

**Charter Township of Marquette
Roads Committee
Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.
Marquette Township Community Center**

Meeting Called to Order at 5:32p.m.

Members Present: Pete LaRue, Mike Springer, Dianna Truscott

Members Absent: Peg VanOverloop,

Ad Hoc Road Committee Members Present: Bill Truscott.

Township Staff: Jason McCarthy, Planner/ZA.

Other Guests: Carla Champagne, Kathy Parker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: None.

Public Comment:

A brief discussion was held on the Road Committee's function, responsibilities and partners in the community. Several recent projects were discussed to provide the guests with the scope of the Road Committee's overall goals and objectives. Items the Road Committee has been addressing recently are: street lighting, year-round road maintenance (with a current emphasis on improved snow plowing service).

OLD BUSINESS:

Snow Plowing

The 2011 Citizen Survey identified the need for improved road maintenance and snowplowing as high priorities. LaRue discussed one option that the Township is researching which includes collaboration between the Township and the County Road Commission. There are details and liability issues that need to be worked out but the Township is hopeful that this agreement can be formalized.

Mr. Truscott complimented the County Road Commission for their snowplowing efforts this winter, he stated that there has been a noticeable difference in their response times to snow events.

Plowing Intersections

The Township is considering the purchase of an implement to assist in the plowing/snow blowing of our non-motorized routes (maintenance strips) and some intersections.

Complete Streets Ordinance

McCarthy updated the committee on correspondence received from the County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the proposed ordinance. The County Road Commission had several questions about the ordinance's implementation which were answered by McCarthy. The Planning Commission will review the same correspondence and decide on moving the ordinance to a public hearing. Carla Champagne stated that she plans to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commerce Drive to County Road 492 Project

LaRue briefly discussed the realignment of County Road 492 to favor traffic flow from 492 to the Commerce Drive intersection. Survey work has been completed in this area and the County Road Commission is in the engineering phase of the project.

Commerce Drive to US-41 (Pizza Hut) Utility Survey

LaRue explained that there is survey work being done along this route in an effort to gain as much information as possible in order for the Township Board to make a decision on the scope of work to be completed on Brookton Road.

Discussion was held on issues and opportunities regarding Brookton Road.

A 33' road bed and ROW currently exists. The Township will consider various options (depending on cost) for improvements. Options include a complete reconstruction of the road to include the installation of utilities and conformance with the County Road Commission's 66' ROW standard; chip-sealing of the current road bed; or a compromise that may allow for the placement of a maintenance strip (bike path) on either the north or south side of the road.

Historically, the majority of residents on along this route have not been supportive of widening the road nor the loss of trees.

The least expensive temporary measure is "Chip Sealing." Estimated to be between \$70,000 - \$75,000 just to smooth out the surface. Installing utilities and/or addition a maintenance strip (pedestrian path) could not be completed without additional funding.

The Committee recognizes that if taxpayer money is to be used on this, the functional class of the road should be considered, as it would benefit all members of the community and not just the landowners along the route.

It is the committee's opinion that the road should be upgraded (at a minimum) to the County Road Commission's standard.

Unsatisfactory Roads

LaRue requested that the committee review the P.A.S.E.R. Study and determine a list of "unsatisfactory" roads; with safety being the number one concern.

Potential Millage request from MCRC for Road Maintenance

LaRue asked that the committee consider recommending that the County Road Commission consider a millage request for road improvements.

Motorized/Non-Motorized Recreational Plan Map

A Non-motorized and Motorized Recreational Facilities Map needs to be updated to Fulfill the requirements of the pending Complete Streets Ordinance. The discussion included an example of Ontario Street being designated as a Complete Street route. Werner and Fair already have Complete Street components and if Ontario was improved with some form of a Complete Street consideration, a pedestrian could get from Trowbridge to the Township Hall or the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, safely. These as well as other designated routes could be part of the map in order to implement the pending Complete Streets Ordinance.

Information Items/Reports:

MTA Conference Handouts - Mr. LaRue recently attended the Michigan Township Association's annual conference. He provided some copies of handouts from the conference: Paving the Way to Better Roads; A Special Message from Governor Rick Snyder: Reinventing Michigan's Infrastructure: Better Roads Drive Better Jobs from October 26, 2011; Governor's Special Message on Infrastructure, Summary from October 26, 2011; Infrastructure Message and Legislation; The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund: A Brief History and Projects Summary.

Ad Hoc Committee Comments:

William Truscott wants some answers on the rein-orientation of a street light in the 2000 block of Center Street. He understands that it will cost about \$64 to do so.

Committee Member Comment:

DeMarse asked our Committee to request a report on the road funds existing to implement road improvements. The Road Committee should have an on-going update of funds available for roads in the Township.

DeMarse questioned why the use of plows on Harlow Lake Road takes precedence over removing slush from Trowbridge Roads.

Public Comment:

Carla Champagne - Powell Township Resident
She had been told that Kennecott will offer one amount to the Marquette County Road Commission to be divided among the municipalities that C.R. 550 passes through for improvements to the road.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Motion – DeMarse
Second – Springer

Carried

Next meeting will be March 13, 2012 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason McCarthy/Michael Springer