

September 25, 2017
Special Meeting

A Special meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was called for a Presentation of the Road Asset Management Plan by GEI Consultants and to schedule a date for the public presentation of the plan. The meeting was held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at the Chocolay Township Hall, 5010 U S 41 South, Marquette, MI. Supervisor Bohjanen called the Township Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TOWNSHIP BOARD.

PRESENT: Richard Bohjanen, Max Engle, Ben Zyburt, David Lynch, Judy White, Don Rhein, Mark Maki.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Lawry, Mary Sanders, Suzanne Sundell, Brad Johnson.

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2017.

Maki moved Rhein second to table the approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 11, 2017 until the October Board meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS.

Maki moved Rhein second to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Deborah Mulcahey, 633 Lakewood Lane- The addresses of people making public comment at the September 11th meeting were not necessarily their legal address but the address of their rental properties. She questioned some of the material from the consultants that was not available to the public. Under administrative law if a permit is not issued, it is considered denied.

Trustee Maki stated that we approved the contract to develop a plan for the projects, but we have not approved any projects yet.

PRESENTATIONS - ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Sean Beckman, GEI Consultants presented the Asset Management Plan. This is preliminary at this time because they are looking for feedback from the Board and the public, when the public meeting is held. PASER ratings are used nationwide to rate roads and rating is done visually, no digging to the subsurface to do the readings. GEI utilized PASER ratings to evaluate Chocolay Township roads. Chocolay Township has a lot of 6-7-8 rated roads. Those generally do not require much work. The asset inventory for Chocolay shows less than 46 miles of roads. Chocolay

has 5.59 miles of roads in the 1-3 category, 10.39 miles in the 4-5 category, 13.76 miles in the 6-7 category, 7.78 miles in the 8 category and 8.4 miles in the 9-10 category. The repair options are:

- Roads rated 7, 8 or 9 – Seal the cracks and pavement joints with a hot poured rubber material.
- Roads rated 5 or 6 – Chip seal coat the road.
- Roads rated 4 to 5 -Cold mill and pave with thin asphalt overlay.
- Roads rated 1, 2 or 3 – Full reconstruction.

A very conservative estimate utilizing 2017 construction costs and bringing all Township roads up to a PASER rating of 7 within 5 years would be roughly 13 million dollars. This number includes drainage and subsurface repairs, so there is room to make adjustments. To bring everything up to an 8 rating, would bring the cost up to 18 million dollars. The costs do not include soft costs (engineering, legal, bond counsel and administrative which typically is 15%). Bonding is very common, Marquette County Road Commission bonding are an option; grant programs, USDA and special assessments are other funding options. Currently construction prices are high and if the Township waited a few years to do the projects the price may come down.

Trustee Maki asked about the additional State gas tax money that the Marquette County Road Commission is receiving; will they help the Township paving projects with any of that.

Manager Lawry responded that Marquette County Road Commission expects about 8 million dollars from the additional State gas tax, with a 3 year phase in. They are committing a chunk of the additional State gas tax money for replacement of their fleet. As far as road projects go, the Road Commission will be limited to the County primary system. They did vote to use a portion of it toward maintenance, but they will do road sweeping and mowing with that money. They will not use any of the money for Township secondary roads.

Manager Lawry explained that a lot of the dollars that Sean has in the estimate include much more than pavement maintenance. It includes ditching and shoulder restoration. That is routine maintenance that the Marquette County Road Commission should be doing. If we can target a couple of roads each year and work with the Marquette County Road Commission to have them do the shoulder and ditch work, that should substantially lower our costs and keep the roads in good condition. The cost numbers will fall tremendously if we can get the County to do this.

PASER road rating, project repair costs, traffic volume, public safety and feedback from the Township Board and the public all are part of prioritizing roads.

Trustee Maki asked what information will be available to the private citizen at the public meeting for the road that the resident lives on.

The information that will be available is the rating of their road and what the cost estimate will be for repair of their road. The time line will not be available.

Manager Lawry thinks the biggest factor for the time line is if we spend the tax money each year as we receive it, or if and when we bond, and if we do all the work at one time. The Board also needs to decide what the criterion is for selecting the time line.

Clerk Engle asked who will speak to the cost estimates being larger than the proposed millage income. Manager Lawry will address that question at the public hearing.

Trustee Maki suggested that GEI provide informational handouts for the public to take with them.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Maki moved Zyburt second that the Public Meeting on the Road Asset Management be scheduled for October 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Cherry Creek School.

MOTION CARRIED. (No-Bohjanen)

When setting up the public presentation, we learned that Cherry Creek School was not available and the presentation was changed to Silver Creek Church at 7:00 pm on October 9th.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Peter Ollila, 633 Lakewood Lane- The Board has a hard sell with not much time to get the information out before the election. Voters that do not have information, tend to vote no.

Deborah Mulcahey, 633 Lakewood Lane- Commented on whether GEI looked only at surface or subsurface. The RFP talks about 5 years and the millage is 15 years, explain that to the public. She also commented on the number of miles and ratings. The public needs to be educated that this is a County responsibility. The Township needs to let the County know what the safety issues are with the roads. As a follow up to the short term rental issue she questioned Dale Throenle's absence at the September 11th meeting.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

None.

Supervisor Bohjanen moved Lynch second to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Max Engle, Clerk

Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor