

May 6, 1981

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met on May 6, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse Annex.

Roll call was held by the county clerk and all commissioners were present.

Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. Leone and carried, that the minutes of the April 15, 1981 meeting of the county board be approved and accepted.

Chairperson Farrell opened the meeting for public comment. Earl Yelle, Supervisor of Sands Township, told the county board that he felt that members of the Marquette County Tax Equalization Dept. should be allowed to be employed as assessors by local units of government on their own time.

Henry Adams of Republic spoke against hiring a member of the Tax Equalization Dept. to work on their own time as assessors for local units of government, because of a conflict of interest. He also felt that if a unit of government had a resident who was a qualified assessor, the unit of government should hire within the unit.

There being no further comment, Chairperson Farrell declared the public comment section closed.

Approval of the agenda was given and items 8-G, 8-H and 8-I were placed on the agenda, to be taken up at 8:30 p.m. and the meeting recessed to the Community Building at that time. This was done by a motion by Comm. Racine, that was supported by Comm. Juidici and carried. It was moved by Comm. Juidici, supported by Comm. Leone and carried that these three items be taken up in the following order 8-h, 8-I and 8-G. It was moved by Comm. Juidici, supported by Comm. LaMere and carried that at public hearings or public comment sessions individuals who wished to speak, fill out a card stating their name address and topic they wish to speak on.

Chairperson Farrell opened the public hearing on Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. Chairperson Farrell explained the procedures used at public hearings, and requirements mandated by statute. Chairperson Farrell opened the meeting for public comment.

James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer and Ishpeming Township resident, spoke on the need for Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for the renovation of the old courthouse. He demonstrated the need for a new heating system through a display of some of the piping that has ruptured in the heating system. He felt that the money should be used for Capital Improvements to the Courthouse/Annex/Jail Complex. If money is needed for the Road Commission, it should come from the General Fund.

James Alderton, resident of Ishpeming Township and Chairperson of the Marquette County Road Commission spoke on the needs of the Road Commission Projects,

1. \$687,000.00 or any portion thereof for new equipment.
2. \$90,000.00 for blacktopping six(6) miles of Secondary Roads in the Townships 50/50 split on funding with the Townships.
3. \$90,000.00 for repair of six (6) miles of Primary Roads.
4. \$375,000.00 for land acquisition and replacement of buildings in Skandia and Forsyth Townships.

Mr. Alderton felt that the county board should use their own discretion in allocating Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for the Road Commission.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Farrell closed the public hearing on Federal Revenue Sharing Funds.

A recommendation from the Finance Committee regarding the use of 1980 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds in the amount of \$846,000.00, was read. It was moved by Comm. Juidici, supported by Comm. Carlson and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the county board concur with the recommendation and that a sum of \$108,000.00 of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds be used to cover the current deficit in the employers portion of the retirement, and that the balance of the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund be placed in the Public Improvements' Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Carlson, supported by Comm. Villeneuve and carried that a committee, made up of the Chairperson of the county board, and the Chairpersons of the five standing committees be established, to meet, and at the June 3, 1981 meeting of the county board, make a recommendation on the determination of priorities and amounts to be allocated to each project.

Chairperson Farrell introduced Roger Phillips of the Department of Transportation who spoke briefly on the proposed County Incentive Program. He stated...

1. Possibility of third year funding.
2. Vehicles and Equipment have been finalized.
3. Interlocal agreement has been finalized except for City of Ishpeming. If Ishpeming does not sign soon, he stated, he is unsure as to how long he can hold the project open.

Mr. Phillips then left the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Michigan Association of Counties Conference to be held on Mackinac Island. It was moved by Comm. Leone, supported by Comm. LeMere and carried on a roll call vote to allow Comm. Racine and one other commissioner to attend.

Ayes: Comm. Juidici, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Racine, Villeneuve and Farrell.

Nays: Comm. Carlson, Cheatham, Lowe and May.

Absent: Comm. Steele.

Communications from the Marquette County Township Association, regarding the danger of using county roads for bicycle and running marathons, was read. It was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. Leone and carried that the letters be referred to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for study.

A communication from E. Brad Busch advising the county board of his resignation from the Commission on Aging, was read. It was moved by Comm. May, supported by Comm. Racine and carried that the resignation be accepted with regret and a certificate of appreciation be sent Mr. Busch.

A communication from Berle LaPin advising the county board of his resignation from the AMCAB board, was read. It was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. LaMere and carried that the resignation be accepted with regret and a certificate of appreciation be sent Mr. LaPin.

Chairperson Farrell appointed John Olson of Michigamme to fill the vacancy created by Mr. LaPin's resignation on the AMCAB Board and Mrs. Karin Moffatt to serve as alternate in the public official category.

At this time it was moved by Comm. Leone, supported by Comm. Juidici and carried that the county board adjourn to the Community Building in the Marquette City Hall - Due to the large number of persons from Forsyth and Republic Townships who wish to speak on Equalization, this move was necessary.

The meeting reconvened in the Community Building and the following named people requested permission to speak.

- Henry Adams, Republic Township
- Dwight Provost, Forsyth Township
- Mary Holzhauer, Forsyth Township
- Evelyn Heikkila, Forsyth Township

Chairperson Farrell opened the meeting for public comment. Mary Holzhauer spoke extensively on the inequities in taxes in Forsyth Township and the increase in State Equalized Values. Dwight Provost and Evelyn Heikkala waived their requests to speak. Henry Adams of Republic spoke on the conflict of interest in having a member of the Marquette County Equalization Dept. work as assessor on his own time for local units of government. He also stated that Republic Township taxes were too high. Chairperson Farrell closed the public comment section.

A communication from Joseph DeJuliannie, Supervisor of Forsyth Township regarding the State Equalized Value of Forsyth Township, was read and placed on file.

Chairperson Farrell announced that the agenda items 8-H and 8-I would now be taken up. Item 8-H was a recommendation from the Executive Committee recommending that the equalized value of Agricultural Class property for Champion Township, as set by the Champion Township Board of Review in 1980 be accepted. It was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. LaMere that the county board concur with the recommendation. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed 6 to 6.

Ayes: Comm. Carlson, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Racine and Villeneuve.  
Nays: Comm. Cheatham, Juidici, Lowe, May, Steele and Farrell.

Item 8-I a recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding the rejection of total equalized values of Forsyth Township because of inequities that exist and violations documented, was read. It was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. LaPin that the county board concur with the recommendation. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

Ayes: Comm. LaPin, Leone, Racine, Steele and Villeneuve.  
Nays: Comm. Carlson, Cheatham, Juidici, LaMere, Lowe, May and Farrell.

Item 8-G a recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding the 1981 equalized value by classes, was read. It was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. Steele that the county board concur with the recommendation for a total value of \$635,085.576, It was moved by Comm. Carlson, supported by Comm. Lowe and carried on a roll call vote that the main motion be amended to allow for a 3½% decrease in the proposed equalized value across all classes of property. A roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend and it passed.

Ayes: Comm. Carlson, Cheatham, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Lowe, May, Racine, Steele and Villeneuve.

Nays: Comm. Juidici and Farrell.

A roll call vote was then taken on the motion to accept the equalized values with a 3½% reduction across all classes of property. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

Ayes: Comm. Carlson, Cheatham, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Lowe, May, Racine, Steele, Villeneuve and Farrell.

Nays: Comm. Juidici.

<u>ASSESSMENT UNIT</u>	<u>EQUALIZED VALUATIONS</u>
Champion	4,523,299
Chocolay	42,969,585
Ely	17,956,142
Ewing	2,473,571
Forsyth	41,511,978
Humboldt	6,861,704
Ishpeming	27,290,392
Marquette	32,815,488
Michigamme	7,919,697
Negaunee	27,879,019
Powell	18,700.854
Republic	13,176,407
Richmond	8,908,432
Sands	11,360,753
Skandia	6,923,536
Tilden	10,229,961
Turin	1,683,588
Wells	7,699,062
West Branch	6,474,627

ASSESSMENT UNIT

EQUALIZED VALUATIONS

Cities

Ishpeming	49,668,829
Marquette	249,337,209
Negaunee	28,665,155

County Total

625,029,287

A communication from Rep. D. J. Jacobetti, regarding reimbursement by the State for elections, was read and placed on file.

A communication regarding appointments of seven Marquette County persons on the North Central Subarea Advisory Council, was read. It was moved by Comm. May, supported by Comm. Racine and carried that a letter be sent to NCSAC asking for a 15 day extension so that the appointments can be made in June 1981 as per county board policy.

A communication from the Offender Aid Rehabilitation committee, regarding the resignation of Comm. Lowe from that committee, was read. It was moved by Comm. Carlson, supported by Comm. LaPin and carried that the resignation be accepted with regret, a certificate of appreciation given Comm. Lowe and that Chairperson Farrell be authorized to appoint a county commissioner to fill the vacancy.

A communication from John Beerling Supt./Eng. of the County Road Commission, regarding weight restrictions on county roads, was read and placed on file.

Item 8-E, a recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding the Marquette County Substance Abuse program, was read. It was moved by Comm. Leone, supported by Comm. LaPin and carried that the county board concur with the recommendation and adopt option #1 that provides that the Board of Health continue to monitor county funds received for the substance abuse program and to continue to appoint members to the Substance Abuse Advisory Council.

Communications from West Branch and Skandia Townships advising the county board they have been turned down by HUD for eminent threat funds, and asking that the two townships be included for funds for improvement of their contaminated water problems, in the next Community Development Block Grant, was read and referred to the Executive Committee.

Communications from Senators Levin and Reigle and Representative Davis, regarding their support of the county's grant application for funds to renovate the courthouse, was read and placed on file.

Communication from the Department of Social Services regarding allocation under Public Act 328 of Child Care Fund monies, were read and referred to the Finance Committee for informational purposes.

A communication from MAC regarding payment in lieu of taxes, was read and placed on file.

A communication from the Airport Committee stating negotiations with Republic Airlines will begin April 29, 1981, was read and placed on file.

A communication from the Dept. of State regarding reapportionment, was read and placed on file.

A communication from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc. regarding KMB's Annual Michigan Clean Up Month, was read and placed on file.

A communication from CUPPAD regarding Transportation Project Priority Lists for FY 1982, was read and placed on file.

A communication from CUPPAD regarding the President's proposed budget cuts, was read and referred to the Executive Committee.

A recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding amendments to the Marquette County Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual to not allow Equalization Dept. employees to work as assessors for local units of government within the county, was read. It was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. Leone and carried that the recommendation be referred to the Executive Committee and Personnel Committee, and if the Executive Committee has any recommendations they be presented to the Personnel Committee for inclusion in their report back to the county board.

Reports of the Executive Committee meetings held on April 14-20-30, 1981 and the report of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee held on April 23, 1981, were read and placed on file.

Monthly reports of the Sheriff Dept., Acocks Medical Facility and the Airport Committee, were read and placed on file.

A communication from Attorney Stephen Adami asking that a public hearing be held at the May 20, 1981 meeting of the county board in regard to Larimo Corporation-Economic Development Corporation proposal, was read. It was moved by Comm. Juidici, supported by Comm. Lowe and carried that the public hearing be scheduled for the May 20, 1981 meeting provided all material is cleared through the Chief Civil Counsel prior to May 20, 1981.

It was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. LaMere that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully, submitted,

*Henry A. Skewis*

Henry A. Skewis,  
County Clerk

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Wednesday, May 6, 1981, 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex  
Marquette, Michigan

1. CALLING OF ROLL BY THE COUNTY CLERK.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 1981 MEETING.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of 20 minutes total).
5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
  - a. Public hearing on the revised 1981 Federal Revenue Sharing Budget.
    - 1) Recommendation from the Finance Committee on the use of the 1981 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds.
    - 2)
  - b.
7. PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS, PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
  - a. Roger Phillips, Department of Transportation, has been invited to attend and discuss the county-wide transportation program.
    - 1) Communication from Jack Arnold, Ishpeming City Manager, on the Inter-local Agreement for county-wide transportation.
    - 2)
  - b. Discuss MAC Conference.
  - c. Communication from William Michelin, Director, Marquette County Townships Association, re lack of legislation to adequately control running and bicycling events on county roads.
  - d. Letter from Brad Busch resigning from the Commission on Aging.
  - e. Letter from Berle LaPin resigning from the Alger-Marquette Community Action Board.
  - f. Letter from Representative Jacobetti on reimbursement to local units for the 1980 Presidential Primary and May 19, 1981 special election.
  - g. Letter from the North Central Subarea Advisory Council on vacancies on that body.
  - h. Communication from Susan Gagnon, Executive Director, OAR/Marquette, on the resignation of Timothy Lowe from the OAR/Marquette.
  - i. Letter from John Beerling, Road Commission, on the Road Commission's weight restriction policy.
  - j. Letters from West Branch Township and Skandia Township asking to be included in the county's next Community Development Block Grant application for funds to alleviate their groundwater contamination problem.
  - k. Communications from Senator Levin and Congressman Davis on the county's EDA application for the Courthouse renovation project.
  - l. Communication from Shirley Tate, Office of Children and Youth Services, on Child Care Fund vs State Ward Chargeback Off-setting Payment Process.
  - m. Letter from Shirley Tate on the county's State Child Care Fund authorization for FY 1980-81.
  - n. MAC communication on payments in lieu of taxes.
  - o. Letter from Charles Hohman, Airport Manager, on the commencement of negotiations between the Airport and Republic Airlines for a new lease.
  - p. Letter from Secretary of State on reapportionment of county commissioner districts.

*Several items out of order on the agenda*

7. COMMUNICATIONS (con't.):
  - q. Communication from Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. on Annual Clean-Up's.
  - r. CUPPAD communication on transportation project priority list for FY 1982.
  - s. CUPPAD communication on President's proposed budget cuts.
  - t.
  - u.
  - v.
  - w.
8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:
  - a. Report from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on a meeting held April 23, 1981.
  - b. Report from the Executive Committee on a meeting held April 14, 1981.
  - c. Executive Committee report on an April 20, 1981 meeting.
  - d. Executive Committee recommendation to amend the Personnel Policy Manual so that employees of the Equalization Department may not work as assessors for local units.
    - 1) Communication from Champion Township Supervisor opposing the proposed amendment.
    - 2) Letter from the Humboldt Township Board of Review opposing the proposed amendment.
  - e. Recommendation from the Executive Committee on the substance abuse program for the county.
    - 1) Letter from Robert Neldberg, Marquette General Hospital, stating that Marquette General Hospital will accept the responsibility of being the substance abuse service provider for the county.
    - 2)
  - f. Report from the Executive Committee on a meeting held April 30, 1981.
  - g. Recommendation from the Executive Committee on 1981 county equalized valuation.
  - h. Executive Committee recommendation on Champion Twp, - agricultural class.
  - i. Executive Committee recommendation on Forsyth Twp,'s 1981 assessment.
  - j.
  - k.
9. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:
  - a.
  - b.
10. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS:
  - a. Report from Acocks Medical Facility for March, 1981.
  - b. Report from the Airport for the first quarter of 1981.
  - c. Sheriff's Department's activity report for March, 1981.
  - d.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
  - a. *LCM*
  - b.
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
  - a.
  - b.
13. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a.
  - b.
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.

*Several items out of order on agenda*

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April 23, 1981

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Intergovernmental Relations Committee was duly called and held on April 23, 1981 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Emily May  
Chairperson

A. D. Davel

Frank Leon

Timothy J. Lane

Neil W. Carlson



April 23, 1981

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting was duly called and held on April 23, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

Present: Commissioners Carlson, Farrell, Leone, Lowe, LaPin and May.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Duane Beard, Controller; Earl Robinson, Skandia Township Supervisor; and Peter Embley.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson May.

The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the March 26, 1981 meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Leone, supported by Commissioner Carlson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as distributed.

Peter Embley spoke under public comment. He noted at the last Board meeting the subject of HMOs was referred to the committee. Commissioner May stated she received information from the Controller on HMOs and the subject will probably be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Embley asked that it be added to the present agenda.

Approval of the agenda was the next item of business. Discussion of HMOs was added, to follow the discussion of the Townships Association's request for a contribution toward their Director's salary. Commissioner May stated she would like to discuss two of the committee's goals: One of combining the Parks, Harbor and Forestry Commissions; and another on utilization of the MEDIC Program.

Earl Robinson, Skandia Township Supervisor, was present to discuss the Marquette County Townships Association's request for a \$7,000 county contribution toward the salary of their Director. Earl Robinson noted Wes Larson, President of the Association, was unable to attend because of a conflict. Mr. Robinson said the Association is encountering financial problems. He noted there are presently 18 townships in the Association, as Chocolay Township has dropped out. He said Marquette and Ishpeming Townships have indicated they will drop from the Association and Forsyth Township is also considering doing so.

Commissioner Carlson questioned whether this would be a one time contribution. Earl Robinson indicated they would probably want to be sure they would receive the appropriation on a yearly basis. Mr. Robinson said they are looking at the possibility of forming a regional townships association with other counties and are looking for state funding.

Commissioner May stated it was brought to the Board's attention that some contributions the county made in the past have not been legal. She said they would have to check with legal counsel to see if such a contribution can be made.

Robinson said a county appropriation is their last hope of keeping Mr. Michelin on as Director. He said with the loss of Ishpeming, Marquette and Forsyth Townships the Association would just about fold up.

In response to a question by Commissioner Carlson, Robinson said the reason the townships are withdrawing is because of the increase in dues implemented this year and some of the townships believe the services they receive from the Association is a duplication of services they can receive elsewhere.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, supported by Commissioner Lowe and carried unanimously to ask legal counsel to look into the legality of the county making a contribution to the Townships Association for the Director's salary.

Earl Robinson said he will have the Association provide information to the committee on the regional townships association that is under consideration. He said such a consolidation will reduce dues of the individual townships.

