

Village of Dolton
Special Meeting Board of Trustees
Monday, September 30, 2019

CALL TO ORDER Pursuant to notice duly posted, Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order in the New Village Hall at 6:17 p.m.

The following trustees were present: Tammie Brown, Deborah Denton, Tiffany Henyard, Andrew Holmes, Jason House, and Edward Steave.

Also, present: Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan, Village Attorney John B. Murphey, Village Administrator Elizabeth Scott, Chief Ernest Mobley and Chief Brandon Dyer. Village Engineer Ron Smith was absent.

A quorum was present.

PRAYER/
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Prayer was led by resident Jerome Gray.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Board Discussion of Cannabis Law.
- B. Board Direction on Moving Forward with Cannabis Legislation

Village Attorney Murphey explained the state law allowing the regulated sale of cannabis as of January 1, 2020:

The new law offers municipalities the option of passing an ordinance to opt out of permitting the growth and/or sale of cannabis or an ordinance to allow growth/sale effective January 1st.

If allowed, cannabis products would be sold by dispensaries. Growers or cultivators would be wholesalers. Dispensaries would pay up to three percent sales tax in addition to the current sales tax. Cultivators would pay property taxes. The municipal ordinance would include zoning restrictions on where dispensaries and cultivators may locate.

Attorney Murphey said that there must be a public hearing prior to adoption.

In addition to restricting location, the industry is heavily regulated by the state.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question about whether there will be a town hall meeting, Attorney Murphey said that the public hearing could serve as a town hall meeting. The earliest it could be held would be at the October 21st Meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Rogers added that he has invited Toi Hutchison, the state's newly appointed drug czar, and Rep. Thaddeus Jones to the October 12th Coffee with the Mayor to discuss the new law.

In response to Trustee Denton's question, Mayor Rogers confirmed that dispensaries and cultivation would be separate. Mayor Rogers noted that Denver had collected \$237 million in cannabis sales tax last year. He estimated the village could receive from \$12-15 million per year.

In response to Trustee Henyard's questions, Mayor Rogers said that operations would be restricted by zoning to certain locations, but that the dispensaries would be sited in highly visible locations. He advised waiting to see who wants to come to Dolton before considering a cap on the number of businesses. He expects that those who wish to come in will bring experience from medical marijuana sales and cultivation. Trustee Henyard replied that she is in favor of a cap and wants to hear from residents. Attorney Murphey said that the number of businesses will necessarily be limited because no two businesses may be located within 1,000 feet of each other, and there are other restrictions such as not allowing them near schools. He believes the market will take care of it as there are a limited number of licenses available statewide.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Attorney Murphey that product testing is done at the state level and is not subject to municipal regulation.

Trustee House said that while he like other residents would be inclined to oppose because of the "look of the community" with businesses such as liquor stores and payday loan operations already here, he is generally in favor because of the revenue potential, provided that there is not overwhelming opposition by the residents.

Trustee Holmes said that the village should look at bringing in businesses just starting out. Mayor Rogers noted that the state law gives a six-month head start to established medical marijuana vendors. He added that he has met with seven prospective vendors already, who typically already employ 30-50 people.

Trustee Steave noted that any vendor must have the resources to pay the \$100,000 annual state license fee.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Attorney Murphey said again that the village ordinance would determine zoning in compliance with the state law.

C. Resolution No. 19 R-021
Requesting Federal Assistance in Order to Provide Fully Effective Law Enforcement for Residents of the Village of Dolton

Mayor Rogers explained that in light of the recent crime outbreak, he had reached out to Congresswoman Kelly and the village's state legislators for financial assistance for law enforcement. Congresswoman Kelly has requested a resolution by the board, which Mayor Rogers read aloud. He has asked for \$5 million in emergency assistance from the state.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Mayor Roger said that the requests are not limited to overtime costs. He is asking for funds to adequately staff the police department, as set forth in the proposed resolution. He added that he does not know if the village will receive the funds he is asking for, as everyone is asking for assistance.

