



**GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING – MARIJUANA OPERATIONS  
MINUTES  
07/12/2021  
7:00 PM**



- 1) Call to Order by Hunt
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- 3) Members present: Hunt, Gustman, Budde, Conley, Deater
- 4) Introduction: an overview of the hearing purpose and the guidelines for public comment were provided by Hunt.
- 5) Public Comments:
  - a) Cora Conley read comments the Township received by email – copies are attached.
  - b) Jim Lavin – opposed to marijuana operations in the Township; is not opposed to farming; concerned about the unknowns associated with marijuana operations including inside grows; suggested the Board do its homework; believes money to pay for roads is and will always be an ongoing issue like school funding is (and marijuana operations may not be the answer). Asked the Board to not rush, but to wait to see result of grow operations in Newfield Township. Lavin stated that when things do not go well and a business must cut corners, things may slide.
  - c) Sandra Gustman stated that the money raised from marijuana cannot be used for roads. Conley added that the license fees and application fees cannot be used for roads under current language in the law; however, money from retail sales could be used for roads.
  - d) Bill Melcher – stated he is from Newaygo and formerly worked for the State in the LARA division; he and his business partner are interested in purchasing a property in Greenwood Township for an indoor medical growing operation. He provided his background as well as his business partners who is a cancer survivor. They would put up a pole barn with no windows or signage which would be fenced as required by law. Advised the property is surrounded by farmland. The inside lab would be clean and kept free of pests to make certain they produce quality product. Plan to have 2-3 employees 7 days a week. There would be no retail sales. When product is ready, a state licensed transporter would pick it up and take it to a testing center. When transporters come it would be safe with no danger to neighbors. As far as odor, 12 filters, changed once a year or as often as the Township required. Believes there would be very little odor. Believes it would be good revenue source for township. Anything they could do to help they would do if Township opted in.

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e) Melissa Stroven asked what Melcher would use for security. Melcher replied they would likely rent the house on the property to a worker as the State requires security. They would have cameras that would be monitored. Stroven asked if the worker would be armed. Melcher said possibly the transporter would be but not their workers. Stroven read a report about an incident at a growing operation – copy attached.

f) Jerry Budde –Greenwood could do work to improve township properties such as providing garbage service. Question why if the State has access to property, why the township would need to allow marijuana operations – suggested to let the State do it on their own property.

g) Dennis Greiner – stated he owns property in Greenwood. Not in support of marijuana operations in Greenwood. Concerned property values will be negatively impacted. Stated the hemp growing field in Newfield township smelled and gave his wife headaches. Stated his in-laws live near the new marijuana grow operation on M20 and is concerned they may not be able to spend time at in-laws due to the odor.

h) Larry VanderKolk – stated he lives in the Township and believes once the door is open to marijuana it will snowball adversely.

i) Brian Woods – asked Melcher why he wants to set up his business in Greenwood if he lives in Newaygo. Melcher cited issues of available land in their price range and expense of land improvements, for example, the City of Newaygo is limited to the industrial area which is out of his price range. Brooks Township requires 300-yard clearance from neighbors and that disqualified available property, some available land requires removal of trees and filling. He stated in White Cloud, grows are also restricted to an industrial park. He is looking for a property in an agricultural zone. Melcher said they are looking at homes run down, vacant, bankrupt, and that in Greenwood there is vacant land, and they found a property with a small home and land for a pole barn. He mentioned they would have a presence at the operation 24 hours a day.

j) Keith Conkright – stated he lives on 25 acres on 194<sup>th</sup>. He moved to Greenwood from Eggleston where there was trouble with medical operations which he feels was not a good environment for raising his family. There is a grow next to his property. He has trail cameras on his property and has caught individuals heading from North to South (toward the grow) at odd times of day. He is opposed to allowing marijuana operations. Does not want his property values to go down, does not want the traffic it will bring, and is concerned about trouble it could attract. Stated once you open the gates, it is a downhill slope, and that he is against large commercial operations. He has enough trouble with the parking lot at the fishing spot across the street from his home where the traffic is often at odd hours with a lot of coming and going. He has many questions such as how close a grower can grow to another residence. He asked where he could get answers and Budde advised him to check the State's website where voluminous information is available and is very educational.

k) Sandra Gustman - stated she believes property cannot be leased for an operation but must be owned.

l) Al Deater – reiterated that we have time to decide, and this meeting was designed to hear from the public.

m) Jeff Hunt advised the audience that if a decision were made to allow operations in the township, the ordinance that would be developed would outline the type of licenses and conditions under which marijuana operations would be allowed.

n) Bill Melcher stated the property he is interested in is about 1.5 acres surrounded by farmland on all sides. He stated that without a license, every property in the state can grow 12 plants for themselves, and that caretakers can get a license and a caretaker can grow 6 plants for each patient. Melcher said it gets murky because the law requires a caretaker to destroy plants if not all are used by the patients; however, he believes that law is not always followed, and a black market exists as a result and that is one reason why the State is pushing the licensing. He also stated the State handles the regulatory matters including inspections.

o) Sandra Gustman stated there are 16 townships in the County and asked Melcher if he had looked at other townships for his operation. Melcher said he did but ran into the issues he already stated earlier such as clearing land and he also mentioned that like Greenwood, not all townships have opted in.

p) Vicky VanderKolk said she lives in Greenwood and would hate to have an operation next to her. She said they are paying taxes for what they wanted and where they wanted to live. Believes there are many issues connected with these operations including security. She asked what the benefit to the community was and if allowing the operations would be respectful of the members of this community.

q) Bob Spaulding stated he was willed an acre on 194<sup>th</sup> where he lives and is growing in the best spot on the land. He said he has had surveillance. He also does not like the activity across the road (at the fishing parking area). Conley asked if he is a medical care provider and Spaulding said he was not. Budde asked if he grows just for himself, and he said he grows his allowed 12 plants. Bob said the State is doing surveillance on him too, helicopters fly over, etc. and he stated he believes growing inside would be very expensive. Spaulding suggested the Township could benefit financially if a grow operation were allowed on the land owned by the Township, for example, allowing someone to license it and grow.

Hunt and the Board thanked the public for showing up and providing their input.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM. Motion by Deater. Supported by Conley I/F 5-0

*Lora Conley*



June 26, 2021

Oceana

E M 20, Hesperia

Alarm company Reports 2 vehicles circling a gated area they are watching them on cameras. One male has a rifle. He is now putting it back in the truck. The gated area is a grow area. They no longer see the vehicles on camera but they are still setting off alarms.

**\*\*update\*\*** 1 vehicle was a pickup.

Other was SUV with a roof rack and cream color trim around the tires.

Officers are not locating anything.

Believing they may have left. **\*\*update\*\***

the vehicles belonged to workers. The suspects where on foot. The workers where chasing the males on foot north of the field. Officer is out with the workers now.



Greenwood Township <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

## Hemp field experience

1 message

**Michelle71815 Chell** <mbustos30@gmail.com>  
To: greenwoodtwp@ncats.net

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 5:15 PM

Hi,  
I am a Hesperia green wood township resident.  
I have been approached regarding my experiences living next to the hemp fields.  
The experience during harvest season has been awful.  
I have had to shut my windows because the stench was so intense that it smelled like cat piss mixed with skunk spray. It was during evening hours til early dawn that it was most prominent.  
I am not opposed to what the job consists of but, when I can't enjoy a family even because "what's that smell!!!" Keeps being brought up, makes it a little difficult. Thank you for your time in this matter.  
Warm regards,  
From your fellow residents.

Sent from my iPhone



Greenwood Township <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

## Marijuana farms

austin anson <austinanson1995@yahoo.com>  
To: "greenwoodtwp@ncats.net" <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 5:08 PM

Dear,  
Greenwood Township Board

My Wife and I just moved into Greenwood Township last October. I grew up here on Garfield rd. she is from Fremont. We decided to purchased are first home here because we liked the quite, open view and wildlife. Were planning to raise our children here, so naturally, like so many others that reside here, we have concerns with possible Marijuana operations being allowed in Greenwood Township. Our home is surrounded by farm fields, we sit out on our back porch and watch the sun set over them and the wildlife pass by. The idea of these pot farms putting up fences and possible armed guards goes again every reason we moved here. I don't want to raise our children next to such a environment. I wish to raise them in the lifestyle we have now the lifestyle we had growing up, where we can watch the sun set, the animals graze in the fields and play outside until dark with no worries. Not one where we have to worry if they are adventuring to close to these operations.

