

Public Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M.

President W. Dompier opened the meeting.

Present at Roll Call: Paul Stark, Jeannine Mayo, Antonio Cerroni, Anthony Mayo, Sandy Johnson, Scott Koski and Wendell Dompier

Also Present: LeAnn LeClaire, Village Manger  
Diane Mayo, Village Clerk  
Irvin Smith, Chief of Police

The Special Meeting was to discuss the possibility of the Village of Baraga Opting In on Ordinance 252 with the State of Michigan for Marihuana Establishments in the Village of Baraga.

Public Comment: Jerry Dompier, Township of Baraga Trustee, stated that he was opposed to a marihuana facility in the community because it would be bringing more drugs into the area. He felt that it would enable easier access to marihuana for the youth and he said we need to be protecting our youth. He would prefer the medicinal marihuana be purchased through a pharmacy. Gary Loonsfoot, Vice President of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Council, stated that any tribal member would have to be approved by the KBIC. Also, a facility would be in violation of federal law if it is on the reservation and the tribal police enforces federal law on the KBIC reservation. Aaron Robins and Tonya Solberg were present to discuss the possibility of the Village of Baraga opting in on the marihuana ordinance as they have been prequalified for opening a microbusiness. The process was not an easy one and applicants are screened very carefully. Applicants need to also have an excess in funds to back such a business. He stated that the business would bring revenue into the Village of Baraga. The Village would be getting \$5,000.00 for a permit application. Also, the Village of Baraga would be eligible for money from the state. A 30% distribution based on the total sales in Michigan is given to the municipality for each retail store or business in the municipality. In the state's 2020 fiscal year, every eligible municipality received around \$28,000.00 for every licensed retail store or microbusiness. The Village could limit the number of micro businesses in the area. A merit system could be established for the business applications. The number of licenses could be restricted. The Village of Baraga could also pull the license of a microbusiness at any time if they felt it wasn't working out as they anticipated.

Council member, J. Mayo, questioned if a business can be approved since it would also be on the KBIC reservation. Gary Loonsfoot said the council should discuss that with their tribal attorney. He stated that the tribal facility in Crystal Falls has been good for the community by providing well-paying jobs. Also, Northern Michigan University is now offering courses on such businesses. S. Koski, council member, questioned if the Village of Baraga is liable if the business is closed by the federal government. Gary Loonsfoot replied that the license owner assumes all responsibility.

S. Koski stated that such a business is securely and well run. The council owes it to the Village to base their opinion on a profitable business coming into the Village and not on the council member's own moral values. The Village could definitely use the money as road improvements are now on hold for the next two years. P. Stark, council member, stated he sees the whole thing as a mess and the money is not worth it. He feels such a business is contributing to the drug trade. S. Koski stated that he respects everyone's opinion.

Motion made by S. Koski seconded by A. Mayo to opt in on Ordinance 252 with the State of Michigan for Marihuana Establishments in the Village of Baraga.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: J. Mayo, A. Mayo, S. Johnson, S. Koski, W. Dompier

Nays: P. Stark, A. Cerroni

Motion carried.

Motion made by S. Koski and seconded by A. Mayo to adjourn.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 P.M. on October 19, 2021.

Submitted by Diane Mayo, Village Clerk