

MINUTES OF THE SPARTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
Monday, July 11, 2011, 7 PM  
Sparta Township Hall, Sparta, Michigan

Present: Chairman Terry Hartman; Township Treasurer Rachel Shangle;  
Commissioners Mark VanderWerff, Linda Anderson, Don Doyle  
Also present Attorney Cliff Bloom

Absent: Commissioners Dan Wilde and Brent Beuschel

I. Call to Order: Chairman Hartman called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

II. Additions or Corrections to Agenda: None.

III. Minutes of May 10, 2011: Motion by Shangle, second by Doyle, to approve the Minutes.  
Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

Dale Bergman explained that the Township Board referred the proposed Medical Marihuana Ordinance back to the Planning Commission for inclusion of licensing and regulation language.

Bob Maier explained the State's process of regulation. He questioned who is going to monitor the activity. The caregivers do not want oversight, and Bob is not in favor of no oversight.

V. Business Item—Medical Marihuana Regulations

Attorney Bloom presented the Cities of Grand Rapids and Ypsilanti license requirements as attached to Draft dated 6/15/11 of the proposed Ordinance. His letter of May 27, 2011, states basically that inclusion of regulating language is a pure judgment call.

Options of the Planning Commission include: Recommending approval as is and the Township Board can do what they want. Decide there should be licensing and permitting language in the Ordinance; the document must then be drafted. Recommend passing the document as is and do a follow up of licensing and permitting, amending the Ordinance later. Or adopt the document as is and do the licensing under a separate police power ordinance. If regulation language is adopted, existing caregiver programs will be brought up to code with each renewal process.

Motion by VanderWerff, second by Shangle, to recommend to the Township Board approval of the proposed Ordinance as written. Motion carried unanimously.

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VI. Adjournment

Attorney Bloom suggests the Commission read the Attorney General's Opinion found on line. He updated the Commission on legislative action on enforcement, pro-mining interests and local control, septic system procedures handled by local control, as well as an attempt to combine Grand Rapids and Kent County governments. Motion by Doyle to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Sparta Township Planning Commission will be set at a future date and time.

Respectfully submitted,

—Toni Potes