



Solon Township Hall
15185 Algoma Avenue NE
Cedar Springs MI 49319
616-696-1718

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solon Township Board of Trustees
December 12, 2017 @ 7:30p.m.**

Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Ellick at 7:30pm.

Members Present: Robert Ellick, Fred Gunnell, Mark Hoskins, Mary Lou Poulsen

Members Absent: Arthur Gerhardt

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Public Comment on Agenda Items – none

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Gunnell to approve agenda, seconded by Hoskins. The motion carried 4-0.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Hoskins to approve consent agenda, seconded by Ellick.

The motion carried 4-0.

- a. Approve minutes from November 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve minutes from December 6, 2017 Staff Meeting.
- c. Approve Bill List
- d. Clerk's Rev/Exp Report & Balance Sheets
- e. Treasurer's Report
- f. Building Inspector's Report
- g. Fire Chief's Statistics Report

Committee Reports

- * Cedar Springs Public Library
- * Cedar Springs Area Parks and Rec.
- * Solon Market
- * Solon Park Planning Committee
- * Fire Committee

Old Business

- None

New Business

- **Kent County Community Action Block Grant (formerly CDBG) Public Hearing**
Supervisor opened the public hearing. No comments from public. Public hearing closed.

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A motion was made by Poulsen to apply for the 2018 KC Community Action Block Grant for improvements to 21 Mile between Albrecht and McPhail, seconded by Gunnell. The motion carried 4 – 0.

- **Dispatch Agreement**

A motion was made by Ellick to adopt agreement amendments, second by Hoskins. Motion carried 4-0.

- **McQuestion Escrow Refund**

A motion was made by Hoskins to approve refund of escrow to McQuestion, second by Gunnell. The motion carried 4 – 0.

- **Property & Liability Insurance Renewal - \$9,182**

A motion was made by Hoskins to accept proposal for renewal, second by Ellick. The motion carried 4 – 0.

Discussion Items – none

Correspondence

Trustee Gunnell: none

Trustee Hoskins: none

Treasurer: none

Clerk: none

Supervisor: email from CSPS administration seeking applicants to run for Board of Ed.

Additional public comments:

Regarding Harmony East & Harmony West – see attached.

Regarding Medical Marhuana Ordinance – see attached.

A motion was made by Hoskins to adjourn, support by Ellick, motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:56 pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2018

Public Comment:

- **Harmony Farms**

J. Sprouse – moved in approx. 1 ½ yrs ago. Shared difficulty finding information about Board of Directors for Association. Concerned septic pumping supposed to be tracked but wasn't. Questioned: whether East and West development can be split into 2 separate associations; can 2 year rule on septic pumping be changed; who is responsible for violations of Association. Supervisor "best guesses": changing rules of the bylaws and requirements of site can be done but at a cost for attorneys, etc., Association violations would be responsibility of Association, probably citation would go to President of Association. Mr. Sprouse indicated that is Developer Bitely per State documents.

Heath Haslam – 1) Drainage needs to be redone on East side. Approved & done one way & now has to be done a different way. Developer Bitely wants now to have homeowners take over. Who is responsible?
2) Plan shows sidewalks 5' wide but are in fact only 4' wide. Who will be responsible if TWP requires 5'? Supervisor indicated homeowners should discuss with township official whether 4' sidewalks are acceptable to them, or if homeowners feel existing sidewalks should be ripped up and replaced.

Brian Wheaton – stated he is listed on State documents as board member, but that was done without his knowledge or permission. Sable Development personnel told him he isn't on the Board because they don't have a board yet, but the documents they filed with the State show him as board member.

Jason Voelkers – are 4' sidewalks ADA compliant?

Jim Sprouse – asked if Prosecutor Becker would like input.

Eric LaPointe – Instead of installing 5' sidewalks, can Master Deed be amended to allow 4' sidewalks? Can also change wording for septic pumping from "shall be every 2 years" to "meeting industry standards"? County told him 2 years is a guideline, while other guidelines give table based on resident info (his is 4.5 years, others is 9 years). Savings to residents would pay for Master Deed amendment within 3-4 years.

Stacy Smith – seems lots of issues coming up with one specific developer. Is there something that can be done to make sure doesn't happen again?

