that you're giving me, I question why it has to be somebody in a garage coming up with this cure and not the pharmaceutical companies because they are not stupid either.
- **?:** So, where the dispute comes in that, is if you look at outside research in America and other countries, you're looking at schedule 1 drugs where our research is extremely limited here in America because marijuana is still a federal schedule 1. We are not allowed to penetrate into that cancer research to understand it better. If you look at research being done overseas, they are starting to see these treatments. You can look into YouTube and look at the cancer cells, the inject THC directly to the cancer cells and you will see the cancer cells self-destruct. It literally kills itself within an instant. I think what it really comes back to is this whole pharmaceutical thing; they want to keep the opioids alive and you don't make money off of healthy people. When you keep someone sick, you keep them with cancer, you give them the radiation treatment which has been proven to actually do short-term effects. It zaps the cancer, and as your immune system starts to come back and your white blood cells, you will have that cancer come right back but now the cancer is stronger and more fierce. That's why people who go into remission, come back and have that cancer affect them more. Again, I think to answer your main question, it is just a dispute between the pharmaceutical companies and being a schedule 1 drug, they all want their money and their purposely keeping the information down. They don't want everyone to know we can cure cancer in a garage because everyone would be doing it. How many loved ones have any of you lost to cancer by a quick show of hands? How many have lost a loved one to cancer? That could have been prevented with medical marijuana and that is why I do what I do. I lost a loved one to a rare form of melanoma skin cancer and now I make a topical oil that I know could have saved my grandpa. It breaks my heart to know that, but now I do whatever I can to help others cure cancer, too. I've seen it work every single time. I've not had a single patient I've helped not cure cancer in three months.
- **Cindy Hicks:** I want to make clear, we just had a statement about 100-200 plants please put that out of your mind right now, that is something that could possibly be coming in November of 2018 with the legalization of recreational use. They are looking at them doing smaller licenses and right now that is not an option by the state, the smallest grow allowed by this new state law is 500 plants. Talking with people that were involved with the meetings and are here tonight and have stay involved and have been operating here,

almost everyone wants a license. If we allow these facilities to grow, we will be able to help keep the prices of the finished product down because with the fess that are associated with getting a license for a dispensary, a grow, any of the processing, its costly and its going to push the price up, we know this. We are hoping that we can avoid a huge price increase by allowing our dispensaries to grow the majority of the medication that they sell. We also have a gentleman that wants to do a 1,500-plant grow minimum. He has purchased property here and has plans in the works that may be completed for a 10,000-square foot facility next to the cemetery. For his sake, I would like to see at least he'd be able to grow. We also have an existing business here called the Green Bean. They are wanting to grow. They have been in our community for 8 years and around for 9 years. They are also looking at wanting to have like a 1,500 plant grow. First they are telling me they can go smaller but I'm afraid to tie their hands. If we can get sizeable grows here as well as some 500-plant grows, we will be employing a lot of people, we would have a lot of people coming into our community and we can anticipate ancillary businesses coming in to serve that population of workers here on a daily basis. Some people we are not used to here. I think it's a great opportunity for us to straighten up that area of the township, maybe get some new buildings in, get some maintenance done and not have a bunch of empty homes. I would like to see a minimum 8 grows here, I would rather go too high than too low because the market will sort itself out. If you get somebody in that really doesn't know what they're doing or they are not growing a quality product, they're not going to stay in business but there is always somebody else that will come in and take their place I believe. As far as processing, it takes a huge amount of product to make Rick Simpson oil. Rick Simpson oil was invented in Canada, it is a very promising treatment for cancer. Generally some caregivers do it and some don't but having the dispensaries here allows a caregiver, if they are not able to supply that product to go to that dispensary and have a good relationship with them and be able to get the medicine that their patients need or at least direct them to go to a dispensary. So this is a huge, huge issue. One gentleman spoke in the first part of this about going on CBD's and getting off of opioids. Just so you guys know as the board, CBD products do not in any way make you high or stoned. You have no effects, Stan you had a question on that?