The committee discussed HMOs. A letter was received by Duane Beard from the Health Services Department of Contra Costa County in California regarding the HMO they have implemented in that county. The letter stated the HMO program was implemented to provide a high quality health insurance for those willing to enroll in the plan. General information, copies of news clippings about Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and their newsletters were also provided.

Duane Beard noted the Board asked him some time ago to contact Contra Costa County regarding their HMO, and he also did other research on the program. He said HMOs tend to be cheaper in the long run than paying health insurance. The program is basically one in which the employer employs a doctor and sets up a clinic for employees. Instead of paying for insurance they have an in-house doctor. Annual physicals for employees are provided and the program supports the concept of preventive medicine.

Commissioner Carlson asked if HMO is used as a substitute for insurance what occurs if an individual wants diagnostic tests taken at a hospital such as Mayo's. The answer was not known. Duane Beard said the county would still have coverage for calamitous claims.

Commissioner Carlson said he heard that one of Reagan's proposals is to eliminate HMO funding.

Peter Embley said he would provide information on HMOs to the committee. Commissioner Carlson said he would contact John Kiltinen of NMU who has knowledge of HMOs.

Peter Embley gave background information on attempts made in the past in the U.P. toward the establishment of HMO. He said he believes there is great opportunity for the county in this type of program. He said even if federal money is not available he believes in the long run a regional HMO program would be a cost savings.

It was noted the U.P. Physicians Association has filed an application for a HMO. It was felt the committee should review the application through the A-95 process.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Lowe, supported by Commissioner Leone and carried unanimously to defer discussion on the item until more information is available, and to ask the Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee to ask CUPPAD for a special conference with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on the HMO application, and the project's full application, and also to request John Kiltinen to come to the next meeting to discuss this item.

Re: Board's request that a conference be held between the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and AMCAB on their CAA Administration/Local Initiative Project application and their Senior Opportunity and Services Project application, as well as a review of the applications, through the A-95 process. Patty Potvin, A-95 Coordinator, CUPPAD, called and stated Scott Macy, Director, AMCAB, called her and informed her that the applications for the two projects will not be available until they have been approved by AMCAB on May 21 and it would not be possible to hold a conference until June. Scott also requested that an attempt be made to ~~hold~~ a joint conference between the Commission on Aging, Planning Commission and County Board as all three bodies have requested a conference on the projects.

Commissioner Farrell said CUPPAD's Executive Committee acted on the applications. He said the only action taken by CUPPAD was on the staff's recommendations. He said he will call CUPPAD to determine when they intend to send in comments on the applications to the funding agencies. He said when a full application and conference is requested an application is immediately placed on hold until the conference is held.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Lowe, supported by Commissioner Leone and carried unanimously to send a letter to CUPPAD regarding Patty Potvin's message asking that a conference on the projects be scheduled for their June meeting and to note that the committee assumes that the review process for the projects will not be completed until the committee has had an opportunity to meet with AMCAB on the projects. The Board Secretary will contact CUPPAD after the May 21 AMCAB meeting to get the full applications in order to have them prior to the June conference with AMCAB.

A copy of a communication from the City of Ishpeming stating Harry Jacobson has been appointed to the Animal Control Committee was received. Also phone messages from the Townships Association stating Gladys Rajala has been appointed, and from the City of Negaunee stating Steve Perucco has been appointed, were received. The Humane Society and Chiefs of Police Association has not yet responded. It was noted Commissioner Lowe is the committee's representative on the Animal Control Committee.

Commissioner May said once all appointments have been received the initial meeting will be set up. She said she will attend the first meeting to explain the purpose of the committee and conduct an election of the committee's Chairperson.

Commissioner LaPin stated Humboldt Township discussed animal control at their last meeting.

The committee reviewed the evaluation sheets received from participants at the April 11 Policy Makers Workshop on budgetary matters. Commissioner May said the workshop was very successful. One suggestion received was that an all day conference be held on a day other than Saturday. Commissioner May felt more time could have been taken talking with William Kimball, MSU, and Tom Quinn, MSU Cooperative Extension, but because of time limitations this could not be done. She noted the next in-service workshop for policy makers will be held in September on personnel matters.

Commissioner May noted she received requests from participants of the workshop for an outline of her comments on policy makers' responsibilities on the budget process. She stated she has prepared an outline which will be sent to people who attended the workshop.

The committee received a report from Commissioner Lowe on Law Day (May 1) activities. He said four groups of 4th and 5th graders will participate. Tours will be held of the Courthouse/Jail Complex the morning of May 1. He noted the Sheriff has an open house on Law Day each year. Commissioner Lowe questioned whether a press release should be sent out and if the public should be invited to visit the courthouse. He said he has developed a packet of materials for the teachers to give to students, which include a crossword puzzle and word search game on law enforcement related terms, and county officials. He said he contacted the local Bar Association and it may be possible to have some attorneys go through the Courthouse with the students.

An opinion from Chief Civil Counsel on community action agencies was received. The item was deferred until the next meeting.

A communication from the Controller regarding staff support for Marquette County Harbor Commission, and a copy of a memo from Duane Beard to John Beerling on Harbor Commission - Administrative Procedures were received by the committee. The Controller noted he sent a letter on behalf of the Harbor Commission to the Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee on the water system problems at the Harbor of Refuge.

Duane said Arthur Feldhauser, DNR, contacted a member of the Harbor Commission concerning the committee's inquiry about transferring the harbor to the State. The committee asked the Controller to follow up the letter from the committee on the transfer by calling Mr. Feldhauser.

In regard to staff support for the Harbor Commission, the Controller stated it is hard to determine what type of needs are required before a report is received from John Beerling on what administrative duties he carried out.

Commissioner May questioned whether the harbormaster will be able to do some of the administrative work on an interim basis. The Controller noted the clerical pool can take minutes of the Commission's meetings.

As soon as the Controller receives information from John Beerling on what staff needs are required in administering the Harbor Commission, the Controller and Commissioner May will meet to determine how the staff needs should be handled.

Commissioner May said one of the committee's objectives is to "Work with other units of government in the County to analyze the total cost and effectiveness of the law enforcement programs supported by county government and local governments in the county". The Controller said the committee should determine the total amount of money spent on law enforcement in the county, and consider ways that the county could receive better quality of law enforcement for the same amount of money. He suggested that the Planning Commission be asked to obtain information on law enforcement in the county such as total expenditures from all sources; total revenues applied to law enforcement (local money, grant funds); breakdown of expenditures by jurisdictions; staffing levels; equipment levels; etc. Commissioner Lowe suggested that the committee obtain legislation dealing with law enforcement responsibilities at the state, township and county levels.

The committee will come prepared to discuss the type of information that should be included in the study at the next committee meeting.

Commissioner May said the City of Ishpeming did not sign the Interlocal Agreement for a county-wide transportation system. The Controller provided a letter sent from Roger Phillips, Department of Transportation, to Ron Koshorek, stating the state will not move ahead with the project until all three parties are in agreement on the project. The Controller suggested that Roger Phillips be asked to the Commission meeting on this matter. Commissioner May said she heard that if this agreement does not go through that Ishpeming Transit and Marquette Transit Authorities will lose their state funding also.

Commissioners Farrell and Carlson indicated they were opposed to continuing efforts for county-wide transportation. Commissioner May noted the Board acted to support a county-wide system.

Following discussion it was moved by Commissioner Carlson that the committee take no action on this at this time. Commissioner LaPin supported the motion for purposes of discussion. Commissioner LaPin stated the county may get financially bound to the program if a millage vote to provide funds for the program does not pass. Commissioner Lowe felt this should be pursued as a lot of time and expense has gone into the project already. Commissioner Carlson withdrew his motion.

It was moved by Commissioner Lowe and supported by Commissioner Leone to send a letter to the Ishpeming City Commission pointing out some of the problems that may result in their action; invite Roger Phillips to address the County Board on May 6 and let the City of Ishpeming know he will be in attendance; send whatever materials are available on the county-wide transportation project to the City of Ishpeming; and ask them to reconsider their action. The motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

April 23, 1981

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A MAC communication in response to the Board's letter on the CSA/BSA/CAS structure was presented. The letter was referred to the committee by the Board. The letter stated MAC has applied for a grant to study the overlapping of CAAs into other agencies and private sector services. It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Carlson and carried unanimously to ask MAC which grant is referred to in the letter.

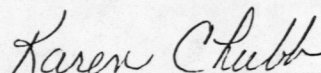
Commissioner LaPin reported on the Road Commission meeting and Social Services Board meeting he attended on behalf of the committee. He said the airport manager noted negotiations for a new lease with Republic Airlines will be commencing. It was also reported that they are advertising for a lease for the airport restaurant, and that they will be repairing the air conditioning at the Airport. It was noted a lawsuit has been filed against the Road Commission, among others, regarding a fatal car accident.

He said the Social Services Board discussed routine business. He noted an evaluation of the Director of the department is required and will be taking place. Brookridge physical condition was discussed.

