

Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO)
Special Meeting Comprised of Newaygo City Council, Planning Commission,
Newaygo Economic Development Organization and Tax Increment Finance Authority
Minutes 5/22/17

Newaygo City Mayor, Ed Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Loomis Lodge located at 136 Croton Rd, Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary for NEDO.

NEDO Board Members Present:

Jon Bumstead, Scott Faulkner, Ed Fedell, George Heartwell, Del Hirdes, Eric Johnson, Krista Looman, Larry Lethorn

NEDO Board Members Absent:

Bill Johnson, Ron Armstrong, Cory Nelson

Others Present:

Board Members from Newaygo City Council, Planning Commission and Tax Increment Finance Authority also present

Motion by City Council Member Hikade, supported by City Council Member Day to excuse absent members.

Motion by City Council Member Day, supported by City Council Member Hikade to approve agenda.

Public Comments:

None

New Business:

Mayor Fedell welcomed everyone and stated combined meeting for board members to gather information from two presentations which are each independent of each other

Mr. James Barr of Strata Business Services gave presentation regarding interest in opening a medical marijuana processing facility, possibly in Newaygo Industrial Park. Barr stated they felt Newaygo was ahead of the game with very progressive Economic Development outlook and program. He discussed Medical Marijuana vs. Cannabis along with background differences between Marijuana and Hemp. Barr discussed Medical Marijuana Act, Facilities Licensing Act and updated group on State House Bill 4209. He discussed potential revenue for state, local municipality, county and various local law enforcement organizations. He described plans and details of proposed building and security that would be in place. Barr stated would hire approximately 45-60 full-time employees along with a number of part-time employees. They would also utilize local tradesman and local contractors for the project whenever possible. Barr stated interested in Newaygo as it is close to Grand Rapids and Muskegon along with Newaygo being a great place to live. Barr answered questions from board members. Bumstead stated would only be a manufacturing/distribution facility with no retail sales at this facility location.

City of Newaygo Chief Andres and Lt. Joel Abendroth of Central Michigan Enforcement Team gave a presentation to group. Chief Andres stated this would be a governmental/City Council decision whether to allow processing facility in Newaygo. She stated Newaygo City Ordinances would need to be amended to allow processing plant to locate in Newaygo. Chief Andres discussed her concerns with possible environmental factors, safety and possible effects to the community.

Lt. Abendroth discussed the transition Colorado has seen since legalizing marijuana. He discussed many statistics and outcomes throughout his presentation. Chief Andres and Lt. Abendroth answered questions from board members.

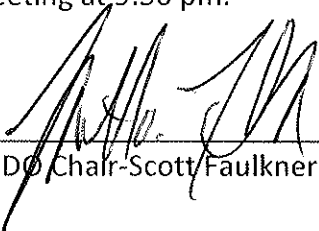
Public Comments

Louis Slater from Holton Township's Planning Commission stated he was at meeting to listen and learn.

NEDO Board Member Comments:

- Hirdes stated feels that Michigan's future will resemble Colorado whether we want that or not.
- Lethorn said understands Economic Development, but concerned with kids and community's best interest. He thanked Council and Jon Schneider for opportunity to allow everyone to have a voice
- Looman thanked presenters and everyone for sharing all information. Feels everyone needs to do their own research.
- Faulkner stated he appreciates all aspects of the discussion, but feels the City must move quickly or risk losing the opportunity to gain a large number of new jobs from this project. Stated that we would not be having this conversation at all if the applicant were a pharmaceutical or other manufacturing facility making this proposal; and feels prescription drugs are at least as big a danger to the public as medical marijuana.
- Johnson stated that this facility may fit into our community and maybe to mitigate the risk, the City can help regulate it. Look into getting the community involved.
- Bumstead stated while at The State he dealt with this for several years and had law enforcement assist with writing the bills. Let's be a step ahead and have some control with rules and regulations in our community.
- Heartwell stated everyone needs to look at all aspects.
- Fedell stated need to gather information and get opinions. Have to do what is best for the community.

Motion by City Council Member Hikade, supported by City Council Member Johnson to adjourn meeting at 9:30 pm.



NEDO Chair-Scott Faulkner



Recording Secretary-Kim Goodin