- **Trustee Piechnik:** One of the things I find so offensive is the way you're pushing the roads. We will be able to pave our roads. It is such a beautiful thing. And I wonder, are you high?
- **Cindy Hicks:** I am not high. I have made it clear that I am a medical marihuana caregiver and I do use medical marihuana because I certainly do it right before bed because I cannot think.
- **Trustee Piechnik:** I've heard so many good things and I do believe there's certain things that are very beneficial. I do not see the push and the hunger for dollars that you're pushing at us that, this is going to be great for the township, because you don't know. You really don't know.
- **Cindy Hicks:** I don't know. I do know what the Michigan State Said when there would be 711,000,000 dollars to be split between the communities that opt-in. Now don't quote me on this until Wednesday< I don't know if it is 100% true and it is probably changing every day, but as of Wednesday there were only 27 municipalities in the state that have

opted in because people are rather afraid of this. I'm proud of you guys for having an open mind because I know that none of you guys are medical marijuana users, so good for you.

- **Trustee Piechnik:** It's the push, push push. What I'm reading here, you don't have to opt out, you don't have to opt in, and you can opt back in anytime you want. and I would like to see this thing just a little bit more information available from the state because I think the clowns down there have screwed this up so bad that they need to straighten it out. I would like to see it a little bit more straightened out before I make a commitment. Now, I tell everybody I know a lot of people who use the oil, I know a lot of people who smoke it, and I like watching these cop shows when they stop the kids who've had marijuana and they ask "Do you have any in the car?" and they say "Yeah, it's in the trunk." They are very passive, very nice, they aren't violent but that's not the people I want using it. For the medical industry I am one-hundred percent for the medical but I definitely want a little more clarity on what's going on.
- **Cindy Hicks:** Let me give you my stance on why I am pushing so hard. I don't want a license. I don't want anything to do with that. I'm on disability, I've got M.S, I can't be doing this. My thought is, I've lived here since 1998. I have seen the Commercial District then and now, I have not seen (inaudible) opportunities of manufacturing for myself, I have not seen that. I spend four years on the board and I was not approached by one person to put a business in here in Thetford Township. With the auto industry going, to me this is a new industry that is definitely going to be a good source of income for our community. Just the excise tax, our percentage of it, if we are allowing it, we are going to be compensated by the state. When if this legalization goes through within a year, there are going to be regulations on that and we will also have regulations here. To me, this is the first step towards getting (inaudible) from this legalizations where estimates are right now that it's going to pass by sixty-seven percent and I believe that. So I feel like, since we've been named "The Green Triangle", we need to be out here leading the way.
- **Stan Piechnik:** I said to the board, when you meet someone that's not from the area and they say "where are you from" and you say "Frankenmuth", or of if you say "The Green Triangle." Yay.
- **Cindy Hicks:** I tell people, Thetford Township. Now when I got my legal license in 2016 and I traveled around the state I would tell where I was from, Thetford Township, people knew because we are a forward-thinking township in terms of medical marijuana by not closing down the dispensaries. So if we've had these dispensaries for 9 years and not had an overall problem with the crime, we are the 4<sup>th</sup>-safest community in Michigan 2 years in a row now, what's the bad part of it? I mean, I really haven't even heard anything substantially negative tonight and we've spent all of that time on the Facebook page, people getting their issues out.
- **Eric Gunnels:** Mister Chairman, if I may just before Theo talks, I would like to let our colleagues and Trustee Piechnik know that I am a licensed caregiver as well. I have a patient, you've heard this young man talk about the oils. The quantity as you asked him and he said one gram could potentially last ten days. I want you to know that I have a patient that consumes a whole gram a day and on that note on a case-by-case basis, I want you to recognize that one shoe doesn't fit every person. I just want you to know,

that woman has to go through a lot and she is in a lot of pain and she goes through a whole gram a day and I just want you know one more thing; that because of the gray area of the law, it's not something that I manufacture myself. It is something that I acquired from other legally licensed caregivers. Just so that you are clear, I have every legal right to acquire any form of medical marijuana from any person at any time whether they have a license or they don't. I can legally do that directly in front of any law enforcement officer and there is absolutely no crime in what I'm doing. However, the person transferring it to me is the person that is subjected to the criminal penalties of the law and if you have any questions on that you can correspond with our attorney.