Chad Davis – 4' vs 5' sidewalk – who approved? Shouldn't they pay for fix?

Jason Voelkers – Do homeowners have to accept Development? Meeting coming up soon. Supervisor suggested the homeowners vote and if voted down, could have items for developer and homeowner to negotiate.

Brian Wheaton – Asked if township can "cease and desist" on final house to have time to take care of problems.

- **Medical Marihuana Ordinances**

Ellen Moore, Planning Commission Chair – Commission members were not 100% for ordinances but felt enough support to pass recommendation. The Commission started serious discussion on the issue in May and June, invited comments with Doctors, Hospice workers, Caregivers, Patients, Police, & State Senators in August. Did their homework and gathered a lot of information throughout. Noted 60% of twp voted in favor of ballot proposal. Ordinances are for medical, not recreational, use of non-smoked product. State regulates many steps including purity, etc. Planning Commission members wanted to be conservative – could have approved more

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numbers and sizes but only allowed for 2. In Industrial and Highway Commercial zones only – not residential. Between fees to Twp and State, talking hundreds of thousands of dollars to start up, and licenses have to be renewed every year. Each person has their own thoughts on whether it works – don't really know, studies show both ways, but heard from people who think it helps them.

Al Roetman, Lt with Kent County Sheriff's Department - From law enforcement perspective, this is a bad law. The problem is what it brings to town. Seventeen Mile Road and US-131 is busy crossroads. Believes Solon is the only Kent County Township considering approval of ordinances. One problem is no limit on how often caregivers can visit a dispensary. People with no ties to Solon Township will come in here to obtain the drug causing larcenies, robberies, B&E, etc. to go up.

Hal Babcock, PC member – There was a lot of listening and learning on both sides of the issue. Educated, informed, responsible individuals shared information on the topic.

Sally Orlow, Solon resident, retired State employee – used medical marihuana for leukemia – got her license from LARA. Township ordinance passage would make it much more convenient for patients – she has to go to Grand Haven caregiver now. Stated Colorado crime rate has gone down. Medical marihuana is 1,000 times safer than alcohol because you don't drive afterwards.

Patty Silverman – At 2nd Chance School the majority of families have drug background. Money that will come in will bring crime opportunities. Certainly don't need more.

Mrs. Stout – Questioned crime rate and how dispensaries bring in more crime. *KC Sheriff's Dept personnel answered marihuana products valuable on street, including edibles and oils.*

Al ? – Concerned Michigan Medical Marihuana Act not affected by new regulations – why not? Stated problems have not been fixed by this new process. Robberies have happened that couldn't be reported.

David Overhalt, Sidney – MMMA 11 years, veteran. Extra meds are going onto street because no regulations. Community supportive, Police give bad information, misinformation.

Emily ? – Army background, registered nurse, caregiver. Take away negative stigmas & concentrate on patients. Licenses are highly regulated. There are 250,000 medical marihuana patients in Michigan. State has set it up to do it the right way. Asks we look at issue with patients in mind.

Kim ?, 2nd Chance Board member – wants to keep it as far away from kids as possible.

Ron Silverman – Solon taxpayer who has lived here 30-some years, raised family here. How many other townships in area have passed ordinance for M.M.? M.M. cards are not just for legitimate users – no picture on cards, why not? Makes it easy to misuse. Heard can purchase card online. Why can those outside of Township speak at our meetings to recommend?

Jason Blaaw, Sparta – Stated Crockery Township and village of Newaygo have passed ordinances allowing M.M. establishments. If it is voted down, sick people here will not have access.

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor – 20,000 M.M. cards are given out by a 'doctor' at appliance store. 25% issued overall with no doctor/patient relationship. Good Samaritan Law
M.M. patients previously were AIDs, cancer patients, now 94% are chronic pain abuse. RMHIDTA.org shows danger in Colorado kids/teens marihuana abuse, with increases in Middle School and HS aged kids using.

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Dale Luban, 2nd Chance School – Why can't patients go through regular medical channels if such a pain miracle?

Kristen Paget, Talmadge Township, M.M. user, nurse – 40 procedures done for a medical surgery problem with nerve damage. Saw a pain specialist and tried all kinds of pharmaceutical medicines. Accidentally overdosed. Got off all meds, left with pain & nausea. Was skeptical of M.M. Caregiver gave lots of input to decrease or increase dose, etc. Able to continue with life. Not dependent, doesn't crave.

