



2463 US Hwy 41 W, Marquette MI 49855
(906) 228-0028 • FAX (906) 226-2013

mtbatownshipbusiness@yahoo.com

www.marquettetownship.biz

**Tuesday, May 12th, 2019 – Noon – Marquette Township Hall
Joint Meeting between the MTBA and Marquette Township Board**

Lunch catered by
Hudson's Classic Grill

AGENDA

Call to order: 12:13pm

1. DDA:

a. May 14th meeting update:

Special meeting with the Board of Light and Power. The township is the looking to provide lighting for the 2 roundabouts. The township is required to do an 1/8th mile on each side of the roundabouts. It would leave a gap from the Walmart roundabout to Commerce Drive. The cost from the end of the 1/8th mile to Commerce Drive to put in the same type of lighting would be around \$400,000. The spacing between each light would be 25 feet. The DDA then started talking about the main concern which is the area where people are which is down by the hotels and the restaurants. The meeting was to see what the options would be for doing the lighting on each side. It was suggested to have a lighting study done. There will be a proposal put together for the lighting down in the hotel/restaurant area along with a pedestrian crossing.

2. US 41/MDOT:

a. Impact of 2019 Road Project on Businesses

There is a meeting at 1 every Tuesday at the township hall to resolve issues involving the project. MDOT is always going to keep one lane in each direction. It is expected at some point during the construction there will be some negative impact. The traffic patterns will change. Any business that will be affected by access will be contacted ahead of time. All businesses should have minimal impact. You can go on MDOT to see updates as well as on the Marquette Charter Township's website.

b. MDOT Report for 2021 project

Nothing has been set. Designing has not been done. Should be mostly resurfacing to Front Street. Some of the elevations are going to be changed. There is discussion of changing one of the Michigan lefts (the one by Frei Chevrolet) because in the winter it can be dangerous. There was a road safety audit done by the MDOT safety engineers who studied the road for 24 hours. The study can be used to try to raise funds for safety updates such as pedestrian access. There are grants that can be applied for.

A question was asked about if you will ever be able to make a left turn coming from Commerce Drive. For that to be a possibility property would need to be purchased to allow room for safe turns for ALL vehicles especially semi-trucks.

c. Beautification of corridor – roundabout adoption

This will fall into the 2021 project. It would be a good idea for someone from the MTBA to go to the DDA meetings or check on the website.

3. Proposed new private development

The Cenex property was successful with the Brownfield application. They should be starting with that soon. The Up In the Sky Development- is there anything going on with that? There's been a lot of talk and the plan is still active.

4. Update on sidewalks for Commerce Drive.

Have sidewalks ever been in the plan for Commerce? No- There has never been a plan or design for sidewalks. It is possible because there is enough room. Jason and the road commission did projects for Safe Route to School, which generated a couple of paved routes and crossings mainly on Venture by North Star Academy. There is room within the right of way along Commerce Drive.

5. Commerce Drive/Wright Street (Forestville) update.

The Forestville intersection- The county road commission applied for some grant money for some engineering and design work. So far, they have no plan on that. It is a priority. It would involve acquiring property and flattening out the roadway (making it less curvy). There have been talks about putting a light there. The topography, wetlands, and private property are issues for putting in a roundabout.

6. Update on Dark Stores.

Not much info on Dark Stores except what you read in the papers with Escanaba. Walmart is the only one that isn't taking advantage of this.

7. Update on recreation plan.

The plan is nearing its completion. Marquette Township has acquired some property and there has been discussion on the Well road of making a trail head there (off of Vandendoom). NTN could provide the match for the grant application to build the trail head. They are also proposing to connect from the heritage trail to the new tunnel. There has also been discussion with the city to try to find a space for a 365-day dog park.

8. Ordinance, short term rentals, tiny homes, medical cannabis sales.

There are 5 approved short-term rentals in the community there is 1 that is being reviewed in the future and there has been one that was denied due to neighbor issues. Tiny homes were also approved the township has yet to see one. There is going to be a proposal for the Well road parcel and the 2 adjacent parcels to be rezoned as forest recreation which puts a limit on what you can do on that property. There was an old plan that included an Amphitheatre, soccer fields, and baseball fields. As far as cannabis sales, the township opted out on that until the state figures out the regulations. There is a new owner of the Westwood Mall that is being watched very closely by the township.

Jason asks: What is the township working on?

We are working on revamping our 2019-2020 Profile. The Mining Journal is going to publish this for the MTBA.

Jason asked if we are going to donate money every year for flowers in the roundabout which is something that we have discussed. We don't think we are large enough to adopt a whole roundabout but would like to be involved.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:03pm.