- **Theo Gantos:** I've got a couple things that are stated that are actually in error. Again I will refer you to this MML which is an excellent story. LARA can change these rules. They talk about how the state intends to deal with existing medical marijuana facilities "It indicates that LARA will adopt some emergency rules for the purpose of confirming that a facility's active operation, before securing a valid license from the state, will not adversely affect that facility's right to a state license, so long as: They have one ordinance adopted. They have to at least have the Section 205 Ordinance adopted or have already the authorizing Ordinance and the intent to adopt the 205 Ordinance. Section 205 refers to that Section of the MMFLA Public Act. Those have to be in place before December 15<sup>th</sup> otherwise those facilities have to shut down according to LARA. It's on page 6 of this document that I am referring to. The other document that I will draw your attention to is the Wolfram Report. (Wolfram, 2016) This is the actual report that LARA based their numbers on and you can look at some of the assumptions in here which is 6 percent opt-in. Patients that have caregivers now, will probably not keep their caregivers or 66% of registered patients will go into this new system. Some people are saying they're not so sure about that. They are setting a target price to get their number from because \$285 an ounce as a price, some would consider that high but some would consider that low when you add transport of a batch, testing of a batch plus all the other regulations and a \$57,000 premium you have to pay. Okay state, here's what I need for the year, now I'm going to actually try to go make it. So here's what you want me to pay you for the year and I suspect that most of these folks will not get an actual license and would not have any product certified to grow 'til 6-8 weeks past that. So it's like okay, you can grow now 8 weeks, ten weeks later, they have a product. In Illinois, it took 2 years to start their program to actually have product in their dispensary so there may need to be some transition. That's where they are getting it now, unless they are getting by air drop from Mexico, people are dropping parachutes with marijuana mail they are getting it because they are over their plant count and they are a caregiver and they are growing it themselves, or secondly they are buying it from a caregiver. With the numbers, the problem with setting a limit on it, is that we get into this discretionary issue of who gets a number and what if there are more people that want them and now you have to be flipping coins and coming up with some method to do it. Some places like Detroit and some other larger municipalities say, we will just let everybody apply and then not allow it by our criteria, fall out of the process, and we end up with a core group that's been qualified by the state and we can go through the rest of the process, because that doesn't make sense to go through it if they get dropped out early. Then you go through

that rest of the background check, financial record check, the property check, the lien check, all of these things that you're going to have to check and then as well, go out to the property as well, look at the setbacks, whatever the kind of rules that are established and then head on into dealing with authorizing those facilities. So if you just allow certain places to do it, there's only so many building sites. Did you all get a copy of this?

- **Stan Piechnik:** One of the things that concerns me because, I was in the produce business, so there are simple ways. This business for some reason you're saying, the more facilities that come in, the better off everybody is. Now, are they going to be competitive?
- **Theo Gantos:** well certain people do certain things, some are dispensaries tend to specialize in some categories, some are more heavy on edibles and some aren't. That's a good thing. It allows for diversity. Some patients get used to going to a certain place, and then they'll acquire a batch, just like any good. That's how a businessman operates.
- **Stan Piechnik:** It's like, how many grocery stores do we have in Thetford Township, you know? Because you have to have clientele. This is basically a rural community. Most people come here to live because they don't want to have businesses next door. They want their rural atmosphere that we have here in this township and I think that's important we keep that in mind. You can go to Mt. Morris, I was just looking at the houses that are being given away in Mount Morris Township, compared to-- we have one house that we've got to deal with. Mount Morris Township has 39 houses that are going back to the Township. That city is dying, the township's dying, I don't know why. I don't look to the future as this being the salvation of Thetford Township.
- **Theo Gantos:** If it's managed properly, I think it could be a benefit. If it's not managed properly, it's not used for proper intention that it is, it could become a negative.
- **Stan Piechnik:** Your point being that, you have to zone it to a certain area. The highway is a transportation—
- **Gary Stevens:** This is all going to be resolved more through the Planning and Zoning, this is just to start the ball rolling. We can see it's coming, there's going to be more meetings, more Public Hearings. I'd like to thank people for their comments and their opinions.
- **Theo Gantos :** Can I answer your question about the numbers?
- **Trustee Congdon:** No, no, I am interested in all of that and your opinion I've noted.
- **Audience member:** I just want to say, I think personally, I think you should leave the amount of numbers open. I think the market will set itself. If you have five McDonald's within a square mile, the worst McDonald's isn't going to survive. It's just how it's going to be. Yes, there is going to be a race to the bottom with price, but there is throughout the whole nation regardless. It doesn't matter if there's going to be 500 growers or ten growers. The state can't sustain that amount of growers and facilities to process because the dispensaries can only buy from the facilities. The black market will be there regardless, there's always going to be that. It doesn't make it any better or worse for it. I think also, when you have those dispensaries, you have these operations where you're bringing people in from other townships from nearby townships that may not allow it, but those people are going to be in here. You may go to a dispensary to get your medicine but you're hungry so you're going to stop at the little restaurant down the street, or you're going to stop at the Ace Hardware next door. There's going to be room

for other operations and other businesses to open up because there's more people coming in Thetford Township. There's going to be more jobs with those operations. Personally, I'm all for it. We moved out here for the aspect of living in a rural community. We lived in Redford where your neighbor's house was on the other side of your driveway. We moved out here to be away from that aspect of it but having it in an area is a good idea. At the same time, having the small numbers in an agricultural area as well will benefit in the energy aspect of it.

