

Charter Township of Marquette
Road Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Marquette Township Community Center

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Wiegand called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Present; Ron DeMarse, Dave Wiegand, Pete LaRue, Dianna Truscott, Mike Springer
Staff: none
3. **Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION: To approve the agenda

LaRue, Moved
Truscott, Supported Carried: Unanimously
4. **Previous Meeting Minutes:**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 6, 2016

Springer, Moved
DeMarse, Supported Carried: Unanimously
5. **Public Comment:** William Truscott "The black top is starting to look pretty good." "Those guys (Bacco) have done a good job."
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Road Rehabilitation Project Update:** Mr. Daavittila is unable to attend either this meeting or the Board Meeting to follow. In his absence, Wiegand has been briefed with the latest update.

The Trowbridge Project is projected to be completed by October 15th.
South Vandeenboom water, sewer, and initial grading will be completed by October 15th.
Road paving and slope restoration is forecast to be complete by October 30th.

Completion of the DWRP application and funding process will determine the scope of the final phase of the Road Rehabilitation Project, currently scheduled for completion in 2017. We should know by late winter or early spring.

Wiegand and Springer met with a business owner on that portion of Bancroft Street paralleling US 41 to discuss a drainage issue. Water is undercutting the asphalt on the road that the Township put in last year. It is washing all the gravel and sand into the parking lot behind the strip mall. The business owner has contacted the County. The County agrees that this needs to be repaired but, due to budget constraints, they can't do anything about it this year. This issue will be forwarded to Manager Girard for input.
 - b. **The Transportation Facilities Plan:** The Transportation Facilities Plan is in the hands of the County Planning Department. An update was planned for this meeting. With the absence of Planner McCarthy, this agenda item will be carried forward to the November meeting.

Springer would like to see a Transportation Map in both the Transportation Facilities Plan and the next update of the Recreation Plan, in as much as transportation includes both

motorized and non-motorized transportation, ideally it would be the same map.

Springer would like to have the Committee spend some time pouring over maps. Collectively, we should have the best idea as to future proposed roads. He believes we need to focus on the fastest developing and most expensive property in the Upper Peninsula. With Meyers, Riverside, and the proposed "Up-The-Sky" developments, a transportation map for this area should be a top priority.

Wiegand commented that it would be nice if we had all this in a computer, accessible to the Committees? "Wouldn't it also be nice if we could pull this up on a screen and examine various layers as required? Both the Road and Recreation Committees have a need for the same map with varying layers. Layers to include both existing and proposed; roads, Complete Streets, street lighting, and non-motorized pathways. The map should cover the entire Township with an inset for our Urban Residential and DDA areas. The map would be most helpful without the foliage."

Wiegand would like to get a set of maps that the Committee could work on as soon as possible. One map each with Complete Streets, trails, and lighting.

Springer will get with Planner McCarty to have maps for the next Committee meeting.

- c. **Asset Management Program Development:** Wiegand hasn't seen anything happen with staff and the 'Road Soft' asset management program. The Township has some crack sealing that needs to be done next year. Part of the Road Rehabilitation Project is repairing the roads that were updated last year.

The Board directed that Staff would develop the Asset Management Program with the Road Committee's assistance. Then Staff would update the program and run reports for the Road Committee who would recommend annual road repairs for the upcoming year's budget consideration. The Board is currently entering the 2017 budget process. Money needs to be allocated for needed road repairs next year. Wiegand sees a need for more staff time to learn and run the asset management program, which may mean more staff.

Springer discussed the increased recreational maintenance needs of Lions Recreation Area and Schwemwood Park. Wiegand and LaRue also recognized that as the Township expands recreational opportunities there will be commensurate increased maintenance demands.

DeMarse would like to see maintenance and roads under a Township Public Works Department. The County has historically offered little in the way of problem solving and solutions. They have no plan or consistent direction. LaRue noted the County has nothing budgeted for Marquette Township road repair and maintenance next year.

DeMarse is concerned that inexperienced plow drivers and drivers that are not familiar with the new improvements, may damage the roads this winter. The underbelly blade rides right on the pavement. A lot of damage to our new roads, specifically the bit curbs, can be caused by plows. If the plow drivers do not know where to "hold off" the curbing will be gone in a couple years.

DeMarse sees the need to increase our Public Works Department and take on our own roads. We need to show pride in our Township by maintaining what we have. Wiegand volunteered to write a letter to Manager Girard, expressing the concerns and the concerns of Committee members.

LaRue would like to see the safety strips cleared in conjunction with road plowing. As soon as the plowing is completed the safety strips need to be cleared. If you cleared the safety strips the same day that the street was plowed, the strips could be cleared with a plow.

- d. **Design Standards Ordinance Update:** Wiegand updated the Committee on the Design Standards Ordinance. The Board concurred with the proposed ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Commission, except for paragraph 6. They sent it back to the Planning Commission to reconsider a five part text amendment introduced by Wiegand. The Planning Commission sent the ordinance back to the Board without effecting any changes.

Apparently the developers have suggested that the paragraph requiring pedestrian walkways parallel to ROWs constitutes a "taking" (taking by condemnation), in their opinion. Wiegand met with McCarthy and our attorney, Mr. Zappa, earlier this morning. Mr. Zappa will have an opinion for the Township next week.

Wiegand noted that both this Committee and the Recreation Committee unanimously supported the amendment. Also, there have been many more positive responses from residents and only two negative, both from developers.

The Board can amend and subsequently pass the ordinance, send it back to the Planning Commission again, or they can pass the ordinance as it is.

LaRue questioned what costs would be associated with the proposed amendment for parallel walkways.

Wiegand explained, that if the ordinance had existed prior to Jandron's site plan approval and Jandron was required to install an ADA compliant pedestrian pathway, the pathway would run from the north to south property lines along Wright Street and would have been within the existing twenty foot setback. The frontage is 208 ft. and the cost of the development is \$800,000.00. Had Jandron installed the walkway at the time of initial development, the cost would have been between \$12-16/ft. Taking the average of \$14.00 per foot, over 208 feet, the cost would be \$2,912.00, which represents less than four tenths of one percent of the total development cost.

Wiegand used the Riverside development as another example. The projected cost is five million dollars. If Riverside was to place walkways in both the Wright Street and US 41 property boundaries, the combine frontage of both roads would be 1173 feet. At \$14.00 per foot, the cost of installation, if completed at the same time the balance of the property is developed, would be \$16,422.00 or three tenths of one percent of the total development. If walkways are put in after the fact, as a "stand alone" project, the cost goes up to \$28.00 per foot, representing a 57% to 43% increase.

Wiegand is hopeful the Board will take action on the amendment after they have had a legal opinion. Even if the legal opinion is that paragraph "c" of the proposed amendment is a 'taking', there is enough other issues addressed in the remaining paragraphs, "a", "b", "e", and "f", of the proposed amendment that help the Township move forward.

For example, one proposed amendment in paragraph "b" takes the decision about walkways out of the hands of the developer and places it with the Zoning Administrator

and the Planning Commission. Another, in paragraph “a”, takes out the term nature path, as there is no definition of a nature path within the zoning ordinance. Paragraph “d”, of the proposed amendment adds that pedestrian connections to adjacent walkways will be separated from driveways. And finally, paragraph “e” includes requirements for ADA compliance and includes the Principals of Universal Design. ADA/Universal Access design language is essential when applying for grants.

7. Information Items/Reports:

Springer attended the City's open house on a Trail Plan. There were a couple of maps to comment on. He plans to comment, requesting the City the follow through on the recommendations of the \$17,000 Recreation Authority Feasibility Study.

8. Public Comment: None

9. Correspondence: None

10. Committee Member Comment:

DeMarse informed the Committee about the October 25, Upper Peninsula Traffic Safety meeting at 10 am. Manager Girard and DeMarse plan to attend. Wiegand was invited. Blake Reibold needs to know how many are attending. Wiegand would like to attend and will notify Manager Girard.

LaRue would like to see more planning for lighting by this Committee. He would like it placed on the next agenda.

11. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm
DeMarse, Moved
LaRue, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 1, 2016 @ 5:30 PM @ Marquette Township Community Center

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Wiegand and Springer