

**Charter Township of Marquette
Roads Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Marquette Township Community Center**

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

Members Present: Dave Wiegand, Pete LaRue, Mike Springer

Members Absent: Ron DeMarse (excused), Dianna Truscott (excused)

Staff: Jason McCarthy, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Randy Girard, Manager

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes from previous meetings:

MOTION: *To approve the minutes of April 5, 2016*
LaRue, Moved
Springer, Supported **Carried: Unanimously**

Public Comment: Mr. Truscott is waiting to see new blacktop.

Old Business:

Wiegand turned the Road Rehabilitation Project Update over to Mark Daavettila.

The 2015 road rehabilitation projects will start once the road restrictions are off the county roads. Daavettila estimates as early as May 15 the restrictions may go off and projects will begin. The completion of the 2015 projects should be completed by June 17.

The bids for the 2016 road projects will be opened on June 1 to allow the Board to consider them at their June 7 meeting. He will email a copy of the South Vandeenboom Project to the Committee prior to the June 7 meeting. The 2016 projects will start the third or fourth week of June, as that is when the funding will be available.

LaRue inquired about the gravel on the lawns along last year's projects. Daavettila met with Dave Wiegand, Fahrner, and Manager Girard. The aggregate on the lawns in Bishop Woods is mostly sand along with smaller than 5/16" gravel than was used in the road surface. The smaller chips and the sand are a result of last winter's plowing. There should be fewer chips scraped off next year but the sand will still be there.

Manager Girard contacted the Road Commission. They will be sweeping roads in Trowbridge, Bishop Woods and Huron Woods this month.

Wiegand noted that the residents will have to sweep the sand and chips into the street in order for the County to sweep it up. They will not be coming up onto lawns. Subdivisions are the most difficult to deal with as the grass comes up to the edge of the road. Many municipalities use a micro seal rather than chip seal to reduce the amount of scraped off material on lawns.

LaRue showed photos of the gravel being 7 to 8 feet back from the road in Huron Woods. Springer requested that UPEA take a look at the situation there. He hoped that the Township would know the dates of sweeping in order to inform residents when to sweep their lawns. Wiegand indicated residents should be doing that now.

Springer sought information on the water and sewer utility strip. He noted that was a goal of our Complete Streets and Recreation plans to connect the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to the South Marquette Trails. The projected cost at the time was \$170,000. Daavettila discussed the possibility of paving additional pavement that would allow painting non-motorized lanes.

McCarthy pointed to the bicycle lanes on CR 550 and requested Daavettila to look into costs. He noted pedestrian/bicycle access along South Vandebloom part of both the Recreation and Road Plans. Springer pointed out that South Vandebloom is an important connector supporting the proposed US 41 underpass. The underpass will connect the North Noquemanon Trails and Trailhead to the South Trails and Trailhead.

Daavettila described the cost saving by having the safety strips installed at the same time. He will work up some estimates for the next meeting.

Wiegand noted if it hadn't been for the dark store issue there would have been a possibility of funding the pathways as well as additional road improvements.

McCarthy plans to have a draft Transportation Plan to the Committee by their June 7th meeting. Springer requested that the Committee take a look at the map in the plan that addresses future roads. McCarthy discussed the removal of a road in the plan. He also addressed unimproved right of ways and the need to map and address issues there. Thyra Karlstrom, and Mark Daavettila have offered to look over the draft.

McCarthy updated the Committee on the US 41 underpass plans. He has made some promising contacts with AT&T and a wireless communications lawyer. Ron Yesney also provided McCarthy with additional contact information. LaRue asked McCarthy to have AT&T move the fiber optic cable from rubbing on the warming building at Lions Field. McCarthy will look into it.

Springer noted that, according to Ron Yesney, there are funds to purchase easements for snowmobile trails. McCarthy had that conversation with him as well. McCarthy also plans to set up a meeting with Mike Farrell regarding the Longyear properties in pursue of easements.

Springer noted that safe way for ATV/ORVs to cross US 41 should be found. The proposed underpass will not be for ATV/ORVs. The Michigan Department of Transportation will build underpasses for non-motorized and snowmobiles but not ATV/ORVs. They will be prohibited from using the proposed underpass.

Wiegand inquired if there were ATV/ORV organizations. LaRue identified an individual that could get the Committee more information.

McCarthy noted multi-use of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail in the west but not the east. Need to diversify our tourism draw is important while balancing the needs of all trail users. Multi-use trails can draw funds from more than one trail user group. McCarthy noted that there is a strong ATV/ORV lobby and they have larger coffers available for trails.

LaRue would like to see the Planning Commission take a look at an ATV/ORV ordinance to address the issue of four wheelers throughout the Township. McCarthy talked to Manager Girard today about the ordinance. If the Board gave a directive to the Planning Commission to come up with an ordinance, the Commission could use the State Statue and the Marquette County Ordinance, to come up with plan that would fit our Township. McCarthy indicated that certain roads could be designated much like a truck route.

McCarthy noted that the undeveloped right-of-ways, ROWs, could be part of the new plan and as such would necessitate involvement of the Marquette County Road Commission. He will discuss this with Attorney Zappa and the Commission about stopping to plow ROWs while issuing driveway permits for house that are back on some of the undeveloped roads.

New Business:

Wiegand would like the Committee to work on establishing a Township Road Asset Management program that is updated annually. We need to approach the Board and get their support. The only expense would be to get someone up to speed on the program and enter the data. The PASER information is free.

Girard pointed out that due to the millage, that person would have to be a staff member. He sees that as a responsibility of the road commission. The program needs to be tailored to the Township. McCarthy sees the use of GIS layers assisting with projected road repairs. Girard would like to see the County get the program up for the Township to use. McCarthy has been certified in PASER and volunteered to recertify.

Wiegand noted that the PASER is only a part of the data. The history of what has gone into the road and what range of treatments that are available. The Road Soft programs let you look at culverts, bridges, stop signs, anything you want. McCarthy offered to look into some GIS programs.

Daavettila informed that Munising is moving toward asset management Capital Improvement Plan that will include trails, water and sewer and roads. He made the case for having all this information in one place. That way a road

project can be pushed back to meet a water and sanitary project the same year. He sees a capital improvement plan tying in non-motorized, roads and utilities.

Wiegand further explained how the program takes in all this data and recommends the best treatment. RoadSoft currently projects that after the road repairs are done it will require \$183,000 each year maintain the roads for the next 15 years. He noted that the program will forecast the PASER for the next three years.

McCarthy and Daavettila believe there is a better GIS program that would accomplish more than what Road Soft can offer. McCarthy offered to do some research on GIS asset management programs.

Wiegand spend hours and hours on the phone with Michigan Tech in learning the Road Soft program. They were a tremendous asset. Tech has a number of webinars available.

Wiegand commented that it would be difficult to find a program that will be more cost effective than RoadSoft in as much as the program and the P.A.S.E.R. data was made available to the Township at no cost.

Information and Reports: None

Public Comment:

William Truscott thought we had everything covered and is at the point where he may just get on-board.

Correspondence: None

Committee Member Comment:

LaRue inquired about moving forward on the ORV access. McCarthy suggested taking it to the Board.

Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm
Springer, Moved
LaRue, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Next Scheduled Meeting is Tuesday, June 7, 2016 @ 5:30 PM @ Marquette Township Community Center

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Wiegand and Springer