

**Charter Township of Marquette
Road Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Marquette Township Community Center**

Call to Order: Wiegand called the Road Committee meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Members Present: Dave Wiegand, Ron DeMarse, Pete LaRue, Dianna Truscott, Mike Springer

Members Absent: None

Staff: None

Public: William Truscott; Mark Daavettila, Upper Peninsula Engineers and Architects, UPEA

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: **To approve the agenda as presented**
DeMarse, Moved
LaRue, Supported **Carried: Unanimously**

Minutes from previous meetings:

MOTION: **To approve the minutes of March 1, 2016**
Truscott, Moved
Larue, Supported **Carried: Unanimously**

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Wiegand asked Mark Daavettila, from UPEA, to provide an update on the Road Rehabilitation Project. He met with Payne and Dolan, Manager Girard and Supervisor Durant on Monday. He described the overall work which will be completed in 2016 and 2017. Wiegand provided copies of Exhibit A Marquette Township Road Millage Bonding as of April 1st. The one page hard copy of a spreadsheet identifies each section of road, the type of repair planned, and the estimated completion cost. Projects scheduled for 2015 that have not been completed will have top priority.

There will be two projects, 2.5 miles of crushing, shaping and paving in Trowbridge, and South Vandeenboom Road, from Grove to Brookton Roads (0.9 miles), of reconstruction along with new water and sewer lines. UPEA is engineering the water and the road, North Country Engineering will be responsible for the sanitary part of the project.

May and June will see the completion of the 2015 Projects. The 2016 projects are to be bid out in May and be completed from June to October. The 2017 road projects are waiting on the results of a "Drinking Water Revolving Funds" application.

Wiegand reminded the Committee that the 2016 Ontario Street project is the County Road Commission and is not part of the Township's Road Rehabilitation millage.

Oil prices are still low. Labor costs are harder to gauge based on the amount of local traffic that has to be accommodated in Trowbridge. For example, the labor costs will be higher than last year's Eagles Nest Road project as there was a lot less traffic to be accommodate.

The Trowbridge road projects will be bid out in May. Daavettila noted that reconstruction projects would involve the removal of the existing surface and layering geo-grid, gravel and pavement. The subsurface would be taken down one foot. He suggested getting a hard bid from contractors.

LaRue inquired about issues on Cherry Street between Ontario and Erie. Daavettila explained the layering of materials that would bring the road up another 5 to 6". He used last year's Eagles Nest Road to describe what can happen when throughout the years culverts are replaced, while the older roadbed construction is not addressed.

William Truscott inquired about the culvert speed bump in Montgomery Street. A discussion on overall drainage issues ensued. The replacement of culverts was discussed and will be addressed this summer.

LaRue inquired about the flooding on Woodridge near Huron. Daavettila will work with inspectors to address drainage issues.

Daavettila noted that 2016 Trowbridge roadwork approaching scheduled 2017 projects will stop fifteen feet short of the intersection. The intersections will be addressed later and may cause some temporary drainage issues. The following year the intersections will be completed with the completion of the 2017 road projects. The bit curbs will then match up with the existing and provide better drainage control.

Wiegand inquired about the compiled list of residents with road and drainage issues. He noted Orchard Avenue and the drainage issues there. Daavettila has the list. He needs to get the inspector to understand the drainage issues.

DeMarse is concerned that the finished level of the road may differ from the existing driveways. Daavettila described process, noting the driveways are done last to address any differentials.

LaRue inquired about the drainage issue at 2135 Montgomery. Daavettila talked about bit curbs. Daavettila will take photos.

Wiegand suggested that bit curbs may not address drainage issues at this location. The millage funds need to be spent on road drainage issues that are a problem with the road not problems caused by home owner construction techniques. We may not be able to solve this problem through roadwork alone.

Truscott pointed out that her section Huron Avenue is not addressed in the plan. She described the drainage issues near her. Daavettila will take a look at the situation.

DeMarse would like to see the Township and the City work together on Meeske Street.

Wiegand reported Planner McCarthy is working on the Transportation Facilities Plan and will update the Committee at the next meeting. The understanding was to have it ready by June. The goals and objectives, and some chapters are complete.

The ad-hoc Joint Workgroup has met and made recommendations to the Downtown Development Authority, DDA. Wiegand conveyed the recommendations to the DDA. The DDA is planning a one year millage to help fund the study, planning and engineering of additional transportation enhancements in conjunction with Michigan Department of Transportation US 41 Corridor 2019 and 2021 improvements.

The Board approved the DDA's one mill for one year and agreed that the DDA should move forward with expansion of its boundaries. The expansion of the Boundaries will brought back to the Board for final approval.

Andra Ziems has been working with Wiegand on the Road Committee folder on our Township website. As of today, that folder is up to date.

New Business:

Wiegand was hoping to have some maps and information on 'right-of-ways', ROWs, from Planner McCarthy. The next agenda will have this under Old Business.

Springer questioned the rationale for looking at ROWs, noting the Planning Commission considered what to do with existing ROWs years ago. Wiegand explained that people have built beyond the paved road and now use the ROWs as a driveway. We need to take a look at what has happened on with these unpaved ROWs. He noted that much more oversight by the Township needs to take place on the driveway permits the County is issuing.

Wiegand noted that future driveway permits for land owners wishing to build could include bringing the ROW up to County Road specifications. The Township may also decide to improve the longer unpaved driveway ROWs to open up more development and increase the tax base.

DeMarse explained that the Fire Department has driveway standards they need in order to bring the Fire Trucks down a driveway. They will not bring an \$800,000 fire truck into a place that will damage the equipment. (DeMarse was then called out on an emergency.)

Information and Reports:

Public Comment:

William Truscott noted that there are a lot of happy people that have had their road fixed. He's hoping for a smooth ride for his last ride out.

Daavettilla inquired about the DDA advisory group plans. Wiegand informed him that additional enhancements of lighting, utilities, and pedestrian access are being considered, in conjunction with MDOTs 2019 and 2021 US 41 Corridor work.

Correspondence: None

Committee Member Comment:

LaRue would like to see service roads considered along with the corridor improvements. Wiegand noted that the Township would have to buy the property in order to set aside the easements for future development.

LaRue noted what happened in Chocolay Township. A service road would have been helpful in addressing some of the traffic issues they are having now. He also would like to see a connecting road from US 41 to CR 492. Wiegand noted there is no money for the purchase of the property needed and it may simply be too late.

Springer suggested if these easements are the vision of the Road Committee, then they need to be in the new plan. Wiegand pointed out that the new transportation plan guides future capital improvement plans, CIP.

Daavettilla noted that UPEA was working with the City of Munising on their CIP.

LaRue also noted that years ago Fair Avenue was not put through as a result of a hill. He compared this small hill to some in Marquette and Houghton that are much steeper.

A discussion on the appearance of some buildings occurred. Wiegand noted that the only way to improve the situation is to change the building ordinance.

Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm
Springer, Moved
Truscott, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Next Scheduled Meeting is Tuesday, May 4, 2016 @ 5:30 PM @ Marquette Township Community Center

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Wiegand and Springer