The committee discussed their goal of "Work with all economic development organizations in the County to utilize the MEDIC Program to achieve a coordinated approach to economic development". Tom McNabb will be asked to attend the June meeting of the committee to discuss the written document on MEDIC that had been discussed with Al Raymond when MEDIC was first discussed with the committee. Al Raymond will also be asked to that meeting.

As there was no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Karen Chubb, Secretary

(86)

April 14, 1981

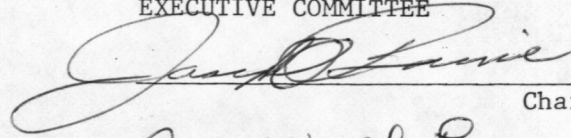
Honorable Chairperson and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan

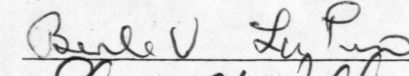
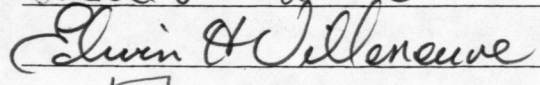
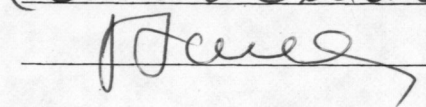
Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Executive Committee was duly called and held on  
April 14, 1981 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished  
to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is  
attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

  
Chairperson

April 14, 1981

The Executive Committee meeting was duly called and held on April 14, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Marquette Community Center, Spring Street, Marquette.

Present: Commissioners Farrell, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve.

Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

In Attendance: Henry Schneider, Equalization Director; Duane Beard, Controller; Pat Tikkanen, Substance Abuse Coordinator; Pat Micklow, Chief Civil Counsel.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Racine. The minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Racine asked that spokespersons speak on behalf of the various groups present on the equalization process. A communication was received from the Controller on County Equalization Process - Issues, Problems and Alternatives. A communication was also provided from the Controller on Assessment Rolls - Certification.

Commissioner Racine opened the meeting to public comment. Joseph DeJuliannie, Forsyth Township Supervisor, read a statement from himself and Jacob Winters, Forsyth Township Clerk, on the equalization process and Forsyth Township assessed values. He said he had been informed that a factor would be applied to residential property unless the value of that class was increased. He said he believed the increase was unjustified as property up for sale is not being sold now. He said the state encourages an increase in property values as they derive more revenues with higher property values. As a taxpayer he recommended that the county reject the increase recommended for residential property in Forsyth Township. He believes it should remain at the 1980 state equalized value (SEV) of \$32,000,000. He said the County Equalization Department must establish assessed values of the county as set by the state. He believes the Equalization (Executive) Committee should recommend to the County Board that the total valuation of each class of property, especially residential, remain at the 1980 state equalized value for the entire county.

Dwight Prevost, Forsyth Township Association of Concerned Taxpayers, expressed concern about the tentative factor placed on Forsyth Township. He believed it is inflationary and not justified because it is not supported by adequate sales data.

Evelyn Heikkila, Forsyth Township Association of Concerned Taxpayers, summarized the law on equalized value and its purpose. She said the value set by the Equalization Department does not reflect market conditions. She also outlined local assessors' duties. She noted a 1.2036 factor was placed on residential property. This was not distributed evenly, according to Ms. Heikkila, and she believes it created inequities. She said the assessed value exceeded the cost of construction for homes. It is improper to use the asking price of a house for determining the value of a home, according to a court case.



Marian Hojhauser, of the Taxpayers Association, noted in some cases increases of over 100% occurred and in others they have dropped below the true cash value. Taxpayers have not been able to obtain file cards on the residential assessments. She said they should be able to obtain the cards and determine the reasons for assessments, etc. She said some people who have reviewed their cards have noted information on the cards is incorrect, and increases were given for structures that do not exist in some cases. She protested the fact that some homes receiving an increase were not visited by the local assessor. She said true cash value of homes cannot be accurate when data on cards is inaccurate. She said tax rolls were not made available for review. She believes the county will not allow inequities to occur.

Lanny Headley said the Board of Review did not make it possible for people on shift work to attend the Board of Review meetings. Notices of the Board of Review meetings were not made in a timely fashion. Taxpayers were denied the right to see the Board of Review if they did not sign up to do so within a given period of time. He noted 500 taxpayers were scheduled to meet with the Board of Review.

Mr. Prevost said he hopes the committee will take their comments into consideration. He asked the committee to review newsclippings indicating the economic conditions in the area. He noted the Forsyth Board went on record protesting the increases in valuation of property in Forsyth Township proposed by the assessor and approved by the Board of Review. He read a motion passed by the Gwinn Area School Board expressing disapproval of the recent increase in assessments in Forsyth Township and the use of revenue generated by the increases. He read a letter from another tax protest organization supporting the Concerned Taxpayers in regard to the increase in assessments. He said they are requesting that the committee reject the 1980 tax roll for Forsyth Township.

James Wixtrom, Republic Township, stated he is a member of the Board of Review for Republic Township. He noted he wrote a letter to the County Board voicing some complaints, and he noted the letter is on the committee's agenda. He said about a 20% factor was given to timber cutover property in Republic, and 10% to residential. He said it bothered him that only part of the township received increases in assessments and he did not feel justified in going along with the increases. He had moved to reject the 1980 assessment roll; the motion was carried unanimously by the Board of Review. Later the motion was rescinded by a two to one vote. He does not believe the raises are justified. He said minimal amount of sales have occurred in the township and the assessor did not come up with data that would indicate that assessments should be increased to the extent they were. He asked the committee to review the Republic Township tax roll and suggested that the 1980 tax roll be rejected.

Durk Ashley, Ishpeming Township Assessor, stated he did not attend the meeting to protest studies of the Equalization Department or assessments in individual townships. He said he wanted to be sure Ishpeming Township was not

penalized by special treatment received by a particular township. He said rolling back assessments of only one particular township will be taken as discriminatory, unjust and unfair. He said Ishpeming Township will petition the Michigan Tax Tribunal if one unit is given a decrease. He asked the committee to consider what is right and legal by reviewing and using the tax laws, reviewing findings of the Equalization Department and using common sense.

David Hamel, Champion Township, said the township received a factor. The Board of Review did not think the assessments were fair. He said the mining company owns land in Champion Township and a person cannot build or place a mobile home there. He said few homes have been sold and he believes the process used in the county is not fair.

George Yuhaus, Traunik, Michigan, said he has been to many tax equalization meetings. He said because more people are employed by the government there is a greater tax load being placed on the taxpayer to pay the government employees' salaries than when private enterprise carried most of the tax burden. He stated taxpayer organizations should become permanent and they should hold regular meetings. He said private enterprise should get people out of government employment and he believes this is the only way to reduce taxes as taxes are raised to pay for those in government employment.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Assessor, said he indicated to the Executive Committee in January that higher land values were used for some property than for adjoining lands. He said he pointed this out to the committee but they ignored it because no changes were made by the committee. He said it is difficult to get information on assessment cards without the cooperation of owners. He said Henry Schneider works for the County Board of Commissioners and the County continually has to have more money to operate on year after year. The increased values increase revenues for the county. He said Schneider is always deemed right by the county and he is never right. He believes the situation has to be changed; he suggested that changes be made in the administration.

Commissioner LaPin asked for permission to speak. He said he's attended these sessions in the past as a local supervisor. He noted his comments regarding the equalization process as stated in the January 7, 1981 minutes of the committee. He believes the county tells the state what the county is worth. He said the taxpayer protest committee should be continued. He suggested that everyone send a petition to the Tax Tribunal indicating the problem they are having. He believed equalized values should remain the same as last year with the exception of new buildings and additions to existing buildings. He thanked the people for attending the meeting.

Henry Schneider stated this is an annual equalization session and the law requires that the meeting be held on this date. He said recommendations have been put together for this meeting. He said committee members have not had an opportunity to review the recommendations and he will try to answer concerns of the committee at the April 20 meeting. He read a letter addressed to the committee containing his department's recommendations by class, recommended increases, factors needed to reach recommended increases.

Henry Schneider said he will provide copies of his recommendations to those individuals wishing to obtain them. Henry answered specific questions from members of the audience on particular pieces of property. He said, in response to a question by a woman in the audience, that equalization is a term for establishing a uniform tax base. This is done annually. The purpose of the whole process is to have equity between all assessment districts. He noted tax liability is not present at this time because budgets have not been set by units and no millages have been approved.

Pat Micklow, Chief Civil Counsel, said an individual does not have legal recourse to protest the equalization determination at this point. The only one who can do this is the supervisor or Board of Education from the local taxing unit through the Tax Tribunal. She said the remedy at the local level is at the Board of Review meetings. A person can appeal the Board of Review decision to the Tax Tribunal. In response to questions from the audience, Pat Micklow said the law requires the secretary of the Board of Review to keep minutes of the meetings, and that meetings must be conducted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office can bring action against a township not in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Evelyn Heikkila said the County Board can take action to reduce assessments. She asked that Forsyth be placed at last year's level because she believes it is more equitable than this year's and said they are willing to accept a factor if this is done.