Jon Elms, Algoma Township – active in PC meetings. Pleased PC did due diligence. Caregiver since 2012, Christian, combat veteran. Wants people to open eyes and hearts and stop worrying about reefer madness. Grows organically. Would love to have facility in Community that supports them & the help they give to patients. Hope board open their eyes that this is a Godsend.

Todd Paget, Talmadge Township – Christian, no issue to need M.M. Friends that are vets. Wife wouldn't be the same without it. Fully supportive to have here, in his township and available all over.

Ronald Parson, Courtland Twp resident, Pastor in Solon Township – No one wants people to hurt. Fear is from those who abuse. Currently working with family of teen who got M.M. from friend and dealing with abuse. Family did not make it to meeting. Encourage Board to at least postpone until legislation gets further along.

Caleb Hoskins, Solon Township – Lives here and has family here. Knows M.M. is useful to some. Concerns are what this area will look like 5/10/20 years if we jump in and try to be groundbreaking without evidence of what these communities look like down the road.

Vicky Babcock, Solon Township – Supports M.M. and ordinances. Sat through PC meetings and learned a lot about it. No one has mentioned that the ordinances can be rescinded and changed.

Sally Orlow, Solon Township – There is a form of marihuana available at pharmacies but has too much THC. Do we think owners would do things underhandedly when there is so much money at stake? When she called a doctor, it took her 3 months for appt, then 6-8 weeks for card, additional to find caregiver – a lot of time involved. Opioids are the huge problem – Marihuana is safer and fully regulated. Security requirements deter robberies. No overdose danger.

Lawrence Stelma, Solon Township, Kent Co Sheriff – Has witnessed devastation, even in extended family & friends. Convuluted/disastrous legislation. As long term, tax paying & voting businessman in Solon Township, ordinance doesn't improve charm or culture of our community. Ultimately this decision creates a Brand for our community and this will negatively brand our township in regard to value, standards, culture. Children are affected – see RMhidta.org. In 2016 more drivers were killed under the influence of drugs than alcohol.

Carroll Matulis, Solon Township – Feels legitimate need in taking M.M. for pain. Concern as a resident of township, won't have enough oversight of these businesses. There are a lot of bad guys, too. 1% need M.M.

Ted Nelson, Ensley Township, Retired MI State Police Det. – M.M. difficult subject. Citizens of the state said should have M.M. available to us. 2008 law allowed caregivers & patients access. Michigan has 18 cities where M.M. is not illegal. Alcohol is big problem. M.M. has relieved Opioid epidemic. (*spoke to crowd rather than Board so many comments unheard*).

Jon Elms, Algoma Township – showed M.M. card, said would be hard to duplicate. HIPAA makes some things not allowed for ID. In State of MI, doctors are Board Certified or Not – nothing in between. All MM facilities

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will have 1-year licenses. Total transparency. State will shut them down if don't meet expectations. Community leaders can inspect facilities to see they are following rules.

? Hall, Solon Township – Lot of good points for M.M. – lot of areas in state where they can get it. With any possibility of increase in crime, why would it be considered here?

Derrin Leigh – Property owner in Solon Twp, resident of West MI – attended all PC meetings. Not user or caregiver. Christian friends who turned to M.M. when medical field failed them had miraculous turnaround. Prayer & education turned her view & is an advocate & supporter.

Caleb Hoskins – M.M. is here, and accessible. Question is do we want a large scale operation here. People coming in from outside our community say we do.

Ron Silverman, Solon Twp – Question: how will this improve our community?

Hal Babcock, Solon Twp – Colorado has recreational use – this is not. Doesn't see that they compare.

Sally Orlow, Solon Twp – Card can only buy small amount. Is not cheap.

David Overhalt, Sidney – 8,000 patients, 13,000 caregivers to take care of them. Current legislation does not change that. 2018 will likely have issue on the ballot. This gives opportunity to get ahead of game. Several communities in our vicinity are considering.

Ronald Parson, Courtland resident, Solon Pastor – has read news that California and Florida are reconsidering or closing down dispensaries with difficulty.