The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 25, 1989 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

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

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bays and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting and the Executive/IGR Committee meeting held on July 11, 1989 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Sheriff, Joseph I. Maino, was present and distributed a copy of the Committee on Jail Overcrowding meeting minutes, and a letter from the Dept. of Corrections announcing that Marquette County is eligible for a technical assistance grant, up to $69,062.00 for the design of Phases I & II which would increase the inmate capacity of the Marquette County Jail. Sheriff Maino pointed out the following information for the Committee: a) the grant of $69,062.00 will be between the Michigan Dept. of Corrections and Marquette County with for technical assistance with no strings attached; b) the funds are available through September 30th of this year, and must be encumbered by then; c) the contact persons will be Lt. Ernest Grasso, Jail Administrator, and Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development Dept.; and d) the contracts are currently being drawn up in triplicate and will need the County Board Chairperson signature.

Sheriff Maino also reported that the Jail has been averaging 57 inmates per day since January 1989, with a capacity of 60. The County Jail Reimbursement Program will provide revenue of $75,000.00 of monies received in bills as of July 10, 1989, and the Sheriff’s Dept. anticipates $140,000.00 in revenue for all of 1989. Sheriff Maino reminded the Commissioners that the revenue budgeted for this program was set at $37,000.00, and requested that they consider earmarking the additional revenue generated from the County Jail Reimbursement Program for future possible expansion of the Jail. The Sheriff’s Dept. appreciates the help of Administrator Aloia and Commissioner Seppanen in their attending the Jail Overcrowding meetings. Jail overcrowding is not just the Sheriff’s Dept. problem, but a County-wide problem and a State-wide problem with the Dept. of Corrections.

Comm. Seppanen commended the Sheriff and Lt. Grasso for their aggressiveness in procuring the $69,062.00 grant. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the Technical Assistance Grant Application.

Dale Wedig, Artist and Designer of the Courthouse Iron Gate, spoke to the Committee regarding item 8, the iron fencing from Brookridge. Mr. Wedig indicated he looked at the Brookridge Property iron fencing three years ago, but was not sure of its condition at present. He did not believe that installing the Brookridge fence around the Courthouse would add to the beauty and continuity of the present Courthouse landscaping, and would cut through the gardens. He offered to inspect the Brookridge fence should the County Board want his further assistance.

Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, agreed with Artist, Dale Wedig, in that the additional fencing would not add anything to the landscaping of the Courthouse. In the early Summer some youngsters on bicycles do ride down the North slope of the Courthouse property, and a low fence perhaps could be used in this area to discourage this.

Administrator, Dennis Aloia, commended Artist, Dale Wedig, for the iron gate, and related that many complimentary remarks about the Courthouse grounds have been received.

There being no further public comment, this portion of the meeting was closed.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  JULY 25, 1989

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following additions; item 10, Tobacco Free School Project Proposal; item 11, Quality of Life Recreation Grant Applications; and item 12, June billing for Somerville Assoc.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole approve Claims and Accounts for the period July 7, 1989 thru July 20, 1989 in the amount of $875,809.23.

James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, was present and spoke regarding his memo on funding for the Airport Terminal Expansion Project. Mr. Sodergren believes the project to be worthwhile, and the County would be foolish not to proceed for the sake of $190,000.00, however he has some suggestions for funding the project rather than using monies from the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund. It has been County policy since the early 80’s to borrow funds to pay off tax delinquent notes, but only when the County could make money at it. Due to federal tax law changes this is no longer possible, however Marquette County’s Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund is self funding. Mr. Sodergren noted that over the years he has made $8,000,000.00 for Marquette County, and will continue to speak to the Board to protect the integrity of the fund. The Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund is Board property, however Mr. Sodergren would like to work with the Board and suggests that the $190,000.00 perhaps come from the EDC Revolving Account, or the sale of County property such as Brookridge.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his respect for Treasurer Sodergren’s opinion and welcomed his remarks on the issue. The investment in the Airport has been viewed as important for economic growth by the County Board, and the decision to use the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund was not an easy one. The Board believes the use of $190,000.00 from the Tax Revolving Fund to be the best solution. Chairperson Corkin added that the $300,000.00 in State Aeronautical Funds is to be voted on this week in the Legislature, and signed by the Governor by the end of the week. Comm. Corkin requested and received a consensus from the Commissioners, . . . he does not intend to sign any documents until the $300,000.00 is assured from the State.

County Treasurer, James Sodergren, again reported that we be giving the Airport the $190,000.00, it is not a loan and it is not coming back to the County. He requested the Board consider returning these funds to the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund should they become available in the future.