Pat Micklow said the County Board and Equalization Department does not have the authority to change individual assessments; they can only change a township as a whole.

Earl Yelle spoke on the equalization process. He said the county has the right to ask the Equalization Department to reduce their figures.

A communication from the Controller on equalization was read for informational purposes for those present at the meeting. A letter from Clair Simons, Deputy Assessor, Ypsilanti Township, on problems with the property tax and a proposed immediate solution was also read. After a short recess the committee continued with the items before them.

Henry Schneider said a communication from the State Tax Commission on property tax administration process for 1981 deals with the effect the May 19 tax proposal will have on the equalization process if approved.

A letter from James Wixtrom, Republic Township Board of Review, on assessments on Republic Township properties and on a meeting of the Republic Township Board of Review was noted, as well as an opinion from Chief Civil Counsel on the concerns expressed in the letter. Mr. Wixtrom was provided a copy of the opinion.

A communication from Norbert Grant on questions regarding property tax assessments was noted. Every Board member received a copy of the letter along with the Board Chair's response. Mr. Grant was present and thanked Commissioner Farrell and Mr. Schneider for their response to his letter.

A Dickinson County resolution opposing use of sales studies for the purpose of setting SEV, and supporting S.B. 32 was read. A resolution from Oakland County General Government Committee on tax relief proposals was read. It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to place on file. Henry Schneider left the meeting.

Patricia Tikkanen, Substance Abuse Coordinator, was present concerning a recommendation from the Board of Health that Marquette General Hospital be designated the County Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency. Currently the Health Department is designated as that agency. A communication from Clayton Anderson, Health Board Chairperson, a communication from Pat Tikkanen, and the staff report on this topic were provided to each committee member. Ms. Tikkanen noted the Health Board recommended that the hospital receive the designation if certain conditions listed in Mr. Anderson's letter are met.

The committee felt there was not sufficient information available to make a decision at this time. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to postpone a decision on this until the April 20 meeting of the Executive Committee and to ask Duane Beard and Pat Tikkanen to supply a recommendation at that meeting on implementation of the Health Board's recommendation. Following discussion the motion carried unanimously.

A communication from the Department of Public Health indicating the Health Department was designated as the County Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency was read. Pat Tikkanen said this is simply a form letter and once the hospital is designated as such they will receive a letter from the state to that effect. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to place the communication on file.

The committee reviewed an Agreement for the Community Mental Health Board of Alger and Marquette Counties. This was tabled at the last meeting. A communication from Chief Civil Counsel and comments from the Controller on the Agreement were presented to the committee. Commissioner Farrell noted changes the Finance Committee had made to the Agreement during their review of it.

Pat Micklow recommended changes to Section VII - Powers and Duties of the Board in her letter of April 8, 1981. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to approve Micklow's proposed language for Section VII of the Agreement.

The Controller noted the State Department of Mental Health must approve the Agreement. Various differences between the original proposed Agreement and the second Agreement were noted.

Re Section XIII - Effectuation of Agreement. Pat Micklow's recommended language was inserted.

Also the committee acted to delete the following language under General Provisions: "The Alger Marquette Community Mental Health Board members shall be paid a per diem commensurate with other Marquette County agencies. No board member may receive more than one per diem in a given day". The language will be replaced with the following: "Alger Marquette Community Mental Health Board shall pay its members a per diem".

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to accept the changes of the Finance Committee and this committee and that a new document be written with those changes and sent to the Alger County Board for review and comment and an informational copy to Mental Health.

A communication from Duane Beard on the Board Policy Manual was presented. He asked the committee to review the proposed framework for the Policy Manual contained in the communication. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to postpone until the meeting of April 20.

A depository resolution and investment resolution adopted by the Board were presented. These will be sent to the Controller's Office for inclusion in the Policy Manual. Also a synopsis of the make-up and purpose of the Central Dispatch Policy Board will be given to the Controller for inclusion in the Manual.

A Planning Commission report on the Port Authority Report was presented. It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to review the report and discuss it at the May meeting of the committee.

A letter from Ontonagon Township requesting support of its UPPCO intervention efforts was presented. This had been referred to the committee by the Board to determine if the county should provide financial assistance. Pat Micklow said the county can contribute to the effort as the county will receive a service. It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to recommend to the Finance Committee that an amount equal to the amount contributed in the last intervention effort by Ontonagon be appropriated for the present effort.

Resolutions from Mecosta and VanBuren Counties in support of the President's program of budget and tax reductions were placed on file. No action was taken on resolutions from Roscommon, St. Joseph, Lapeer and Mecosta Counties and a letter from Houghton County Clerk to Marquette County Clerk on vital records fees because the Board has already acted on this.

It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Farrell and carried unanimously to place on file Mecosta and Lenawee Counties' resolutions requesting the Michigan Legislature to reject across-the-board pay increases for civil service and other state employees.

It was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board to adopt a resolution similar to the Mecosta County, Dickinson County and Lapeer County resolutions expressing appreciation to Vietnam Veterans.

It was moved by Commissioner LaPin, supported by Commissioner Farrell and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board to support a resolution from AMCAB on energy costs.

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to refer to the Drain Commissioner a resolution from Sanilac County on amending the Drain Code with a request for comments on it.

A Dickinson County resolution on judicial salary standardization was read. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to refer it to the Personnel Committee.

A resolution from Dickinson County on state financing of courts was placed on file.

A copy of a records management study was presented to the committee by the Controller. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board that they accept the report and pay the bill for the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to postpone discussion of the report until the June meeting of the committee.

The following were noted and placed on file:

1. Letter from Representative Jacobetti to the Executive Committee on H.B. 5875, funding for Medical Care Facilities.
2. Communication from Melvin Taylor, Chair Montcalm County Board, proclaiming April 10, 1981 as a day of mourning for the poor and elderly of Montcalm County.
3. Order and notice of hearing before the Michigan Public Service Commission on proposed divestiture of Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. by American Natural Resources Co.
4. Communication from Wisconsin Electric to its customers on April 8 hearing on cost adjustments.
5. Quarterly report on Jail Inmate Rehabilitation Program.
6. Quarterly report on Alcohol Enforcement Program.
7. MAC communication on Controller legislation.
8. Senate Bill 122 to amend Public Act 203 of 1974 entitled "Endangered Species Act of 1974".

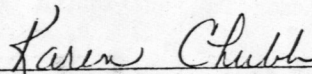
A discussion was held on the equalization process at the county level. Commissioner LaPin expressed concern that a check system over the work done by the Equalization Department does not exist. He also felt the house market in the county is down and values should reflect that. He noted various complaints he received concerning work done by the Equalization

Executive Committee  
April 14, 1981  
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Department. The Controller said the committee should meet with Henry Schneider to discuss any complaints received regarding the work of that department.

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Racine and carried unanimously to adjourn at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Karen Chubb, Secretary

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April 20, 1981

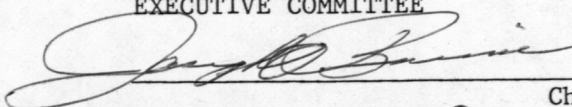
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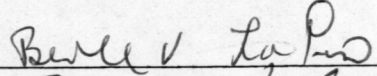
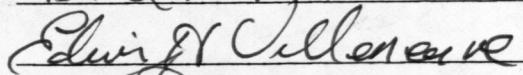
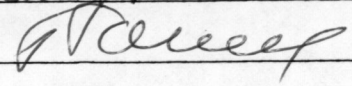
Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Executive Committee was duly called and held on April 20, 1981 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
  
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April 20, 1981

The Executive Committee meeting was duly called and held on April 20, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Farrell, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Duane Beard, Controller; Ronnie Varney, Assistant to the Director, AMCAB; Patricia Tikkanen, Substance Abuse Coordinator; Henry Schneider, Equalization Director; and members of the public.

Chairperson Racine called the meeting to order. The meeting was opened to public comment.

Evelyn Heikkila, Forsyth Township Association of Concerned Taxpayers, read a letter she wrote to the County Board on behalf of the Association stating they did not wish to change the amount of the assessment roll for Forsyth Township but to change the method of arriving at the total.

Mary Holzhauer, Concerned Taxpayers, read a prepared statement about alleged irregularities in the methods used by the Board of Review during the equalization process, and by the assessor. She requested that the County Board reject the roll. She expressed concern with the methods followed in setting assessments, and with Board of Review procedures, and meetings. She stated the procedures followed did not allow the taxpayers an opportunity to protest assessments or to see information that the assessments were based upon. She said inadequate minutes were taken at the Board of Review meetings, and she expressed concern that violations of the law that sets forth methods in which a Board of Review operates occurred. She said because of the irregularities and unfair assessments, that there are few, if any, correct valuations in Forsyth Township.

August Holzhauer requested a copy of the minutes of the committee's present meeting. He also requested that a roll call vote be taken on any vote concerning Forsyth Township.

Joseph DeJuliannie, Forsyth Township Supervisor, was present. He said the 1980 assessment rolls are completely inadequate. He said many people who requested that the roll for 1980 be used, rather than the recommended 1981 roll, received large increases in valuation to their property for 1981. He recommended that the Executive Committee seriously consider rejecting the increase in residential property in Forsyth Township recommended by the Equalization Department. He said the Forsyth roll should remain at the 1980 SEV of about \$32,000,000, with consideration given to new construction. He also recommended that the County Board's Executive Committee recommend to the entire County Board that the total valuation of each class of property, especially residential, stay at the 1980 level for the entire county. He said the reason why people want to remain at 1980 is because their valuations were lower. He said rolls are not adequate now, but that they are more adequate than they were in the past. He said many other people have had to carry the load of those that were assessed low in the past.

Executive Committee  
April 20, 1981  
Page 2

Tom Pellow said Forsyth Township's value increased by 80% over the past four years.

Ken Tuominen, Ely Township Supervisor, said they have been able to roll back residential assessed values for Ely Township by 5%. He said if changes to the roll are made by the County Board the Township Board has authorized them to appeal the decision.

John McTeckel said any action by the County Board to shift value from one unit to another will be appealed.

Evelyn Heikkila said the Concerned Taxpayers Association does not want to receive special treatment. She said they are not asking to be placed at the 1980 level and remain there, but to be rolled back and factored to 50% so the burden will not be shifted to other units.

As no one else wished to speak, the public comment section was closed.

Approval of the agenda was the next item of business. No changes were made to the agenda.

Patricia Tikkanen, Substance Abuse Coordinator, was present to discuss the designation of Marquette General Hospital as the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency for the County. The Controller noted he and Pat Tikkanen were asked to meet to discuss organizational alternatives for substance abuse services. A communication was submitted by the Controller on this matter, and organizational charts based on two options were provided. Under Option I the Health Board would continue to monitor county funds received for the Substance Abuse Program, and the Substance Abuse Advisory Council would continue to be appointed by the Health Board. The second option was based on the Health Board's proposal in which the County Board would appoint the Substance Abuse Advisory Council and that group would report to the County Board, and budget requests, etc. would be routed through the Controller's Office. Also provided was a listing of the County Board's responsibilities and the Advisory Council's responsibilities as they relate to the two options presented.

Pat Tikkanen said it will not be necessary to change the budget for Substance Abuse under Option I. According to Duane Beard, the Advisory Council is not a per diem board and if placed under the County Board it is more likely to become one.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Cheatham and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board that they adopt Option I on the organization of the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

Duane Beard noted the Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee has been looking into the space allocations at the Service Center and should be advised that Substance Abuse will be moving to the hospital. Pat Tikkanen then left the meeting.

Ronnie Varney, AMCAB, was present to discuss AMCAB's proposed court ordered work supervision program. Ronnie Varney explained the program to the committee. She said probation officers have trouble placing some individuals under their jurisdiction at work sites because of the lack of supervision. The court asked AMCAB to develop a program for these people. The program has been sent for review to several local organizations and groups around the country. She said it was not submitted to the County Board initially because AMCAB had been informed by two Judges that the county already denied funding for the program. However, the AMCAB Board asked that the program be submitted to the Board for review. Ronnie Varney asked that a reply on the report be received from the committee by the May 21 AMCAB meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Cheatham, supported by Commissioner Farrell and carried unanimously to table until the May 12 meeting of the committee. Copies of the report will be provided to each committee member so they may review it prior to the next meeting. Ronnie Varney then left the meeting.

Henry Schneider was present to review his departments recommendation on county equalized value. He recommended that 95 of the 116 classes in the county be equalized as assessed by the local assessors. He said this is the first year equalization must be done by class and there are 116 classes in the county and the Board is required to equalize each of these classes separately. The classes are as follows: Agricultural - real property; industrial - real property; commercial - real property; residential - real property; timber cutover - real property; developmental - real property; and personal property.

He provided a report on each class of property to the committee. Nine units were recommended for a factor. He provided the amount of value that he recommended be added to each class, plus the recommended factor. The following units received a recommended factor:

1. Champion Township - Agricultural, industrial, timber cutover and personal classes.
2. Michigamme Township: Residential, timber cutover and personal classes.
3. Negaunee Township: Residential class.
4. Richmond Township: Residential class.
5. Sands Township: Agricultural, residential and timber cutover classes.
6. Skandia Township: Commercial, residential and timber cutover classes.
7. Wells Township: Commercial class.
8. West Branch Township: Agricultural; commercial and residential classes.
9. City of Negaunee: Personal class.

Henry said the remaining units are recommended equalized as assessed by local units.

Henry provided a packet of information to committee members which included background information on values for units that objected that their valuations were high. He said data supports his recommendation. He said sales data was used from other counties in arriving at the valuation for recreational property in the county. The sales data shows that this type of property, wherever it is located, tends to be similar in value.

Henry also provided copies of communications sent to assessors over the past year on the study process, and a list of procedures the department intends to implement to make the study program better. The major change they will be making this year is use of field data. They will now make an effort to get field data during the summer and make physical inspections and verify them and ask for comments from the units on the data.

In a memo to the committee, Henry addressed a concern by Commissioner LaPin that a check system does not exist over the department's work. Henry believes a check system exists at the local, county and state levels. He noted the steps the department follows in the equalization process. Commissioner LaPin said he does not believe that a check system exists. He believes the committee did not review material sent to the state in sufficient detail. He said the commissioners do not have knowledge of land values. He believes commissioners are not getting input into the department. He said the Board is the supervisor for the Equalization Department. Commissioner LaPin said Henry Schneider is a hard worker but that the committee should meet with the department monthly on their work program. He felt they should have more reviews with the department and local assessors.

Commissioner Racine said local units have been meeting with the committee during the year on the equalization process. Commissioner Farrell said the committee has always had an opportunity to review information of the department but that the committee has not always taken the opportunity. He said in the future they should be involved in this. He noted the committee has already taken one step toward that goal in meeting with the Equalization Director each month regarding progress made by the department on the equalization process. Commissioner Racine suggested that a sub-committee of commissioners meet with Henry on the equalization process.

Commissioner LaPin said he would like to go over each of the recommended reports submitted by the Equalization Department. He so moved, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously.

Commissioner LaPin felt the agricultural class was too high for Champion Township. Henry outlined the reasons for the valuation being placed as it was. David Hamel, Champion Township Board of Review, questioned Henry on specific agricultural properties in Champion Township. Henry Schneider explained the Farmlands Act and Open Space Act, which provides methods of tax relief to property owners of specific properties.

Henry noted the department encourages assessors to come in and review their work and when unique qualities of property are pointed out to the department by the assessor changes have been made.

Commissioner LaPin questioned Henry about particular pieces of agricultural property in Republic Township. Henry suggested he talk to Gary Trudgeon who prepared the assessment roll for Republic Township.

It was noted Gary Trudgeon was hired by Republic Township to do their assessments and that he is also an employee of the Equalization Department. Commissioner Farrell said the committee should recommend to the Board that people who work for the Tax Equalization Department not be allowed to work

for individual units as assessors. Henry Schneider said under the Personnel Policy Manual employees are allowed to "moonlight" as long as it is not a conflict of interest. Commissioner Farrell noted Chief Civil Counsel wrote an opinion stating it is not a conflict of interest but he felt it a bad policy.

Henry Schneider stated he is acting as an advisor to the committee. He believes his recommendations will comply with statutes and create equity between units.

It was moved by Commissioner LaPin and supported by Commissioner Villeneuve that the agricultural class for Champion Township as determined by the Champion Township Board of Review in 1980 be accepted as the present recommendation requiring a factor of 1.249 is too high. The Controller said he submitted a communication to the committee on the equalization process which listed options available to the committee under the tax laws. One option was to adopt the assessment rolls as submitted by local units. He said the committee should consider statements made in the letter, and that they should look at the positive and negative effects of each decision made. He believes it would be better to look at the total picture before making a decision. Following discussion the motion carried on a roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Cheatham, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve. Nays: Commissioner Farrell.

It was moved by Commissioner Racine and supported by Commissioner LaPin to reject the total figures for Forsyth Township because of inequities that exist and documented violations rendered to Forsyth Township citizens. Commissioner LaPin believes someone should contact the State Tax Commission on the effects of the motion. Commissioner Racine said the Controller tried to get someone from the State Tax Commission to attend the present meeting but was unable to do so. Commissioner Cheatham stated she heard from a lot of Forsyth Township residents and she respects their concerns and is glad to see people come out and take a stand. Commissioner LaPin said he wants Forsyth Township assessed fairly but does not want to hurt other townships by action of the committee. Commissioner Racine stated he was not certain what effect the action will have on the other units. Commissioner Cheatham asked Henry Schneider for his opinion on what this would do. Henry said the Board does not have the authority to throw out the 1981 rolls but can reduce the 1981 rolls. He said he supports the department's original figures. He said citizens can complain to the State Tax Commission on problems encountered with local units and request an investigation. He believes the Tax Commission is the proper authority. The Controller suggested that the motion be made subject to review of the attorney to be sure the committee is taking action that they have a legal authority to take. Evelyn Heikkila said she contacted the Michigan Attorneys Association and the county has the right to reject any part of the rolls. Commissioner Racine amended his motion to make it subject to review by the attorney to be sure the proper thing is being done, in the proper manner, and that they have the authority to do this. Commissioner LaPin suggested legal counsel contact the State Tax Commission and state the problems the county is having with equalization. Mary Holzhauer said information will be submitted to the Attorney General and State Tax Commission regarding alleged violations that they believe occurred in

Forsyth Township. Commissioner Racine said he will, as Chairperson, see that the Tax Commission is contacted regarding problems occurring in the county. Commissioner Farrell said he was concerned that the state may factor the entire county if one unit is reduced. Tom Pellow said it is possible to obtain a verbal opinion from the Attorney General's Office by telephoning them. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Commissioners Cheatham, Farrell, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve. Nays: None. Commissioner Cheatham was excused from the meeting.