Trustee Henyard asked if there was a plan and a date to implement the funding. Mayor Rogers responded that once funding is passed, he would communicate with the legislators on the process. He added that the state legislature veto session this fall is scheduled to last five days. The resolution if passed with be forwarded to Congresswoman Kelly. In response, Trustee Henyard said so there is no plan.

CITIZENS ADDRESS *Limited to the Business of the Special Meeting*

Dan Lee, resident, said that if the village does not move on this, it will be in the same position as with the casinos. If the village receives revenue as projected, it may be able to eliminate some of the other types of business we don't care for.

Valeria Stubbs, resident and former trustee, asked if there was a consensus vote to move forward on the cannabis legislation.

Trustee Steave responded that yes, there is a consensus, because no one objected to moving forward.

Resident further asked if there could be a presentation by interested businesses re security.

Mayor Rogers said that the new state law regulates security.

Pat Byrd, resident, asked about possible cultivation on village land.

Mayor Rogers responded that the potential companies involved would not risk their investments for failure to comply with state law. Mayor Rogers further distinguished between cultivation and dispensary facilities, and added that free-standing consumption cafes also permitted by state law.

Village Attorney Murphey suggested residents Google Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Summary.

Kiana Belcher, resident, asked whether the mayor would reinstate the zoning and planning committee, and in light of his earlier comments re the resolution for federal funds, if he would also ask for assistance for police overtime in addition to funds for new hires

Mayor Rogers said that the board of trustees could make the zoning decisions, and reiterated that the Justice Department informed him that Department of Justice assistance has been limited to overtime, but the resolution as requested by Congresswoman Kelly requests assistance for "adequate staffing."

Kevin Boens, resident, asked what measures will be in check to protect the projected revenue from cannabis sales, given past mismanagement.

Mayor Rogers responded that the Board of Trustees is the check. Trustee Steave added that the trustees' finance committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month and addresses measures in place.

Mayor Rogers added that the bonds currently being paid off are from 2004-2005.

Trustee Henyard said that all revenues from cannabis should be segregated.

Sandra Wells, resident, urged that a zoning and planning committee be considered. She questions whether the board of trustees should have the final decision without resident input.

Village Attorney Murphey noted that early on in the evening he said that state law requires a public hearing before the board may vote.

AJ Burse, resident, asked if there were numbers to support the revenue projections.

Mayor Rogers responded that the projections are estimates based on the village being one of the first local communities to approve sale, and is conservative re population versus projected participation. Everything is in the preliminary stage. Attorney Murphey confirmed that the deadline to pass the ordinance is the end of this year.

In response to resident's question about when state legislation for law enforcement assistance mentioned by the mayor might be introduced, Mayor Rogers noted again that the legislature is meeting briefly for a veto session so he cannot say if it will be introduced during the fall session.

Mrs. Crayton, resident, said that she would like to know the identities of the companies Mayor Rogers said had approached him, and asked about the status of the former Standard Bank building.

Mayor Rogers said that at any time he receives 12-15 business inquiries per month. He will share with the public when the offers are viable. The Standard Bank Building was conveyed to the South Suburban Land Bank, which sold to a non-profit organization.

Diane Lofton, resident, asked if the anticipated revenue would be used to pay off the water debt to the City of Chicago, and whether cannabis cafes would be permitted in neighborhoods.

Mayor Rogers responded that first, the village must determine how much revenue it could receive; then prioritize keeping payments current, and identify immediate needs such a street resurfacing, pension funding and police. State law leaves zoning of cannabis businesses to each municipality.

Garrett Ghezzi, life-time resident and retired pharmacist, said that pharmacists by training do not endorse the recreational use of any drug, but with proper regulation, cannabis can be safely dispensed. He said that the village cannot give up the sales and property tax revenue. The main thing is to control it by state and local regulation.

Trustee House noted that revenue received would not be allocated until next year's budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee House, second by Trustee Steave, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Trustees Brown, Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

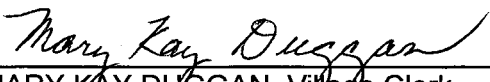
NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 7th day of October, 2019.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor