

Speaker Township Special Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by **Maitland** @ 5:00 p.m., Five(5) Board members present

Public Comment: (Present Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Debbie Kesteloot , & Jan Priess)

David Sproul(Township resident) stated that he thought the township should institute a step system in dealing with the violations involving the Marihuana ordinance. Thoughts for consideration, 1st violation a verbal warning and somehow flag address with a sticker, 2nd violation a significant fine and the 3rd violation even more severe. **Maitland**(Supervisor) agreed that there needs to be enforcement on the township ordinances that have been adopted. **Bonnie Sproul**(Zoning Administration) advised that she would have to issue civil infractions and when asked by **Cubitt**(Clerk) who would take the matter to court for failure to pay the fines. **Bonnie Sproul**(Zoning Administration) stated that she believes she would have to be the one to go to court on behalf of the Township. Discussion held on using Google Earth and/or Drones to locate the buildings constructed without the proper permits and turn them into the Building Department. **Maitland**(Supervisor) explained that Google Earth is not a live feed and the county is flown once a year and updated at that point. **Maitland**(Supervisor) pointed out that Drones maybe considered trespassing and the operator of the drone needs training and certification. Flights plans would also have to be filed with the FAA. Discussion held on whether the Sheriff's office would do fly overs at the request of the township. **David Sproul**(Township resident) inquired if when a property is sold if the Amperage Affidavit could be included in the paperwork the purchaser fills out. Discussion ensued with consensus that would prove difficult.

New Business:

Zoning Administrator Marihuana Compliance Concerns:

Maitland(Supervisor) requested Sproul(Zoning Administrator) to proceed with informing the Board of the issues the Marihuana Ordinance enforcement.

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) expressed her frustration with two(2) particular addresses in the Township that are not in compliance:

1. 165 W. Burns Line Rd (Nash Kannou): **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) advised that this owner needs a building permit, but he keeps insisting he is going to operate under agriculture zoning and not commercial. She had to have the police respond out with her to stop pouring of cement because he did not have a permit for the construction, but she knows the owner is going to proceed with growing Marihuana. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) would like to just let the County Building Department deal with the situation. **Maitland**(Supervisor) inquired as to whether the property owner signed the Affidavit and was advised by **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) that he did fill it out and it was notarized prior to today's meeting. **Maitland**(Supervisor) pointed out that the Township now has the right to do an inspection of the property. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) was instructed to mark the calendar for an

inspection of 165 W Burns Line Rd in 3 to 4 months and then again in the Spring as there is 16 weeks between each crop. She will take Speaker Township Fire Department Personnel and a member of the Planning Commission on the inspection.

2. 7485 Mowerson Rd(**Wasim "Sam" Asmir**): **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) pleaded with the Township Board for assistance with this property owner. The background on the situation is that **Sam**(Property Owner) wanted to add a breezeway to the house on the property, but was told he could not increase the size, because it was a non-conforming structure. He then put up a pole barn after getting a building permit. He told **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) he wants to grow marihuana trees and will remove them before the trees flower and that is allowed. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) contacted **Attorney Garner** and he advised that what **Sam**(Property Owner) wants to do does not fall under the "Right to Farm Act" . **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) feels very intimated and harassed by this property owner and does not want to deal with him anymore. She would like to block his number from her phone. **Attorney Garner** advised that if he does go ahead and grow the trees to let him know and he will file and injunction with Circuit Court. The operation will be shut down and the property owner will be jailed and fined.

Maitland(Supervisor) advised **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) that she does not have to be intimated in such a way by anyone but she cannot block the caller's number as she is a public servant. She was advised to let the calls go to voicemail and she was to have Attorney Garner send a letter with the Amperage Affidavit to **Sam**(Property Owner) to start a paper trail and to inform him that he is to contact a Board member for future discussions, etc. **Motion made for Bonnie Sproul(Zoning Administrator) to contact Attorney Brian Garner and request he draft a letter to Wasim "Sam" Asmir (Property Owner of 7485 Mowerson Rd Melvin, MI. 48454) to comply with the Speaker Township Marihuana Ordinance and any future correspondence be addressed with the Speaker Township Board. Motion made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 5:50 p.m. made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk