



MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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MARQUETTE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021 - 3:00 PM

MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER

1. **Call to order**
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
2. **Public Comment (3 minutes each):**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
4. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. Staff update regarding allowable corridor maintenance activities.
 - B. Continue discussion of DDA Master Plan priorities.
5. **New Business**
6. **Public Comment (3 Minutes maximum)**
7. **Adjournment**

Next Scheduled Meeting Date is July 13, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.



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To: DDA
From: Jon Kangas, Manager
Date: June 24, 2021
Regarding: Allowable US41/M 28 Corridor Maintenance Activities

As requested at the May Special Meeting of the DDA, staff has conducted limited research into what options may be available for Township/DDA-funded grass cutting maintenance along the US 41/M 28 corridor. As you are all aware, this has been a long-standing concern in the Township as it is our “gateway”, so to speak.

First, we contacted Rob Tervo at the MDOT Ishpeming TSC to determine if they would allow the Township to cut the grass on a more frequent basis than they currently fund. Mr. Tervo indicated he believed this would be an allowable activity that we could conduct under our annual right-of-way (ROW) permit. Basically, we need to check another box designated for “mowing” that we don’t currently check. Then we can go and cut the grass as needed with our own resources. The only other stipulation with MDOT ROW work is that an “advance notice” be issued by the Township through MDOT’s permitting system in advance of any activity. This effort is minimal and the feedback was positive.

However, the Township currently lacks adequate equipment for mowing the entire corridor. We do have a new loader that allows us to add any skid steer attachment available on the market. So, we checked with our local supplier and received a budget number of approximately \$13,000 for a 60”-78” front-end loader-mounted mower deck. This would likely be the most affordable way for the Township to get into corridor mowing. That said, MDOT is intending to reshape the median as part of their on-going construction project to slopes that would not be suitable for a front-end loader. Therefore, we don’t believe this option is feasible.

Finally, we contacted Jim Iwanicki at the Marquette County Road Commission. He indicated they would be willing to perform additional cuttings along the corridor at the Township’s expense. With feedback from his field Superintendent, it was estimated that the cost would be approximately \$2,000 per cutting. (~\$1,000/10 hour day for operator and equipment x 2 days). Note that we would be at the Road Commission’s mercy regarding availability of their equipment and manpower. For instance, this year he indicates their mowing equipment is running non-stop throughout their network since they have additional funding available after the mild winter we just had.

Regardless of the route we choose, we will have some limitations. Purchase of a municipal tractor with flail attachment like the Road Commission owns would be a minimum of \$50,000 for a used machine. New machines run upwards of \$100,000. We could hire the Road Commission for many years to offset the cost of the Township purchasing its own equipment. **Staff recommends using MCRC for additional mowing along the corridor, based on all information gathered.**

Mission Statement:

“Recognize and meet the needs of the Township Community.”



**Downtown Development Authority
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Township Hall Community Room**

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chair Noordyk.

DDA MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Noordyk, Rob Sved, Dan Shanahan, Lyn Durant, Mike Springer, Bill Tibor.

DDA MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Andrew Rickauer.

DDA MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Jensen and Delynn Klein.

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Kangas, Township Manager.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion by Sved, supported by Durant to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Springer announced the Iron Range Roll will be occurring on June 5th, starting in Ishpeming and ending at the Marquette Commons.

BUSINESS:

Noordyk opened discussion of Master Plan priorities with examples from Cheboygan and Traverse City.

Priorities established:

1. Two pathway links from US 41/M 28 already in motion. (Prior motions made to capture 0.5 miles for two years to generate matching funds for proposed grant opportunities.)
2. Extend non-motorized facilities along US 41/M 28 eastward from Commerce Drive toward City of Marquette, including pedestrian lighting, if possible.
3. Façade improvements along the corridor.
4. Redevelopment of shopping districts with an emphasis on the Westwood Mall.
5. Improved landscaping maintenance along the corridor with a focus on the median, to the extent permissible per MDOT/MCRC.
6. Develop an indoor/outdoor venue for music, farmer's market, etc.
7. Long-term: bury overhead utilities along the corridor.

Action Items:

1. Staff will check with MDOT/MCRC to determine allowable Township-driven maintenance activities along the corridor with a specific focus on the median.
2. Staff will evaluate current equipment and attachment options for proposed maintenance of the corridor. Specifically, loader-mounted attachments for mowing will be evaluated. Loader will also be evaluated for capabilities for the planned median cross-section.

Motion: Moved by Sved, supported by Tibor to schedule a Special Meeting of the DDA on June 29, 2021 at 3:00 pm to further discuss the development of the DDA Master Plan. **Motion carried.**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Next Special Meeting: June 29, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: July 13, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.

Dan Shanahan, Secretary

DRAFT