Our home has many window, and we do not have central air, so in the summertime we like to open the window for that nice summer breeze and spend out free time outside gardening. With the potential for marijuana farms surrounding us, we will be faced with the tough choice of opening our window for the breeze and terrible smell, or leave them shut and sit in a hot house. The idea for us to entertain both out of town and out of state friends and family would be a embarrassment with that disgusting odor both for our ourselves and our township. I do not want to explain to my children why their friends parents don't want their kids to come over to our house to play because of what's growing in the field next door. There is no telling what operations like this will do to our homes value. Letting these operations into our township doesn't help our community. Its a step closer to destroying it. My wife and I have worked to long and hard to purchase the home we have to let it get ruined upon moving here.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email I wish we could attend the meeting on the 12th but are work keeps us from doing so. We are thankful for a township that will let us email our thoughts and opiniions into them. I just hope we decide to keep these operations out of our township, not just for us, but for are future.

Sincerely,

Austin and Emily Anson



Greenwood Township <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

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## Marijuana meeting

Tracie Tubbs <Tracietubbs3@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 4:38 PM

To: "greenwoodtwp@ncats.net" <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

hello, my family and i currently live here in Greenwood township for about 3 years now, we can't make the meeting tonight as we are both working, but we love our township the way it is and we do not wish to have it growing around us we do not wish for it to be approved at all. any questions please email me back.thank you!

Get Outlook for Android



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## Marijuana Public Meeting

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**Luke Anson** <luke.anson@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: Luke Anson <luke.anson@yahoo.com>  
To: Greenwood Township <greenwoodtwp@ncats.net>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 10:53 AM

To the Greenwood Township Board,

I write this email to you in order to voice my concerns over the potential approval of Marijuana operations in Greenwood Township. I will try to keep this as short and sweet as possible. I would like it to be known that I DO NOT approve of any of these big operations moving into our township. I fear what it may do to the sellability and value of residents homes that may end up next to these operations. I for one would absolutely not buy any property near one. I see these other operations that are being constructed, they have large fences and surveillance systems going in. Obviously for good reason. I worry about what kind of people may be coming into our neighborhoods to try and break into these places. We have enough problems with theft as it is. When someone comes around hell bent on stealing something and they look at these big expensive security, is it going to scare them off? Are they going to look at my place next? I do not have the money to invest in better security for my belongings. Who pays for my stolen stuff? Last time I dealt with theft it cost me 800 dollars. My final point would be the smell. Last summer if the wind was just right, I could smell the hemp field in my house with the windows shut. Thank God most the time the wind blows it away from me. Absolutely do not appreciate smelling that nasty smell in my own home. What happens when it's all around us. To me it spells out increased crime, decreasing value in our homes and bad smell. For these reasons, I do not believe it should be approved.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.  
Sincerely,  
Luke Anson

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



Greenwood Township <greenwoodtp@ncats.net>

## July 12, 2021 Marijuana Meeting

1 message

Tristin Grey <tgrey0@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 4:26 PM

To: "greenwoodtp@ncats.net" <greenwoodtp@ncats.net>

Tristin & Kyra Grey

5040 S 180th Hesperia, Mi 49421

Dear Greenwood Township Board,

I am a current Greenwood township resident with concerns regarding possible marijuana operations being allowed in our township. As we all know Greenwood township has a lot of current farming land. With that being said, the chances of this land becoming recreational marijuana farming operations is highly likely. I know I do not want these kind of farming operations around my neighborhood. I have worked hard to buy house in a quiet neighborhood where I will be raising my children. The idea of having large fenced in areas with potential for armed guards at these locations is just not environment I want around my home.

My other main concern is the smell of such large marijuana fields. The smell even if just during harvest time is awful. I want to be able to open my windows in my home without smell lingering through my house. It's not really fair as a resident of this township that I would have to worry about this. I bought my home without marijuana operations near me and would like to keep it that way.

I wish I could have attended meeting on July 12th however, work requirements keep me from being there. I do appreciate you allowing emails to be heard at least I feel I have a voice.

Thank you,

Tristin & Kyra Grey