

VILLAGE OF CHEBANSE
275 S. OAK STREET
CHEBANSE, IL 60922

TOWN HALL MEETING
HELD AT
185 S. OAK STREET
CHEBANSE, IL 60922

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Mayor Mathy called the Town Hall meeting to order at 6:00 pm and announced that the Village would be taping. The following Trustees were present: Trustee Beherns, Trustee Kohler, Trustee Odle, Trustee Perzee, Trustee Randles and Trustee Snyder. Also present were Mayor Mathy, Attorney Hiatt, Clerk Pasel and James Smith from Maintenance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Mathy

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: ADULT USE CANNABIS: After the Board introductions Mayor Mathy stated Sheriff Mike Downey was also in attendance. Mayor Mathy stated the reason for the Town Hall meeting was to get a feel of what the residents of the Village would like to see happen with the new cannabis law as well as answer any questions. The law takes effect January 1, 2020. The Board cannot regulate medical use of cannabis or use in homes, but can regulate the public use if the Village adopts an ordinance. If the Board decides to opt out of allowing public use of cannabis, nothing would change. If the Board decides to allow public use of cannabis, it will be done by ordinance with restrictions and zoning. There are several things that need to be considered before a final decision is made. Mayor Mathy stated one of the benefits for the Village would be the taxing. The Village can tax up to 3%, we can do it in quarter percent intervals. There are 289 permits for the entire state for this year and up to 500 in 2021. Attorney Hiatt stated private possession of cannabis will be legal on January 1, 2020. The municipality will be able to create laws and ordinances to regulate the use in public. Some instances are dispensaries, cultivators, craft growers, infusers, processors and transportation organizations. A question was asked about what dispensaries are. Mayor Mathy responded that a dispensary falls under 2 different categories, retail tobacco store and a licensed dispensary. Local governments are not authorized to expand onsite consumption beyond these 2 types of businesses but can establish restrictions or band onsite consumption. A reasonable regulation is to allow the purchase but no on-site consumption. Another question was asked about what can be allowed. Can you pick and choose what you allow and what you don't? Mayor Mathy stated yes, we can choose what we allow, that would be done in the ordinance. A question was asked about the owner of the dispensary being a resident of the Village like the alcohol ordinance does. Response was as long as it doesn't conflict with State law. Mayor Mathy asked Sheriff Downey if he has received any feedback from other municipalities. He responded that Kankakee County has opted out. The Village of Bradley and the City of Kankakee have voted it in at 3%. Another question asked was if the Village opts out, can a dispensary come in a year or two down the road and start operating. Response was no because our ordinances wouldn't allow it. We either opt in or opt out. If we opt out the State can not allow anyone to operate in Chebanse. If the Village opts in today and a few years down the road decides to opt out, as long as no one is operating can you opt out? Response was yes but there might need to be a referendum called for. Attorney Hiatt stated that he needed to do further research to answer that question correctly.

Mayor Mathy asked Sheriff Downey about enforcement of the law. Sheriff replied that they are going to enforce whatever the Village passes. We will be focusing on the black market. Question was asked about statistics. Has there been reports of Villages that have opted in and they have gone to hell? Sheriff responded that for every dollar of revenue that is brought in, it costs four dollars in treatment, enforcement, arrest, hospitals and jails. So, you will be spending a lot more money than you will be bringing in. Those numbers are from the State of Colorado. Question – Is the Village going to increase patrol hours? Mayor Mathy responded yes, if it's something that needs to be considered, the Board can discuss increasing patrol hours. Sheriff Downey stated that some of the money collected does come back for funding law enforcement. It is unclear how much at this time. A statement was made whether we opt in or opt out, the same tax dollars are being spent on the policing whether it's bought here or somewhere else. Sheriff stated that was correct, it doesn't matter if it takes place in Kankakee or Cullom, it will still affect Chebanse.

A resident asked if we opt in, where in town will it go? He is not in favor of it being in his back yard. He also stated that we are one of the few municipalities that are in close proximity to the interstate. It is a cash basis industry because they can't deposit their money in the bank and that leaves potential break ins. He is worried about his family. Mayor Mathy stated that this is the reason for this meeting. To get the feedback from the residents before a decision is made, we already have trouble with solicitors. A question was asked, is there a way to measure whether or not a person is incapacitated? Sheriff Downey replied that he was unsure. Marijuana stays in your system for 30 days but it's unclear how long it affects you.

Question – Is there a deadline on passing this? Mayor Mathy responded that it's more of taking advantage of the tax dollars. Question – Does the person apply for the license or does the Village? Response was, the person, not the Village. Trustee Perzee stated in his opinion, there are only 289 permits for the entire state this year. Realistically it won't be in Chebanse. The following year the State will have 500 permits. It is possible that Chebanse could be considered then. It will all depend on what the municipality has adopted, if it has opted in. Mayor Mathy stated that the decision on whether to opt in is very hard to make due to the fact we have nothing to base it on. We don't know the revenue that it will generate or have any history to go off of. Sheriff Downey stated that it might be better to hold off for a year to see how things are going. A resident asked what do we want Chebanse to be? If the long-term goal is to be nice and quiet, he is for opting out. He lived in a town in Colorado that opted out and nothing changed. The reason for opting out is that they wanted to attract other family friendly businesses to the area. Another resident replied that she has lived here for 86 years and she prefers that we opt out. Trustee Perzee asked the resident that lived in Colorado if he had knowledge of any of the towns that opted in. Resident responded; the towns that opted in were not set up as family friendly communities with recreation centers etc. It was closer to Denver and the businesses were in the industrial part of town and not out in the open.

Mayor Mathy stated the State is encouraging municipalities to not pass the full 3% tax if they are opting in. If the full 3% is passed, we would be too far out of line with the black market. Mayor stated he was unsure if passing a 1 ½ percent tax would be worth it or not. With no other comments or questions, Mayor Mathy moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Beherns and a second by Trustee Perzee to adjourn the meeting. Time 7:05 pm. Vote:

Beherns	Aye	
Kohler	Aye	
Odle	Aye	6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Perzee	Aye	Motion Carried
Randles	Aye	
Snyder	Aye	

Minutes of the December 10, 2019 Town Hall meeting respectfully submitted by Clerk Julie Pasel, MMC