

**Special Meeting/Public Hearing
Chesaning Township
AGENDA
January 7, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

Join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone.
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**Call to Order – Open Public Hearing
Pledge of Allegiance**

Roll Call: ___Ruthig ___Paulson ___Gross
 ___Carlton ___Hedrich ___Hemgesberg ___Hornak

- 1. Business: Seeking public input into a P.A. 425 Agreement proposed by the Village of Chesaning to the Township of Chesaning with regards to parcels No. 13-09-3-10-4003-000 and No. 13-09-3-10-4004-000.**
 - a). Board member comments:**
 - b). Public comments:**

- 2. Additional Board Comments:**
- 3. Adjournment:**

TOWNSHIP OF CHESANING
APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
(ELECTRONIC) MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Special Meeting: Called to order/open Public Hearing to receive the public's input into a P.A. 425 Agreement proposed by the Village of Chesaning with regards to parcels No. 13-09-3-10-4003-000 and No. 13-09-3-10-4004-000 at 6:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Members Present: Supervisor Joe Ruthig, Clerk Julie Paulson, Treasurer Cathy Gross; Trustees: Kevin Carlton, Peter Hemgesberg, Ken Hornak and Bill Hedrich

Members Absent: None

Public Comments: Began at 6:43 p.m. with comments received from 29 members of the public in attendance of the virtual meeting including board members, several speaking more than once. Both comments as to pros and cons, those for and against the proposed P. A. 425 Agreement were heard. Ended at 8:20 p.m.

The following members of the public in attendance were heard at the Public Hearing:

- Douglas Mason, 15221 Sharon Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Concerns over having so much of it growing, in all different directions. We won't be able to keep control of it, it's happening so fast.
- Neil Pullman, with wife Kristine, 9305 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Needing to put people first and now it's all about big business. It's a skunk smell and it won't matter which direction the wind blows to smell it. This 425 Act transfer would set a precedent for others to do the same since this is the first one. Yes, we need job options, but we need more than just the marijuana industry to attract young families. Also concerns with the terms of mutual agreement and what happens after when the landowner is still there, still owning the property
- John Bishop, 9130 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Needing to shut this down somehow. The Township voted no to marijuana; we must stop the marijuana people from coming in. If a Charter Township then maybe we should consider. Marijuana is going to keep coming and they want more spaces. The Village took over every area possible, now looking out into the township. It's got to stop.
- Greg Maike, 9451 Chesaning Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Agreeing with the last caller. Enough is enough. We don't like that smell out here. We will smell it 24/7 with these outdoor grows and will smell it for months. I don't want it. Looking at fencing, flags are already out, burning is happening already.
- Amy Bonter, Gasper Rd, between Gary and Chesaning. Comments as to: Being against it. Live in the country by choice, not in town. I don't want big industrial buildings everywhere; I don't want traffic.
- Kent Greenfelder, 920 N. Line St., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Lives by different grows. There is no increase in traffic, the neighbors are good, have even borrowed heavy equipment. Also, there is no smell at his house.
- Don Newman, 9140 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Thanking the board for the time

put in to this job. His concern is, if approved, what's to stop from expanding into other areas of the Township. You can't say yes to one and no to the next. Questioned what happened to the talk of the solar farms, that it would be much more acceptable than this.

- Joe Greenfelder, 15116 McKeighan. Comments as to: Understanding people do not like this, but Chesaning has lost so much. Before marijuana came to Chesaning the town was having hard times. Everything in town went down in value, house values declined. The positives are huge in my mind. We are an older community and we need a young group to come in. Unfortunately, the only way to get them here is the marijuana industry. We have to try to make this a viable community, a fight to keep our quality of life here. I do smell it in town, but progress stinks.
- Anna Watz, Saginaw, works in Chesaning. Comments as to: Being worth mentioning the smell might be from someone else growing it. Our dispensaries are what we bring to town.
- Leonard Strait, 11090 Baldwin Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Living here all his life and is passionate about Chesaning. Puts a lot of this on the village and as far as he's concerned, we are being bullied. Annex the whole township and be done with it. They aren't looking for the best for Chesaning, they are looking out for their pockets. Disappointed that we are even talking about marijuana grows. Marijuana is the gateway to drug addiction. Marijuana and cocaine are linked together. Just being blunt and truthful.
- Pam James, 9378 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Concerns being environmental more than anything else. What about drainage, where is the drainage going to go? Where is the drainage going to go? We have artesian wells out here; we flood a lot. This is right next to Bear Creek, where is it going to run? The deer, the turkeys, I feel it will all be taken away from us.
- George Pittenturf, 445 W. Fourth St., Imlay City, MI., ReLeaf Center. Comments as to: How many times has this been proposed? Put up for a vote and vote. We must change with the times. We shop locally, eat locally. More traffic in the city is good, it was almost a ghost town. If this conversation was to open another bar, would we be having this conversation? Fast Food? Must compare apples to apples. There are no issues of needing to call police, no break-ins here at my main business.
- Deven Betz, 9414 Volkmer Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Not against marijuana, but am against it coming into the Township. Owns property in the middle of this. Agrees with James, Neil knows, it floods every year with dirt coming in. I can see it off my back porch. I see cameras, fence, dogs, lights; sounds like a prison. I enjoy wildlife. Chesaning was always the nice place, now it is turning in to a slum town. Initially it was proposed to grow indoor and now this. Do I have to move because the Township might potentially receive \$30K? I am totally against it moving in to the township.
- Crystal Lawton, 9411 Volkmer Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Just purchased property across from Devon and the plan was to build. Main concern is we were promised it was not going to be here and now it is being planned here. To have this happen is heartbreaking out in the country, we feel betrayed.
- Melissa Allen, 15754 Stuart Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Biggest concern is property faces west towards that direction and all we would see is lights and fence. Concern about wildlife. Do not want out here, it will look like a jail and also concerns about the flooding.

