

Hearing of the County Board of the County Board

of the

County of Hancock, State of Illinois

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The Purpose of the Hearing

Was to Receive Public Comment on

the Proposed Sale and Taxation of Cannibas

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Held in the

County Courthouse in the City of Carthage

at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 21st Day of January, 2020

County board member Janet Fleming, Chairperson of the Health and Miscellaneous Committee, called the hearing to order at 6:00 P.M.

No members of the public appeared to present testimony or exhibits at the hearing.

Chairperson Fleming said the committee approved a recommendation to establish one dispensary license, a countywide additional sales tax of .75 cents in municipalities, and an additional sales tax of 3.75% in the unincorporated part of Hancock County.

Board member Bryan Stevens asked whether the license issue and sales tax issue could be separate ordinances. He was informed the issues could be separated - but the county board would first consider a draft ordinance which has been prepared.

Board member Patsy Davis said she believed, "We (the county board) owe it to our constituents to capture the revenue from the new cannabis law. How do we ask for a tax increase if we don't?"

Board member Tom Scheetz asked about Sonora Township and cannabis sales. The City of Nauvoo could permit the sale of cannabis in that part of Sonora Township within its city limits.

Mr. Scheetz asked whether Appanoose Township could authorize, prohibit, or tax the sale of cannabis within the township.

States Attorney Rachel Mast said the law does not authorize a township to license a dispensary or prohibit a dispensary. Law does not authorize a township to tax cannabis sales.

Board member Pat Cramer said a U.S. Senate candidate he recently met said she is against it. Mr. Cramer said the candidate's brother has had drug problems. He said, "I'm against it. It's a sin to expose our kids to it."

States Attorney Mast said marijuana has been identified as a 'gateway drug' which could lead to experimentation with more powerful and addictive substances.

Ms. Davis said one county in Southern Illinois had received an economic boost from marijuana production. The plants are started in greenhouses and transplanted. It requires many workers. One county has seen an increase of workers from 30 employees to 500 employees.

County board member Mark Menn asked what the result of licensed dispensary sales in a county. "Will tax revenues on sales of cannabis exceed potential costs to the criminal justice system - sheriff's employee costs, probation officer costs, court system costs, and public defender costs?"

Ms. Mast said the resulting financial impact is uncertain. She said, "Cost, yes. Revenue, yes."

County board member Mark Hanson asked, "What happens if the federal government stops marijuana sales?"

Ms. Davis said medical marijuana is currently legal for persons with any of 52 medical conditions.

There was a consensus to consider a draft of a county cannabis ordinance recommended by the County Health and Miscellaneous Committee in February.

Ms. Fleming declared the hearing adjourned at 6:29 P.M.