

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RANDY WILCOX – SUPERVISOR
KAREN HENDRICK – CLERK
BONNIE LENT-DAVIS – TREASURER
DAVID FUSS – TRUSTEE
ROBERT FLYNN – TRUSTEE

ORHERS PRESENT:

CLIFF BLOOM – TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY
JOE INFANTE – MILLER CANFIELD
JEFF & KATIE WHEELER – 9986 ALDEN NASH WINERY

The Special meeting of the Bowne Township Board was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in the Historic Township Hall located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, MI 49302. Supervisor Wilcox called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

MINUTES: Not available at time of meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Flynn made a motion to close the public meeting and go into closed session to discuss at 5:06 PM, with Township Attorney, Cliff Bloom, the proposed moratorium ordinance, and liquor license request pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h). Supported by Trustee Fuss. AYES: Fuss, Flynn, Wilcox, Hendrick, Lent-Davis. Motion Carried. All Board Members and Attorney Cliff Bloom, excused themselves to the conference room in the Township Office.

A Motion by Trustee Fuss to close the closed session meeting and re-open the public meeting at 5:18 PM. Supported by Trustee Flynn. AYES: Fuss, Flynn, Wilcox, Hendrick, Lent-Davis. Motion Carried.

A brief explanation by Township Attorney Cliff Bloom to the public regarding the explanation of the six-month moratorium on any applications or approvals and so on of event venues, wedding venues, concerts, wineries, etc. etc. etc. while the township takes the time to study and draft potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and the Liquor License Ordinance which is twenty years old. This will essentially put those matters on hold pending the review of zoning regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments by Joe Infante, Miller Canfield.

Jeff Wheeler, 9986 Alden Nash Winery, read a prepared statement.

Katie Wheeler, 9986 Alden Nash Winery, spoke briefly.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Supervisor Wilcox expanded on his position to move forward with a moratorium. This would give us the opportunity to digest what we have in place currently and if it is not exactly as we want it, we have an opportunity to perfect it.

Trustee Flynn also believes that a moratorium would give us six months to look at what we have today and maybe tightened it up a bit. It by no means is to say no to a winery, it is to give us six months to tighten some stuff up.

The following Ordinance was offered by Trustee Flynn was made to impose a six-month moratorium on the commencement and expansion of certain non-typical farm or agricultural uses such as wedding venues, concerts, wineries, event barns, event venues and similar uses, as well as a moratorium prohibition on any Bowne Township Zoning Approval, Liquor License Approval, Permit or License for such uses and a general moratorium on liquor license applications and approvals for all uses. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Rove this Ordinance was as follows: AYES: Fuss, Flynn, Wilcox, Hendrick, Lent-Davis. NAYES: None, ABSTAIN/ABSENT: None. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency ordinance and shall take effect upon the day that the notice or adoption appears in the newspaper. Ordinance Declared Adopted.

There has been a request for a liquor license at 9986 Alden Nash Winery and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission has asked for Bowne Township's approval or denial of the request and there is currently no zoning approval in site and no business on site and the township needs to respond to this with the proposed approval/denial resolution.

Public Comment regarding Michigan Liquor Control Commission Request:

Joe Infante, Miller Canfield informed the board the 9986 Alden Nash Winery has applied for small wine maker license allows them to make actual wine on the premises and a tasting room which does not require local approval.

Jeff Wheeler, 9986 Alden Nash, would like to work together to achieve the goal and vision he has for the property.

Katie Wheeler, spoke to the understanding of the process of attaining a Liquor License from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Treasurer Lent-Davis spoke of her view on the broad spectrum the license covers.

Bowne Township
Special Meeting
July 23, 2024
Page 3

A Motion by Trustee Flynn to table the Resolution for a liquor license request for 9986 Alden Nash Winery until the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting in August (August 19, 2024). Supported by Clerk Hendrick. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Jeff Bryant submitted a letter for the file.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ANY OTHER COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee Flynn to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 P.M.