- David Ghezzi, 1271 Eden way, Chesaning, MI 48616, General Contractor/Developer of the property. Comments as to: No difference between hemp and medical marijuana. Every one of your neighbors can grow hemp. Lights, we don't have any lights at all. Barbed wire, doesn't exist. I hear a lot of fear. Talk to police and fire, no extra crime because of medical marijuana. The \$30,000? You'll get a lot more. Broken promises? Your stores are packed, restaurants are full, home values have risen, homes for sale have sold within 3 hours, house values increase \$100,000. The dirt is organic and peat moss and brought in. Flooding, we don't change landscaping at all. We don't build trenches, we use no pesticides, we are restricted by state law not to do it. To the gentleman inferring marijuana is the gateway to drugs, it is alcohol. Drug addiction in US is alcohol, no one says that. It's not marijuana. We need to teach our children. All kids will try marijuana. I don't smoke it. Not talking indoor grow, only outdoor grow. There are a number of people working for us. It is the best job. We take care of our people. I love Chesaning. Just giving you the facts tonight, have never broken a promise. Look at the people and their smiles, families are happy here. Every farm in Michigan can turn into a hemp farm.
- Chad Barckholtz, 8515 Volkmer Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Has been listening here, it's all about money. My kids will be 4th generation here. I go into town; I can smell it. I don't want it in the Township.
- Betty Gross, 14050 Corunna Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Living here 56 years. Disagrees that everybody in town smiles. Knows a very knowledgeable Cardiologist who said it all starts with marijuana. We voted no in the Township, to keep it out of the Township. It's wrong. There's enough now. If allowed it will keep going.
- Renaldo Melvin, 1271 Podrijeges (Tri-Med Supervisor) Comments as to: Employs 150 people, good paying jobs. We donate all our time and money, ask Frank's, Pintown, other businesses in town. What's happening at Eden way is only the beginning, a brighter future for Chesaning.
- Fran Kukulis, 8475 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Understanding the Marijuana Industry in the Village, it was approved for the Village, but the Township opted out. Feels strongly against bringing this into the Township. Yes the odor is very strong. If you don't smell it you must live on the opposite side of where the wind blows. This needs to stay contained within the village limits.
- Hazon Warner, 10801 Ditch Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: There being a pig farm for years on the road behind him and he would much rather have a pig farm than marijuana.
- Amy Bonter, Gasper Rd, between Gary and Chesaning. Comments as to: Not being against marijuana, just issues with facility in general. Likes the rural area. Would have moved to Flint or Saginaw if wanted to live by industrial buildings.
- Deven Betz, 9414 Volkmer Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Why Farmer Peet's was good is because it was already a farm field and an empty building.
- Dave Barnum, works at a grow in town. Comments as to: Spends \$100 per day in town.
- Ryan Ehinger, 9585 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Problem he has is the State Law having it fenced in. Doesn't have a problem with marijuana. Doesn't make sense to take the land in the country, fence it in, 8' fence, we can't see through, cover it up, to grow. We are against it.
- Pat Greenfelder, 217 S. Wood St., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Property owner has the right to do what he wants to do with his property. This is ag land, would file an affidavit of ag to remain ag. Mr. Hornak, as far as becoming a Charter Township, this is not true. It has to do with the number of people.
- Greg Maike, 9451 Chesaning Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Noise issues from these

facilities. From Edenpure. I can hear it by my house 24/7. Dave said the Township wanted it? Not true.
Dave: There is no agreement with the Township and the noise is not coming from our place

- Fran Kukulis, 8475 Volkmer Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Once and if the 425 Agreement is approved, would it follow the Township ordinances or the Village ordinances as far as buildings being put up.
- Bill Hedrich, Chesaning Township Board Member. Comments as to: Questioning Attorney Pat Greenfelder representing Lavern Gross yet drafting the agreement with the Village. Wouldn't it be drafted by the Village attorney (Attorney Greenfelder: not necessarily) Also questioning it must then be financed by Mr. Gross too (Attorney Greenfelder: yes).
- Pete Hemgesberg, Chesaning Township Board Member. Comments as to: We sit here and listen. Whatever the outcome is, wants to make sure the whole Township goes in front of the County Commissioner and let them know how you feel. If we go there with the backing, we have tonight, we will have a different outcome than Farmer Peets.
- Leonard Strait, 11090 Baldwin Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Comments as to: Thanking the board for taking the time to listen. The guy who said everyone is smiling is not true. The Township needs to stand up for what's right. Everyone starts out with marijuana, I know this. Keep it in the village and out of the Township.
- Joe Ruthig, Chesaning Township Supervisor: Thank you all for your comments and concerns.

Adjournment: Motion by Hedrich, support by Paulson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion Carried.

**Julie C. Paulson, Clerk
Chesaning Township**