

MERRILL TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING
1585 W 11 MILE ROAD BITELY, MI. 49309
JUNE 6, 2017
7:00 PM

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Barry Baldwin at 7:01 pm

Pledge to the Flag – Frank Jackson led pledge.

Prayer – Barry Baldwin said opening prayer

Roll Call – Ron Jackson here, Janet Osmolinski here, Barry Baldwin here, Denise Suttles here, Cathy Stroop absent.

Speak – Kathleen Graham – addressed the issue of building a marijuana growing facility on M37 approximately 5 miles south of Merrill Township Complex. She spoke of the revenue that could be brought into Merrill Township. The license that would need to be purchased are 5 different type of license which are \$5,000 each.

Along with Kathleen, was a lawyer Josh from Romus. Regina, owner of Becca Farms. They want to put in a “Gold Standard” facility. They would be building outdoor and indoor greenhouses. They need 150-200 acres for growing the product.

Per Josh, the lawyer, this will bring economic growth to Merrill Township. They will try to hire local people for the jobs.

Several questions were asked by the community that was in attendance.

Some people were concerned about the limited amount of farming in this area. This area is mostly retired people living in resort areas. This is an area for fishing, swimming and other year around sports.

Another concern, was Kathleen and her people just trying to get a foot in the door before marijuana is totally legal.

They would like to be operational by May 2019.

Kathleen also stated she has property, 1 acre, on M37 that she will turn into a dispensary. Her family has the 100 acres on M37n that they can buy for the facility.

Very mixed feeling from the community that was present.

This will be a State law that goes against Federal law. Could cause problems with local police.

The facility will be fenced with 24 hour a day security with guards, video recording going right into police department. It was stated we do not have a local force it comes from White Cloud and Newaygo.

The township would need to pass an ordinance before anything can happen.

The board will need to take time to go over what was presented and do the best for Merrill Township.

Meeting Adjourned – Barry Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm

Respectfully Submitted

Janet Osmolinski

Merrill Township Clerk