Tom Pellow asked, if legal counsel states the committee has the authority to take the action voted upon concerning Forsyth Township, will the recommendation then go to the Board. Commissioner Racine said that that is the case.

Commissioner LaPin stated he does not believe increases for units are justified. He moved that all units except Ely Township, Ewing Township and the residential class for Wells Township be reduced to the 1980 level and that factors be set the same as last year's for all classes. The motion was supported by Commissioner Villeneuve. Commissioner LaPin noted Ely and Ewing Townships indicated they were assessed fairly and that Wells Township indicated their residential class was assessed correctly. Joseph DeJuliannie recommended that only the residential class for each unit be rolled back rather than rolling back all classes, except for those units that do not want them rolled back. He felt the committee will not get the support of the County Board for the present motion. Commissioner Farrell said the state could add a factor on the county and penalize some units. He suggested decreasing the valuation across the board by 2.5% to 3%. He said the increase in SEV this year is 5% over last year's SEV. John McTeckel said an across the board cut would retain equity between units but if the county followed the proposal by Commissioner LaPin the units excluded from the motion will be penalized. McTeckel felt the county roll should be equalized as assessed. Commissioner Farrell noted an across the board cut will reduce county revenues but not other units' revenues. Following discussion, Commissioner LaPin withdrew his motion.

John Olson, Supervisor, Michigamme Township, in response to a query by Commissioner LaPin, said he favors cutting back rolls on an across the board basis.

It was moved by Commissioner LaPin and supported by Commissioner Villeneuve that 18 townships (excluding Forsyth) and two cities (excluding the City of Marquette) be equalized at their 1980 valuation, subject to legal counsel's determination that the committee has the authority to do so. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Commissioner LaPin. Nays: Commissioners Farrell, Racine and Villeneuve. Absent: Commissioner Cheatham. The motion failed.

The committee set another meeting to discuss equalization for Thursday, April 30, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

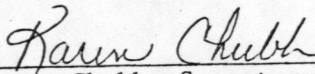
Executive Committee  
April 20, 1981  
Page 7

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner Racine and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board to amend the Personnel Policy Manual to state that employees of the Equalization Department may not work as assessors for local units of government, and that Pat Micklow write the language for the change.

The committee discussed the format recommended by the Controller for the Board Policy Manual. It was moved by Commissioner Farrell, supported by Commissioner LaPin and carried unanimously to have the Controller prepare a draft Policy Manual based on the format he recommended, and bring it to the May committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Karen Chubb, Secretary

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April 30, 1981

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Executive Committee was duly called and held on April 30, 1981 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Joseph P. Fennell*

Chairperson

*Barry L. Puro*

*A. Dorell*

*E. J. Villeneuve*



April 30, 1981

The Executive Committee meeting was duly called and held on April 30, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

Present: Commissioners Farrell, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve.

Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

In Attendance: Duane Beard, Controller; Henry Schneider, Equalization Director; Patricia Micklow, Chief Civil Counsel; and members of the public.

Chairperson Racine called the meeting to order.

Approval of the minutes of the April 14 and April 20 meetings was the first order of business. It was noted the following change should be made to the April 20 minutes on Page 7, second paragraph, last sentence: Change "...have the Controller prepare a draft Policy Manual...(for the) May committee meeting" to "...have the Controller prepare a draft Policy Manual...(for the) July or August committee meeting". The April 20 minutes were accepted with the above change, and the April 14 minutes were accepted as presented.

Commissioner Racine opened the meeting to public comment.

Mary Holzhauer, Association of Concerned Taxpayers for Forsyth Township, thanked the members of the committee for their concern and their attention in the matter of Forsyth Township assessments. She noted at the last meeting concerns of the Association were pointed out regarding the Forsyth Township Board of Review and Forsyth assessments. She stated at that time they informed the committee they intended to contact the Attorney General's Office regarding the concerns, and she noted that that has been done. She stated the Association will be requesting time at the May 6 meeting to address the complete Board. She read a letter from the Shag Lake Association of Property Owners (included in a packet of materials she provided each committee member) in support of the Forsyth Township Taxpayers Association's efforts. She noted the Shag Lake Association has a membership of 93 property owners.

Joseph DeJuliannie, Forsyth Township Supervisor, read a prepared statement to the committee. He said the 1980 assessment for Forsyth was \$29,000,000, which included new residential construction. He said a factor was applied to the assessment bringing the valuation up to \$32,500,000. He said the assessor has advised them that they must increase the value of the township to \$36,000,000 if they do not want to be factored this year. He felt property is more equalized now than it has been in years. He does not believe value of property increased by \$3,000,000 in one year. He noted the Gwinn Area Community School District Board of Education and Forsyth Township Board took formal action to oppose the increase in assessment. He said to rollback to 1980 assessment would be an injustice and a violation of Michigan tax procedures, and that some individuals want such a rollback because of an increase they received to their properties this year.

DeJuliannie said the decision of the committee should be made on a county wide basis. An increase in residential property valuation cannot be justified, according to DeJuliannie. He recommended that the committee recommend to the County Board that residential property in Forsyth Township be set at the 1980 equalized figure taking in consideration new construction. He felt the committee should recommend that residential property for the entire county remain at the 1980 level except for new construction and except for those units that have lower assessments this year than they had last year. He noted the poor economic condition of the county, and said homes in the county have not increased in value since 1980. He felt the law on the equalization process should be challenged. He said it was time the County Board either supported property owners or gave the entire equalization process to the State Tax Commission as they have seemed to rule the entire process for years. Commissioner Racine then closed the public comment section.

Approval of the agenda was the next item of business. There were no changes made.

Henry Schneider was present. He provided revised residential - real property and revised timber cut-over - real property reports to the committee. Members of the audience requested copies of the hand-outs and were so provided.

Commissioner Racine noted the committee received a communication from the State Tax Commission on statutes dealing with the equalization valuations and violations by Marquette County of the Act. The letter said the county violated the law by not determining county equalized value by the first Monday in May. The letter also said the County Board does not have the authority to change any assessments within an assessment roll but may only add or deduct from the aggregate total assessment of each separate classification for each unit.

An opinion from Patricia Micklow, Chief Civil Counsel, was read re "County Equalization Responsibilities; Review of April 20 Motion Regarding Rejection of Forsyth Township Valuation Figures". Ms. Micklow noted the committee took action "to reject the total figures for Forsyth Township because of inequities that exist and documented violations rendered to Forsyth Township citizens". She said the committee may recommend to the Board "that the total figures for a particular township as submitted by the County Equalization Department be rejected. The County Board...has the statutory authority to increase or decrease the valuation...by applying a factor if in its judgment the real and personal properties within the township or city have not been equally and uniformly assessed at true cash value... Such a determination of true cash value must be fair, just...to be sustained upon review by the Tax Tribunal if such an action by the Board...is challenged by an aggrieved local taxing unit. Further, the State Tax Commission may apply a county-wide factor in carrying out its equalization duties if it determines that the actual true cash value has not been met in that county".

Commissioner Racine then opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Commissioner LaPin questioned how the letter from the State Tax Commission was received. The Controller said he had called the State Tax Commission to attempt to get them to an Executive Committee meeting as requested by Commissioner Racine and in explaining why the request was made he may have prompted the letter. Commissioner LaPin noted at no time did the committee mention changing assessment rolls within units or reinstating assessments of prior years, which the letter alludes to, but to rollback the assessments.

Pat Micklow stated confusion took place about the rollback to a certain year's level. The State Tax Commission said the county cannot simply adopt a valuation from a previous year for this year. An annual determination must be made as to individual assessments; as to county equalization figures; and then state equalization figures. This is required by law. She believes the State Tax Commission responded in the manner they did because the committee discussed the use of figures from previous years.

Commissioner Racine noted the minutes of the committee's last meeting state they rejected the total figures for Forsyth Township, not that they rolled them back.

Commissioner LaPin stated the State Tax Commission is misinformed of the committee's intent. He said no way was the committee going to go inside individual assessment rolls.