- **Roger Slaughter:** The first thing that comes to mind is, this is a Thetford Township meeting as far as my understanding. We are looking for input from residents of Thetford Township. I don't believe we are looking for residents from Arizona, California or Alaska or wherever they are coming from. Really, there does need to be regulations. If you're gonna be growing this stuff on a large scale, I don't want to be on the receiving end down-wind from it. Period. I shouldn't have to go up to Menard's and pick up some supplies and smell every other person in there smells skunky for some reason or another. Number 2; I guess I haven't really done a lot of research with the scientists that have shown that the tar- marijuana tar will cure cancer. Now I heard that one guy say that everybody he's put it on is cured. Now he's got a miracle grow. It should be used on everybody if it cures cancer. I have heard quite a few people with their own concern that they might not make no money if something don't come down here to make some money. I guess that's probably the number one thing I'm hearing right now; it's all about the mighty dollar. SO I guess if this is what we want to become, the township that is the capital of the county known for our marijuana productions. It isn't like I've never heard of marijuana before this meeting, I've heard of marijuana my whole life. I have tried marijuana when I was younger. Some of us grow out of it though, there's more to it than getting high every day. But I do see a whole lot of medical marijuana card holders that is all more for the recreational use than the medicine side of it. I have no doubts that there is medical stuff with marijuana. But I have no doubts that there is a lot of recreational uses with card carrying so when they get pulled over by Thetford Township police they can say "Here, here's my card I'm allowed to have an ounce on me" or whatever the limit is, I don't know but we're not out here promoting more beer because we've all decided over the years that isn't good for you. We're not out here promoting more cigarettes because we've all decided that isn't good for you. Even as a recreational use, it should be guideline under the (inaudible) to assure that no one's growing too much marijuana just like no one's growing too much tobacco. We've got too many distilleries, too many firearms in one room of the house or whatever. Should be regulations for everything. What I'm getting is, let's stick to a lot of trial-and-error here is what I'm hearing so, I guess that's all I have to say.
- **Tim Johnson:** I'm a local entrepreneur. I tried to look at this organization and business from the medical marijuana little differently. My plans personally, are to produce products that help the local manufactures of the local medical marijuana dispensaries and local growers to put out a superior product. Something without mold, something without insects and keeping it as organic as possible. Two questions that arose earlier from Mr. Piechnik; you wanted to know why Mount Morris was failing, he doesn't know why. The reason why is because we can't afford \$200 a month for the water so they are

moving out, there's no other answer. There may be a misappropriation of funds, but that I have no proof for. I know there's a lot of property out in Mount Morris that is owned by the township that just sits there. I'm sure half of it was sold out, and I know that there's some things in the works and there are some big businesses coming in from Port Huron that are supposed to do a solar farm. That could create jobs, could create revenue, and could help the township out. As far as Thetford Township, I already explained to you what my intentions are and I'm a local grower. I want to make a comment that I spoke with Eric about he had mentioned in a prior meeting that he wanted to slow things down a bit, take a look and make sure we are not jumping into this too fast. The ball is rolling, I can't stop it, I doubt that you yourself could stop it. Decisions have been made things are going to progress and yeah there's going to be some ups and downs but we are all going to get through it. I think everybody's going to benefit from it in the future. Speaking of benefit in the future, I mentioned that I am a personal grower and I have 5 patients. I, I have seen miraculous recoveries in the cancer areas, my wife especially. My wife went to school with Shelly, you probably know her—Cindy Woods? 25 years cancer free, breast cancer. Recently got melanoma. I didn't know what to do, I was at a loss and I panicked. I went to Robb LaPeen and he introduced me to cannabis oil, how to make it, how to grow it, my wife's healed. I can't say any more about it. My wife is healed, thank the Lord. Now that I've been introduced to it, I personally will continue to do my best to help those that are growing and personally being providers for these patients with the best opportunity I can to help them put out a wonderful product, something that's going to be like I said, insect-free, mold-free. And I just want to also say, lastly that as a caregiver, I'd like to see that maybe something implemented somewhere that caregivers aren't put out in this situation. Me personally, there's no way in the world I'm going to be able to come up with that kind of money to pay for a license. It's never going to happen. Not in my lifetime. I'm not saying I'm poor in any way, but I can't come up with that kind of cash. I assume there's a lot like me. So let's do what we can do if at all possible to not eliminate the caregiver. If it weren't for the caregiver, there would be no dispensaries today. We are providers, we are small, we are limited, and we can only have 5 patients and a total of 75 plants. The majority of us cannot grow 75 plants. You need to have quite a good area. I mean, you could cram them together but then you're going to have an inferior product. Me personally, I keep my numbers around 20. It's easy for me to maintain, I don't have to hire anybody to help me but eventually with my illness, I am going to have to hire somebody. I have ischemia. That's another reason I'm into the medical marijuana. Without it, I wouldn't be able to stand out here and talk to you personally. I can't keep my thoughts in order, my mind races, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from the military. I'm retired military; United States Marine Corps and I'm now on disability. Without this medication provided from the cannabis, I would be just like Robb everybody else that has to go to Rite-Aid every week or every day. I'd take 15-20 pills a day. I've seen my grandparents do it, I've seen my great-grandparents do it, I've seen my family do it, I've seen a lot of them pass away. Medicine does not help but I'm here to tell you, cannabis helps, I've seen it help, and you can quote me on it if you want. I can't say any more about it. You want to know more about it, get involved. Teach yourself. Anybody can get on YouTube and spend days, months, years researching the information of these

