

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COOPER
Township Board Meeting
January 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held, on Monday, January 14, 2019 at the Cooper Charter Township Hall, 1590 West D. Avenue, Kalamazoo MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Supervisor, Jeff Sorensen
Treasurer, Carol DeHaan
Clerk, DeAnna Janssen
Trustee, Jim Frederick
Trustee, Fred Vlietstra
Trustee, Brenda Buiskool
Trustee, Bob Schiedel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Also present were Attorney Laura Genovich, Chief Emig, Sheriff Fuller and approximately 21 interested people. Supervisor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the consent agenda were:

- a. Minutes of December 12th Meeting
- b. Minutes of December 12, 2018 Closed Session (viewed with clerk before meeting)
- c. November and December Treasurers Reports
- d. December Receipts and Disbursements Report

The board and citizens were asked if they wanted any items removed from the consent agenda. Motion by Buiskool, supported by Schiedel to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Buiskool to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Resident comments included 1) Concerns about Kalsec, road problems and issues with township staff referring callers to call those entities to lodge their complaints. 2) What motion was made at the Special Board meeting on January 10th. Supervisor Sorensen responded that the motion was to move forward with the design work of a Riverview Rd Sewer Project from G Avenue to Brackett Street to take place during a proposed Kalamazoo County Road Commission Riverview Road Reconstruction Project.

PRESENTATION BY DR ROBERT EVERSOLE REGARDING HISTORY OF AND MEDICAL BENEFITS OF CANNIBAS:

PRESENTATION BY SHERIFF FULLER REGARDING MARIJUANA USE AND LOCAL IMPACTS REGARDING PROPOSED COMMERCIAL VENTURES:

CITIZEN COMMENTS REGARDING PRESENTATIONS:

- 1) If restrictions are placed does that mean they will go someplace else. Sheriff Fuller reiterated that each Township/City should create an Ordinance to Opt-out or an Ordinance to Opt-in and set the rules to

manage many of the concerns moving forward. 2) Will the county be addressing the increase in homeless. 3) Concerned that the picture being painted about the amount of money to be generated with the marijuana commercial opportunity. Also concerned about what's being said about the homeless situation being exacerbated by marijuana. 4) Expressed hope that the Liquor Control group gets involved so that regulations are put in place. Sheriff Fuller said that in Michigan that jurisdiction would be LARA – Licensing And Regulatory Affairs. 5) As a substance abuse counselor, I am in favor of legalizing marijuana so that more people will not be in prison because of marijuana. Sheriff Fuller agreed that the prisons do have a problem going back for the same thing over and over again. 6) With so many communities opting out, what will happen to the communities that do opt-in. They will have a flood of business that could cause havoc. 7) With all the safety issues already in abundance in our community, why would we want even more opportunities from crime to come in with the security issues of grow houses and the other marijuana commercial ventures. 8) Fentinol is a very regulated drug but is still over produced for sales purposes. 9) Thanks to the doctor for the presentation of all the medicinal uses marijuana has. Also, how do we know what prescription drugs drivers may be on when driving on the roads. 10) There's a vast difference in the all items being lumped into this basket called "drugs", and marijuana has not proven to be addictive. Sheriff Fuller responded by saying that marijuana isn't proven to be addictive, but does lead to other addictions that are a cheaper fix. 11) Wish all the penalties and legalities associated with marijuana use could be broadcast regularly to help inform the public. 12) Concerned about the marijuana users that are coming out and admitting that they are driving after using. Can't we just wait and see how the state rules come out before taking action. Attorney Genovich advised that if the township does nothing under this statute, then licensing would be allowed with no limits. Opting Out now until more regulations are in place does not prohibit you from Opting In at a later date when more rules and regulations have been issued by the State. 13) Wondering why, if the people voted to legalize marijuana, do the townships have the right to take a stand different than the voters. Attorney Genovich advised that the statute gives the voters the right to have/use marijuana, but it gives the Townships the right to Opt-out of the commercial ventures. 14) I disagree, after reading the statute, that the Township has the right to Opt-out. Attorney Genovich vehemently disagreed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. Chiefs Report
- b. Assistant Chiefs Report
- c. 2018 Year End Truck Report
- d. 2018 Fire Data Report

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Frederick to accept these reports. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 19-131 INTRODUCING ORDINANCE NO. 250, AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER INITIATED LAW 1 OF 2018, THE MICHIGAN REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIHUANA ACT.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by DeHaan to Adopt Resolution 19-131.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Frederick, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Buiskool

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 19-132 ADOPTING ORDINANCE NO. 248, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Buiskool to Adopt Resolution 19-132.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Buiskool, Schiedel, DeHaan, Sorensen, Janssen, Frederick, Vlietstra

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 19-133 INTRODUCING ORDINANCE NO. 249, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING SHOOTING RANGES.

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Buiskool to Adopt Resolution 19-133.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Frederick, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Buiskool

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0.

ACCEPT 3RD QUARTER 2018-2019 REVENUE VS EXPENSE BUDGET REPORT:

Motion by Frederick, supported by Vlietstra to accept the 3rd Quarter 2018-2019 Revenue vs Expense Budget Report. Motion carried 7-0.

DISCUSSION OF 2019/2020 FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL FUND BUDGETS:

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR THE 2019/2020 FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2019:

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by DeHaan to set the Public Hearing Date of February 11, 2019.

Motion carried 7-0.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

Trustee Frederick mentioned that he too was in favor of moving forward with the design work for the Riverview Sewer Project. The comment earlier in the evening seemed directed at the Supervisor, but all members of this board approved that project and think that it is in the best interest of the township.

Clerk Janssen mentioned that because of the change in lawn maintenance companies for 2018, the township ended the season saving \$10,000.00.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk

Attested by: Jeff R. Sorensen, Supervisor

I, the undersigned DeAnna Janssen, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Cooper, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 14th day of January 2019.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township