



MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Board of Health and Public Safety Special Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 1st, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Langlade County Board Room, Basement of Safety Building, 840 Clermont St., Antigo WI

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00am
2. Reminder to silence cell phones
3. Reminder that meeting is being recorded per county policy
4. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
5. Recognize members to be excused – Holly Matucheski was absent. Dick Schuh was excused. Motion by Pierce, seconded by Oberneder to excuse Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

BOH COMMITTEE/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE		
Name	Role	Status
Robert Benishek	Chair BOH	Present
Reinhardt Balcerzak	Committee Member	Present
Holly Matucheski	Committee Member	Absent
Arlene Bonacci	Chair Public Safety	Present
Gloria Oberneder	Committee Member	Present
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen	At-Large Member	Present
Dr. Kristine Flowers	Medical Advisor	Present
Judy Popelka	At-Large Member	Present
Ben Pierce	Committee Member	Present
Doug Nonnenmacher	Committee Member	Present
Dick Schuh	Committee Member	Excused
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
Ron Barger	Director of Health & Social Services	
Sheila Rine	Adm. Asst Health & Social Services	
Stephanie Thiede	Health Officer	
Tina Verhagen	Interim HR Director	
Darlaen Jansen	Antigo School Nurse	

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Jean Turunen	Public Health Nurse
Sandy Fischer	Co Board Member
Don Scupien	Co Board Member
John Zenkovich	Veterans Officer
Robin Stowe	Corp Counsel
John Schunke	Deputy Sheriff
Brian Samonson	Interested Party
Kendra Peschke	Interested Party
Danny Conners	Interested Party
Richard Sprague	Interested Party
Michaela Gilbert	Interested Party
Jeff Geiger	Interested Party

6. Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas - None

7. New Business

- a. Review proposed Resolution #24-2018 Medical Marijuana Advisory Referendum as presented at County Board meeting on July 17, 2018 and referred back to BOH and Public Safety for discussion and review before August 21, 2018 County Board meeting – Benishek gave an introduction and explained that there is a lot of information today. Stowe explained that this resolution should have initially come from these 2 committees to the County Board as they have direct communication with the community. Stowe then read a letter from Elizabeth Gebert, DA who could not be present today in regards to the resolution that was drafted and presented to the County Board and then referred back to this committee. In the letter, Gebert explained her concerns regarding this resolution with this being an illegal substance in Wisconsin. Gebert explained that there is not enough research to safely use in our communities. Gebert also stated there has been a significant increase in traffic fatalities in Colorado where this is legal. Stowe then reviewed the different types of referendums that the county can consider. This proposed resolution is a non-binding type of resolution and does not required the County to act on anything. Stowe also stated we are not required to do this referendum just because the public is asking. Aug. 28th is the last day to get this on the November ballot. Stowe also reminded the panel that the county has the least amount of authority unless the state of Wisconsin would allow us too. Stowe also stated that there are a number of other counties putting this on the November ballot, but the language is different. Barger then stated that the reason for putting this on the ballot, would be to see how the public feels about it. Barger had a number of statements from the state, NACCHO, the Veteran’s Administration, Colorado impact statement, DEA, etc. all stating there is not enough science behind marijuana use to say it is beneficial or not. The approval process is slow and research takes time. Dr. Flowers stated that this is not legalized at the Federal level. There is not a large amount of evidence even for chronic pain issues. Reviewed the 3rd Whereas in the Resolution and the question to be considered for the ballot/referendum. This is not a

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prescription you can ask your doctor for – it is a written recommendation. Schunke spoke for the Sheriff who couldn't be here today and in the Sheriff's opinion, it can benefit some individuals with debilitating illnesses. Is it a health benefit? Yes. Will it be a challenge for law enforcement? Yes. Schunke stated the best option would be is to have a prescription and not a recommendation, but at the federal level, that isn't an option. Lots of questions such as who controls the marijuana, and how will it be controlled or regulated. You can't violate the federal law over state law. There are potential benefits but feel it should be a prescription. The Fed's would have to change this. Dr. Flowers said there is no indication who should get this. It is very difficult to determine who should get it based on their medical condition.. Dr. Flowers stated you may have some doctors prescribed this to everyone and some who will pick and choose. Is there an age group? Dr. Flowers said she did see some studies done on children with certain medical conditions and results were beneficial.

Benishek then opened up the discussion to the public. Brian from Deerfield said the Government would need to tax this and regulate it and stated the Federal law is looking into this. Brian shared his story and why he changed his mind on using medical marijuana. Kendra brought her child with her who has a lot of underlying conditions, along with many seizures. Kendra explained her story. Daniel from Madison gave a statement on a case in Mt. Horeb in 2010, where it was referred under the County Board and in 2014, another one due. 7 county's put it on referendum, 2 counties said no. Daniel asked the panel if they have a right to put a question on the ballot for people you work for. Richard explained his story and said the doctors still don't know what he has going on. He was overprescribed opioids and that is now the reason for all his pain. Sprague states it is the new day and age and we need to move forward. Michaela said they have rights as members of this community. Surrounding states allow it. 31 of 50 states already allow it. Legislators are not health care providers. Medications are causing other problems. Eric talked about his 13 year old son. UW Madison said they couldn't treat him, so they excluded him from their pilot program because he has uncontrolled seizures and he would like to have the option to use marijuana to see if it can help, but he doesn't even have the option at this time.

Bonacci thanked the individuals for coming in today. Bonacci also shared her story about her son. Balcerzak said you look at things differently when you have family members affected by this. Balcerzak said it doesn't mean he is for marijuana but some people may need it.

Motion by Nonnenmacher, seconded by Pierce to move forward with the advisory referendum. The vote was called: Bonacci, aye; Pierce, aye; Nonnenmacher, aye; Oberneder, aye; Dr. Flowers, abstain; Benishek, aye; Balcerzak, aye; Dr. Nielsen, abstain; Popelka, aye. Motion carried to forward back to the County Board.

13. Set date for next meeting

- a. BOH to meet after special session in County Board Room for regular monthly meeting
- b. Public Safety to meet on August 7th at 9 a.m. in County Board room for regular scheduled monthly meeting

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14. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Nonnemacher, seconded by Oberneder to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes transcribed and submitted by:
Sheila Rine,
Recording Secretary