companies that have already done this out west, out east, down south, Washington, California, Colorado. With that, I thank you all for the efforts and what all you've had to go through over the last 9 years involving this and I applaud you all. Thank you.

- **Audience Member:** I am not a resident of Thetford Township. I am a Michigan cardholder and caregiver. I am a small business owner and I do have business interest in the township. I would like to encourage the township to try to limit as much as possible, the restrictions or the regulations that you would have, I think the government has too many regulations as it is. I think through pharmaceutical sales we have pre-conditioned (*Cassette change*) I believe in Ann Arbor it is still a \$100 maximum fine if you have fifteen pounds of marijuana on you. I would encourage this township to continue to be forward-thinking and a lea and not be regulated, overly regulated. I should be able to have as many guns as I want to own in any room in my house. I am an American citizen and as a citizen we need to encourage each other. It is our own fault that we have become a drug-addicted society. Opioids have run rampant through this community and around the State of Michigan and throughout the United States. Please, be part of a leading community. Do not limit where and how many. I would ask you that you would opt-in because if you could opt-out at any time, than being in is better than being out and then too late. Thank you for what you do.
- **Brian:** I've been a resident here of Thetford Township almost 50 years, my family has been here over 75 years. I am a local business owner of High Caliber Meds. I personally have helped 4 people be cancer-free in their life. My shop, countless I mean, I don't have a clue how many. Stan as far as the processing, for me it's being safe and getting tested, they have to be tested, out of the garage they are not testing for pesticides, or testing for who-knows-what could be in there. In the dispensaries it has to be sent out to even be in the dispensaries for the patients. That's about it, thank you for your time.
- **Rick Thompson:** Just specifically speak to the questions that we have been asked in regards to quantities with the businesses here in the community, I agree with Theo, there are two basic ideas here, zoned in how every many you can fit inside that zoning area or however many you decide fit inside that zoning area or a fixed number. I'd like to tell you a couple of stories about communities that set fixed numbers. One of them is Pinconning. Pinconning set a very large number of applications, 25 applications for distribution centers, 25 applications for cultivation centers. It took a lot of time, but they did pick 25 applicants for those different types of business styles. That's a lot of work on part of the township, rather but they have quite a bit of geography, quite a bit of area they can cover too. The second story I want to share with you is from a community just outside of Jackson. You may have seen this in the news where there were people that were set up in RV vehicles for days waiting outside the township offices waiting to fill out the applications because they did develop the first-come-first-serve program. Now, if you're offering only 5 licenses first-come-first-serve creates a real issue. It creates the old jam up outside your doors and there's a concern about is there a legitimacy to this. That was a real issue. I would advise you to not go with a first-come-first-serve program. I would advise you to adopt a merit-based application process. It is a little bit more involved, you have to look at everybody's application. If you only have 10 or 15 spots available, you may get 25 applications for those. It is fairest in my estimation, and I've been around—