The Controller said he may be responsible for the State Tax Commission's letter by his interpretation of the discussion held by the committee in rolling back figures to a previous year's assessment as he did not clearly understand the committee's intent.

Pat Micklow said she supplied a tax calendar to the committee that shows dates where each step of the process must be accomplished in order to be sure the county complies with the statute in the future. She stated they will be in violation of the law if valuations are adopted on May 6, two days past the deadline.

Commissioner Racine said the county must follow the guidance obtained from legal counsel, and laws of the State of Michigan in making a decision. He asked for further discussion on figures submitted by the Equalization Department on county equalized valuation.

Tom Pellow noted the committee took action at the last meeting to reject Forsyth's 1981 figures subject to legal counsel's determination on whether such action was legal. Micklow said the motion in the minutes was to reject county figures on Forsyth Township and she said the committee can do that and the action can stand but the county must make a decision on what the true cash valuation is, and if that is challenged (which may occur) the Board must be prepared to go to the Tax Tribunal and defend why it made the decision. If this occurs the Board will not have any county expert (equalization director) to testify for the county.

Pat Micklow said the remedies for property owners are: 1) Through their local assessor; 2) Through the Board of Review; and 3) Through the Tax Tribunal, in that order. She said they are asking the committee to give them a remedy through the equalization process. This will effect each taxing unit in the county. If the board does not accept their expert's information it will place the County Board on a limb unless they have data to defend the action. If the State Tax Commission does come in and factor the county valuations could go up higher than what the local county figures are now.

Tom Pellow said it could be lowered also. Micklow said that is not likely, although it is possible. She said the matter should be addressed, but the remedy is not through the committee. She said the final remedy is through the Tax Tribunal and if it is done here it may force the county to support its point of view and face the possibility of being overturned. The only studies and factual information they have is the information received from the Equalization Department.

Evelyn Heikkila said the base for one unit in the county last year was the previous year's assessment plus a factor. She questioned why that could not be done for Forsyth this year. Henry Schneider said there must be a new base; cannot go back and use a previous year's base. Micklow said assessments have to be done each year.

William Kerr, Forsyth Township Assessor, said Forsyth Township's roll is as equalized and uniform as he can make it. There are some problems he said and individual problems should be addressed to the Tax Tribunal. He said the purpose of the equalization process is to equalize the total roll so everyone is paying their fair share. Those paying too little must go 'up' and those paying too much must come 'down' in order to obtain equity. He said many property owners in the township have not been paying enough taxes for a long time. Last year, he said, the County Executive Committee talked about equality throughout the county, and this year they are talking about individuality.

Kerr said between 1976 and 1979 Forsyth received a 23% increase; in 1979 a 12% increase; in 1980 an 11% increase. He said he wants a 0% to 2% increase in 1982. He said he can do this with the current roll barring lowering of interest rates in banking institutions because that will increase growth in the unit. In 1983 he expects a 0% increase. This is the same thing that the City of Marquette did he said.

Joe DeJuliannie said it appears that the committee will take the recommendation of the County Equalization Department, and he asked what the committee's function is. He said if they are not going to take any action he sees no need for the committee. He noted there is a legal purpose for the committee but did not believe it was to rubber stamp the department's recommendations.

Micklow said the purpose of the committee is that if the committee was provided with hard line data that true cash value in Forsyth is wrong they could take action to change it. She said they do not have that type of information. DeJuliannie said given the economic condition of the county he does not believe the department had data to show that an increase is justified.

Jean Holzhauer said the Taxpayers Association provided the committee with data and complaints on inequities at the April 14 meeting of the committee.

Tom Pellow agreed with DeJuliannie that the increase of \$3,000,000 is not justified when sales data to back it up is not available. Schneider said appraisal or sales methods of assessments are based on use of sales in setting valuation.

Micklow noted that Jean Holzhauer said complaints were brought to the committee and data was provided. She said the complaints that were brought up do not have a bearing on what true cash value is going to be. That is a separate issue. She said individuals have listed concerns about their individual assessments but that does not give the committee true information on valuation of the entire unit. It is not enough for a person to say taxes are too high on the county level; although it is on an individual level. The county must show a study was conducted and recognized assessment methods used in determining true cash value.

Jean Holzhauer said if everyone (all units) rolled back to 1980 then the entire county will be factored by the state. William Kerr pointed out the need to raise assessments that are too low and decrease those that are too high in order to reach equalized value. Under Mr. Holzhauer's recommendation, Kerr said they would continue with the same inequities in the present roll. He said he supported the Forsyth Board of Review's decision. He also supports the position of the County Board. He does not support high taxation.

In response to a question by Tom Pellow, Kerr said valuations were determined by use of appraisal studies. Kerr said errors were made in collecting data when he began as assessor and these can be corrected if they are verified errors. He said nothing can be done at this time on this year's assessments.

Jean Holzhauer said it is time the county took a stand with the state. He suggested rolling back to 1980, take a factor, and show the state it is time that something is done.

Commissioner Farrell said he received six phone calls from people who are absentee owners in Forsyth and they said they are satisfied with the new assessments, and it is the first year they are not paying all the taxes for the township.

Commissioner Farrell questioned what would happen if one class was lowered by a certain percentage. Schneider said if the decrease was spread equally over the units it would result in lower tax collections for units; higher for schools. If factor applied by the state:

1. The schools revenues will not be reduced as they levy on state valuation.

2. The county would collect on whatever is established as CEV.
3. Those units assessed below equalized will collect on the equalized.
4. Those units assessed higher than county equalized will collect on assessed and not what the county equalized them at.

It was moved by Commissioner Farrell and supported by Commissioner Villeneuve to recommend to the County Board that they accept the county tax rolls as equalized with the exception of residential real property which the committee recommends be lowered in all units by 3.5% based upon the fact that the committee believes residential property has not increased by the amount which is recommended by the Equalization Department. The general economic condition of the county does not indicate an increase. Commissioner LaPin said the action is unfair because he believes the City of Marquette is already equalized at 50%. Commissioner Farrell said he would prefer to accept the Equalization Department's figures. He said he basically wants to see what the state will do with the county's action. He believes the state will factor the county up. Commissioner Racine said he supports the motion at this time. Commissioner Farrell said the only units that will lose tax money are: Champion Township; Michigamme Township; Negaunee Township; Richmond Township; Sands Township; Skandia Township; West Branch Township; and the county as they would levy taxes on the lower figures. The vote was taken by roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Farrell, Racine and Villeneuve. Nays: Commissioner LaPin. Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

Commissioner LaPin said he would like to have a legal opinion on what jurisdiction the committee has over valuations of the county. He asked, Does the committee have the ability to supervise Schneider in making figures? Micklow said "no".

Micklow said Schneider is a county equalization director, and his charge is to assist the county, but he must prepare equalization studies at the direction of the State Tax Commission. He prepares studies for the State Tax Commission, not the county. He is helping the county at this point in making recommendations to the committee and Board and in that capacity is an employee of the county.

Commissioner LaPin said there is no use to take taxpayers time and money as they are rubber stamping the department's work.

Micklow noted the committee acted to change the department's figures at the present meeting. She said the committee can also intervene by:

1. Change the equalization director because the county has the power to hire and fire. This would not give the county control over submission of and preparation of studies.
2. The county can order an appraisal of all properties in the county at a cost of over 1/4 million dollars. This would require spending county money.
3. The county could attempt to change the system as it is set up.

Micklow said if the county is in disagreement with the equalization department on a particular classification the county can make an across the board decrease. She said no other public body is involved in this process. She said the State Tax Commission and Tax Tribunal can overrule actions of the county. To change the system the law must be changed.

Tom Pellow asked what increase the State Tax Commission recommended for the county. Schneider said they do not receive recommendations from the state. Their department works with the state in setting valuations.

John McTeckel said a small percentage of property owners attended Board of Review meetings. He said he has been instructed by the Ely Township Board that if a change by the County Board increased Ely Township's valuation he is to file a petition with the Tax Tribunal. Commissioner Racine said the recommendation will be going to the Board for action. Commissioner Farrell said he has been on the Board for five years and noticed that townships have hired professional assessors, and the county is finally becoming equalized. He said if units continue to have politicians assessing properties they will have problems.

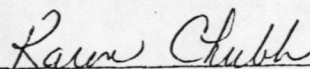
The meeting was opened to public comment. Henry DeGroot said it appears the county is being dictated to by the state. He noted the large increase in taxes in recent years. Schneider noted budget sessions of units have not been held and that is where the money will be spent. Budgets have to come down before taxes can come down. Pellow said units will not lower their millage. Commissioner Farrell noted voters of the county had an opportunity to approve separate tax limitation, opening a way for lowering taxes.

A woman in the audience thought the committee should be made up of assessors. Commissioner Farrell said the equalization director provides the committee with expertise. Commissioner LaPin noted he is a certified assessor.

Dwight Prevost asked the committee if they visited homes assessed by the county department. Commissioner LaPin responded that he has when he was an assessor. Prevost thanked the committee for listening to the concerns of the Taxpayers Association.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Karen Chubb, Secretary