

**LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP/CITY OF BRIDGMAN
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
3220 SHAWNEE ROAD
BRIDGMAN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY JULY 29, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by John Gast, Lake Charter Township Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Lake Charter Township Board Members included:

John Gast, Supervisor
Gloria Payne, Clerk
Robert Clark, Treasurer was absent
Nancy Mensinger, Trustee
Pat Heyn, Trustee
John Wilk Trustee
James Stine Jr., Trustee was absent

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission members included:

William "Bill" Geukes, Chair
Christin Rice, Secretary
Nancy Mensinger
John Dzienis
Hayley Coulter was absent.

City of Bridgman Commissioner's included:

Vince Rose, Mayor
Sarah Buist
Rick Fuller
Linda Gedeon Kuhn
Georgia Gipson
Stacy Stine
Jan Tripani
Juan Ganum, Bridgman City Manager

City of Bridgman Planning Commission members included:

Steve Parsons was absent
Mark Hurray
Dorothea Crocker was absent
Eugene Herrman
Richard Kading was absent
Thomas Woerdehoff was absent

Others Present:

William Boyd, Robert Liskey, James Catania, Chief Dan Unruh, Sarah Spoonholtz, Marina Peters, Anthony Downer, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schmidt

MINUTES

After having a chance to review the meeting minutes of July 30, 2018, there were no corrections, and they were placed on file.

Farmers Market

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schmidt attended this meeting to inform both communities they would like to reinstate the Farmers Market in Bridgman. They would begin the parking lot to the west of Eric's Café from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. with farm to table vendors. There would be no cost to the vendors and would run from Memorial Day to the second week in October. It was moved by Kuhn seconded by Heyn to allow Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schmidt to reinstate the Bridgman Farmers Market. 12 ayes, motion carried.

Bridgman Public Library

Gretchan Evans, Bridgman Public Library Director reported on a new initiative "Library of Things." She showcased a metal detector that the Bridgman Library is checking out, just like books. In addition, sewing machines, musical instruments and other items also can be checked out.

The Community wide garage sales are scheduled for September 13 and 14, 2019, permits can be obtained at the Library.

Gretchan Evans further reported the Library is getting a facelift, new paint, new carpet and they will be closed September 23 through October 7, 2019 for those upgrades.

Librarian Evans also announced she is leaving as the Bridgman Public Librarian, and moving to the Paw Paw to become the librarian at the Paw Paw Library.

Both communities thanked Gretchan for her service to the Bridgman community and wished her well in her new endeavor. Candidates are in the process of being interviewed and a new librarian will be hired sometime in August.

AGENDA

Medical Marijuana

John Gast introduced Debra, Patzer Zoning Administrator for the City of Buchanan who reported on the dynamics of navigating medical marijuana in their community.

Public hearings were held, 80% of the residents in attendance were against, however, over time and copious amounts of information it was approved by a 4 to 1 vote. They then embarked on forming a "police power" and

operational ordinance. Further, they initiated a "city" permit, in addition to the state permit, along with a guidebook that is in compliance with state law to help people navigate through the process. A zoning amendment was passed wherein the area must be zoned agricultural or industrial. To date, there has been no trouble in the community.

Anthony Downer: Would you do it again? Ms. Patzer responded it was important to streamline the process and it was not easy to do.

Eugene Herrman: With regard to the permit, does the permit have to have the physical address? Ms. Patzer responded the Planning Commission issues a Special Land Use permit for six months.

Nancy Mensinger: What tax dollars have you realized. Ms. Patzer responded, no revenue has been realized.

William "Bill" Geukes: Did you seek outside help? Ms. Patzer responded no outside help was used, however an attorney with medical marijuana experience helped with the ordinances and the state law was followed.

Pat Heyn: Does the Special Land Use go with the property. Ms. Patzer responded yes.

Chief Dan Unruh commented that the recreational marijuana is different than the medical marijuana. When the recreational gets popular that needs to be regulated and the state issues the permits.

John Gast: Has there been any Federal intervention? Ms. Patzer responded none.

Linda Gedeon Kuhn: What happens if the Federal government would come and shut it down? Ms. Patzer responded as long as facilities are compliant with the state, it is unknown what the Federal government would do.

William Boyd: How many legal residents participate vs. outsiders? Ms. Patzer indicated she did not know, but that they had both.

Rick Fuller commented they don't allow the dispensaries to deal with banks, everything is cash, a credit union is looking to get involved, they are exempt from the FOIA. Local police are involved in background checks.

John Dzienis: Do police officers check their allotments. Ms. Patzer responded that she did not know.

John Gast asked Ms. Patzer to stay after the meeting to answer any additional questions someone might have.

City of Bridgman Update

Juan Ganum, City of Bridgman Manager reported on the happenings in the City of Bridgman, which included new led stop signs that are solar powered, each costing \$4,800.00. The pedestrian crosswalks have been painted yellow. He pointed out the new pedestrian crosswalks that are necessary for motorists to stop and yield to pedestrians. Lastly, they have a speed detection device on California Road.

The City of Bridgman approved two contracts to seal coat Gast Road north of Lake and Rambo Road. The fire department driveways were resealed. An air conditioner was installed at Weko Beach House.

The City is establishing a commercial rehabilitation Act for B&L Information Systems.

Utility rates, namely water and sewer are being looked at. Smoke testing has been done and lastly, the Master Plan for the City of Bridgman is almost done and ready to be presented to council members.

Lake Charter Township Update

John Gast, Lake Charter Township Supervisor reported that we purchased seven acres next to the Lake Charter Township Park for construction of a parking lot. The Water Plant has had the intake inspected. We finalized the paving of Greenwood Cemetery and the township hall parking lot. We are in the process of upgrading our pavilions with drains, running water and kitchens. Repair of the fences for the ball fields is underway. Lake Charter Township is exploring their water and sewer utility rates, as well. The study to be conducted by Tom Traciak, of Umbaugh and Associates. An engineer is looking at our system for spots of infiltration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Liskey asked where we are at with combing fire departments. Both communities responded that the issue has slowed down and placed on the back burner.

Anthony Downer asked when are the communities going to discuss micro-businesses. Mayor Vince Rose responded that this agenda will be on Monday night's meeting. The City of Bridgman is looking into it.

With no further business, it was moved by Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Clerk, seconded by Linda Gedeon Kuhn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Gloria A. Payne, Lake Charter Township Clerk