my business by the way is information, I don't have a dog in the fight, I don't have a business interest, I'm not applying for any one of the licenses, I don't have a client, I do conferences, I do journalism, that's all. I don't have a specific angle to represent. When you start talking about applications, this is one of the things that allows a township or a community to really connect with the people that are making the application. You get an interview process, you get to talk a look at their background, criminal background, and financial security. You can take a look at the groups of people applying and make the decision that is best for the township, not just the first five who happen to have a lawyer who can put together a packet and toss it right at your feet if they want. So, this allows for a more robust process. It also gives a better chance for a local community resident to have fair shot at it. If you open up a period of time for example, let's say a 45-day application period where you would accept applications from people for that period, that would give people plenty of time to put together what they need and to prepare the bonafides their financial backgrounds, in order to submit to you and you can take however long that you feel is necessary. I'd also say, we've heard a couple of issues tonight raised that aren't really real in the world that we see today. We know marihuana is already prominent in your community and all areas across the state. We don't really see issues with health problems form cannabis that's generated, we don't see emergency room situations where's there's health issues with cannabis that's not tested. We don't see an emergency on the road-ways with people who are driving who ar4e impaired. We do see a problem with opioids, we do see a pressing issue too. Finally, Stan, I want to call you out a little bit for grandstanding, I don't think anybody here said the streets are going to be paved with gold or that this particular program is going to solve all the problems with Thetford Township. I've been to all your meetings and I've never heard anybody say that. What we have said is that it's going to occupy some derelict buildings and that's legitimate. It's going to create some jobs and that's legitimate, you'll get some revenue, you're going to get a piece of the state pie from the taxes that are collected and that's legitimate too. That's about the limit of what we've promised Thetford Township on this particular issue. No one said it's going to resolve all your problems, or its going to make your lives easier. The fact is, you don't limit businesses in Thetford Township to only service the residents of Thetford Township. You couldn't do that with a bakery, you couldn't do that with a gas station, you couldn't do that with a restaurant. In the reality of it, Thetford may be an island of approval in a two-county, three-county area that may have very few places that say yes, at least initially. So, you may see a boost and a boom to the businesses that start off because as other townships and other communities say yes further on down the road, you'll have more of a stress on those particular businesses. At that time, it will be an advantage to Thetford to have a bunch of businesses because if a couple of your dispensaries fail, you'll still have a few more. If a couple of cultivation centers fail, you'll still have a few more. If processers can't keep up with demand, you'll still have that industry here. In the normal course of business some people succeed, some people fail, this is not a guaranteed industry. I think we've seen that on a state-wide level too. Even without regulation or other local restrictions, we've seen a lot of businesses throughout Michigan fail over time even though there was a robust demand for their product, specifically because they are poorly

managed and that's true of almost any business; gas stations and bakeries as well. Thank you.

- **Charles Coe:** I live down here on Center Road. It seems that there are 2 factors here, education and administration, how you're going to administrate to it. You've heard from our policeman, it has not caused any problems and I don't think you could say that of an illegal bust, it put people in prison and we have to pay for that. In fact, it said that a majority of the people we do have in prison are over marihuana busts or drug busts you know, and they made very stringent laws and they have put huge sentences on it and it's a hidden cost because we don't realize how many people that we have in prison that we are supporting. My main thing I want to say here now is, we have already had a number of businesses that have purchased property, have renovated property, have started businesses, that have invested in this community and there's little of anybody else doing that. We should be grateful for that. I think you should protect them in that. We are counting the days 'til Christmas, they're counting the days 'til the 15<sup>th</sup>. Because they are going to have to close down all of these medical marihuana facilities until something else happens and if you just go ahead and put this in, opt-in or opt-out but at least you are showing some support for these people that are willing to invest in our community.
- **Audience Member:** I heard a question earlier as to people inventing medicine in their garages, I think this is a question of optics that's an outrageous claim. What they are doing is getting an extract from a plant that has a beneficial effect with more than any dope creation. What they are doing is using something your body is producing, endo cannabis. Many people don't know your body produces cannabis naturally and that many (inaudible). Many of the people in both the recreational and the medical communities seek out cannabis as a way to regulate or self-medicate where they can't get this from the regular medical community because it is classified as a Schedule-1. They are not scientists or pseudoscientists creating pseudoscience in a garage. What they are doing is they are making an extract to cure somebody where science has failed them.
- **Gary Stevens:** We are going to have to wrap up the Public Hearing. It's 6:30.
- **Closed Public Hearing**

Motion by Trustee Congdon, Second by Supervisor Stevens to close public hearing at 6:30 pm.

Motion Carried

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