

## **EMA, Health and Sanitation Committee Public Hearing commenced at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 in the Newton Community High School Auditorium.**

Chad Miller, Jasper County States Attorney and Mayor Mark Bolander started the meeting with their opening comments. Miller spoke regarding the new state laws, city zoning, etc. He also mentioned work place/employer regulations as well as the changes in the medical marijuana laws. All counties, not just Cook, will be able to tax medicinal marijuana. Local governments can opt out of allowing the sale of marijuana in their areas. The possession or use of cannabis cannot be regulated beyond what the state has provided for. An additional 3% tax can be implemented by local governments on the sale of marijuana. The law has provided for social-use areas to exist for the use of marijuana, but the sale of marijuana in those facilities would be prohibited.

Mayor Bolander spoke and encouraged the attendees to speak so that the city and county could get a feel for the public's opinion on the matter.

Public comments included:

- Taxation
- Medical cards and inability to purchase firearms
- Other communities actions regarding opting out
- Economic benefits of allowing the sale of marijuana
- Health care professionals spoke concerning their thoughts on allowing the sale
- Potential lure of unsavory individuals
- Statistics show increase in crime
- Underage consumption
- Moral ramifications
- Incorporated towns/villages could allow sale if the County opts out
- Amount individuals can/cannot grow
- Currently no geographic limitations are set by the State, with exception that 1,500 feet separate sale locations

Another meeting will be set up by the County with the City in November. Chad Miller mentioned that the County will be making a decision in December.

The public hearing adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Dave Brown

EMA, Health and Sanitation Committee Chairman