Leavitt Township Minutes for Special Meeting March 3rd, 2021

Via zoom @ 7 PM

Call Meeting to Order by Emma @ 7 PM

Present: Emma Kirwin, Matt Thompson, Levi Porter, Rosemary Aiken, and Naomi Oomen

Guests: Abe Farias, Catherine, RiverRidge group (Jeff, Justin, Aaron), Paul Erickson, Lee Oomen, Ashley Oomen, Deb Oomen, Pam Mahn, Larry, and Dan Kirwin

**Pledge of Allegiance** - recited

**Public input**- no input at this time

**Business** - RiverRidge presentation- They are wanting to obtain 2 class C licenses for Leavitt Township. They are apple farmers from Sparta and would like to open an 16,000 sq ft indoor growing and operations facility west of town on Harrison Rd. It will be grown tight so minimal smell. The plan is to start operations in fall of 2021. They are at the pre-qualification phase right now. They are hoping to employ 10-20 full time positions.

Questions: Matt- where is the access point for the building going to be? Off Harrison or the dirt road? They are planning on accessing the property off Harrison Rd.

Emma (per chat message)- Property values? Is there going to be an impact on them? decrease or increase to the surrounding homes? Dan answered with there should be no affect on property values. There might be more traffic on the road but property value shouldn’t be an issue.

Paul – Are you going to plant any apples in our area? RiverRidge is looking to plant apples and sweet cherries in the fields in 2022. How does the waste get taken care of? Outdoor cultivation and going for minimal waste.

Naomi- what type of employment opportunities for local people? Are you bringing in crew from Sparta area to run? This will be year-round facility so looking for 10-20 year-round employees. They will bring in a skilled manager from their area but will provide training to new hires. Possibility of co-pay insurance after 6 months.

Ashley- Where is potential for other license holders? They’ll needs secured transport, as they can’t transport their own product, possibility of expanding to processing, microbusiness/possible dispensary, possible partner with a microbusiness/dispensary. A dispensary would make more sense to partner with.

Aaron – Class A licenses can sell to any licensed facility in the state so there is a possibility of processing and share a secured transport.

7:45 - Motion to go into closed session: Made by Matt

I move that the Township Board meet in closed session under section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute, section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, being a memo from the Township attorney dated March 3, 2021, as the memo is exempt from disclosure due to the attorney-client privilege.

Second by: Levi

Roll Call Vote: Matt yes, Levi yes, Rosemary yes, Emma yes, Naomi yes all aye motion carried

8:28 pm Move meeting back to open session

Motion made by Matt to direct our attorney to amend the current ordinance as discussed in closed session. Motion 2nd by Rosemary.

Roll Call Vote: Matt yes, Rosemary yes, Levi yes, Naomi yes, Emma yes all aye motion carried

**Public Input** – none at this time

Motion made by Rosemary and 2nd by Emma to adjourn at 8:31 pm. All aye motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Naomi Oomen, clerk

Minutes Approved: