The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, September 9, 1987 at 4:15 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI.

Chairperson Lowe called the meeting to order, roll call was taken and the following roll recorded: Present: Comm. Corkin, Comm. DeFant, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Lowe. Absent and Excused: Comm. Valente.

Chairperson Lowe opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, supported by Comm. DeFant and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, presented the FY 1988 Budget to the Committee of the Whole outlined as follows:

A. 1988 Revenue Projections

Mr. Aloia presented various revenue reports and information relative to his recommended 1988 Operating and Capital Budgets.

1) A summary of projected Capital and Operating Revenue/Resources totaling $8,901,526.00.
2) A schedule of Marquette County Revenues for the period 1983 thru 1988, which shows General Fund Revenues that remain relatively stable over the six year period. Revenues have increased approximately $435,000.00, or 5.8%, while on the other side Specific Iron Ore Tax Revenue has decreased $495,000.00 over the same period.
3) The General Fund Revenue, line item detail Option I for 1988 totaling $8,771,116.00, or Option II for 1988 totaling $9,145,514.00.

B. 1988 Public Improvements Program Recommendation

The recommended Capital Budget appropriation of $268,080.00 is approximately $140,000.00 less than 1987, representing a 35% reduction in the Capital Improvements Program.

C. County Administrator's recommended General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund Budget - 1988

Administrator Aloia chose to specifically summarize for the Committee of the Whole two options for balancing the 1988 budgets. The options were presented to illustrate the magnitude of the County's financial predicament, and to afford a range of policy alternatives to the Committee. Option I is a classic balanced budget equating 1988 revenues raised to 1988 expenditures anticipated. Option II is a budget that proposes to utilize unallocated Tax Delinquent Revenues to a specific level protecting the integrity of the fund for future use. Both options use the maximum amount of Budget Stabilization ($200,000.00) allowed under current County policy, and use Fund Equity ($200,000.00), and Tax Delinquent Funds in differing amounts. Detailed explanations of the major changes in both Options I and II are provided as follows:

1988 BUDGET - OPTION I

Total General Fund Revenues	-	$8,771,116.00
Total General Fund Expenditures	-	$8,771,116.00

RECAP

1. Position Reductions	-	$285,756.00
2. Program Eliminations	-	102,050.00
3. Reduced Appropriations	-	302,955.00
4. Requested Additional Personnel	-	98,020.00
5. Miscellaneous Reductions	-	98,460.00
Total Reductions from Requests		$887,241.00

In addition to the various reductions, Option I includes increasing revenues for 1/2 of estimated Central Dispatch operating costs.

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1988 BUDGET - OPTION II

Total General Fund Revenues	-	$9,145,514.00
Total General Fund Expenditures	-	9,145,514.00

RECAP

1. Position Reductions	-	$111,884.00
2. Program Eliminations	-	66,943.00
3. Reduced Appropriations	-	203,416.00
4. Requested Additional Personnel	-	32,474.00
5. Miscellaneous Reductions	-	116,956.00
Total Reductions from Requests		$531,673.00

In addition, if millage or revenue are not obtained from Central Dispatch and Commission on Aging as required under recommendation by 1989, the following reductions will be made:

Reductions - 1989

Central Dispatch Budget - including 7 Dispatchers	$236,281.00
Commission on Aging Budget - including 2 employees	118,211.00
Total	$354,492.00

Administrator Aloia recommends Option II to the Committee of the Whole.

D. Staffing Levels by Department

Administrator Aloia distributed a chart showing the staffing levels of 19 departments comparing Marquette County staffing level with the Labor Market average staffing levels. The total Labor Market averages 214.78 employees compared to Marquette County's present staffing level of 157.75 employees. This survey illustrates that Marquette County's departments are well managed and are providing efficient services to the public, and any reduced staffing levels would only serve to jeopardize those services.

E. Proposed Tax Delinquent Fund Options 1988 and Beyond

Staff has consulted with Financial Advisors to determine the direction for the 1988 sale of Tax Delinquent Funds. It appears that Marquette County may have access to one or more of the following options: 1) The sale of nontaxable notes which appears very unlikely, that the IRS will allow this to continue as Michigan is the only State in the Country utilizing this practice; 2) The sale of Taxable Notes may be able to continue but the interest rate will be significantly higher and limit the margin of potential revenue; 3) The discontinuing of the Tax Delinquent Program is the least desirable option to the County and would create serious cash-flow problems for school districts and local units of government; and 4) A combination of the sale of bonds and loans.

F. A revised Committee of the Whole 1988 Budget Hearing Schedule,

Detailed discussions with Department Heads will take place during the Budget Hearing Process with Committee of the Whole Work Sessions hopefully scheduled to begin the week of September 21st for the final determination and preparation of the 1988 Budget.

Chairperson Lowe opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Wednesday, September 9, 1987, 4:15 p.m.
Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. (none)
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Presentation of the FY 1988 Budget by Dennis Aloia, County Administrator.
6.
7.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT.
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
10. ADJOURNMENT.

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