The Committee of the Whole considered the establishment of a facility for the Collection of Household Hazardous Waste at the New County-Wide Landfill. Mike Etelamaki, Director of the Marquette County Solid Waste Landfill Authority, was present to discuss the proposal with the Committee. Mr. Etelamaki indicated that the Authority Board of Trustees is supportive of a household hazardous waste facility, but are also sensitive to cost overruns. The Clean Michigan Fund Grant Proposal submitted by the Authority was denied. It called for the construction of a $22,000.00 cement storage building. Mr. Etelamaki also related that Chippewa County pays $5,000.00 a year to transport household hazardous waste, and estimates Marquette County costs to be twice that much. The Authority would have enough capital funds up front to finance the construction of a household hazardous waste facility by October 1st, if the County Board is willing to pay its portion on January 1, 1990.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, recounted that Marquette County has provided $425,000.00 in support to the new landfill and will receive nothing in return. There are many important capital improvement projects requested for 1990, many of which the County Board will not be able to afford to fund, and suggested that it is time for the County Board to divorce itself from the landfill. The Landfill Authority should be now able and willing to assume such responsibility.

Chairperson Corkin contended that the disposal of solid waste is a responsibility of the County, and 19 out of 22 local units of government
will be using the new facility. The disposal of solid waste is important to
every citizen in the County, and he supports the establishment of a
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at the Landfill with financial
help from the County. The remaining Commissioners agreed.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and
unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County
Board allocate $10,000.00 from the 1989 Capital Improvement Fund to assist
the Marquette County Landfill Authority in the construction, establishment,
and maintenance of a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility project,
contingent upon the agreement by the Authority to pay the balance of the
construction and the annual maintenance and transportation costs.

The Committee of the Whole considered a memo from Dennis Aloia, County
Administrator, regarding a request to purchase the old iron fencing from the
Brookridge property. It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm.
Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole direct
Staff to have the fence evaluated on its condition and worth, and the Board
will decide at a later date on future use or sale of the iron fence at
Brookridge.

The Committee of the Whole considered the Draft 911 Emergency Telephone
Service Plan for Marquette County. Comm. Arsenault served as Chairperson of
the 911 Implementation Committee and briefed the Committee on the
recommendations that the County Board go with Scenario 6a. Comm. Arsenault
introduced Patricia Gruber, Staff Planner, and Joseph D. Cousineau, an
Account Representative with Michigan Bell, to answer questions regarding
scenario 6a.

Ms. Gruber explained that scenarios 6a, 6b & 6c vary in two areas, when
to implement, and method of funding. Scenario 6a would be implemented
immediately without regard to the Central Office Upgrading Schedule
(Attachment II). The funding would use the maximum surcharge allowed under
Act 32 supplemented by millage. The millage would be required in the first
couple of years, because the surcharge cannot be applied until the system is
operational. Also, the millage is needed to pay PSAP equipment and
operating costs, whereas the surcharge will cover mainly telephone network
and operational costs.

Mr. Cousineau further elaborated on the Central Office Upgrading
Schedule. This is only a planning document used by Michigan Bell. The dates
listed on the schedule are estimates and can slip by two-to-five years.
This also makes the modification costs only estimates based on current
information. Comm. Arsenault requested that when the Commissioners
recommend the Plan to the County Board for adoption, that it not include
Attachment II, the Central Office Upgrade Schedule. The Schedule may create
some misunderstanding and cause problems later. The other Commissioners and
Staff disagreed and felt the Schedule should remain in the Plan, however an
explanation page from Michigan Bell will be added.

The recommended Scenario 6a for the 911 Plan covers all of Marquette
County, except for the following areas: 10 phones in the Trenary exchange
from a small Eastern section of Skandia Township, 53 phones in Southern Ely
and Tilden Townships (the Michigamme Forest Exchange which is in the Upper
Peninsula Telephone Company (UPTC) exchange), and the Rock, Perkins and
Cornell exchanges which are part of the Michigan Bell Telephone System, but
which have the majority of their area in Delta County. These exceptions
only represent 4% of the total telephones of Marquette County. The Rock,
Perkins and Cornell exchanges will have 911 service when the Delta County
System becomes operational, leaving only 1% of the County phones without 911
capability.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and
unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County
Board adopt the Tentative Plan Resolution for the implementation of the
Marquette County 911 Emergency Telephone System as provided by Scenario 6a.

The Committee of the Whole considered a communication from Randall M.
Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Dept., regarding a grant
proposal being submitted to the Kellogg Foundation to establish a Tobacco
Free School Project serving Marquette and Alger Counties. The County Board of Commissioners has a financial policy requiring that all grant proposals, including direct or indirect local financial support, must be approved by the Board of Commissioners prior to submission. The Kellogg Foundation would provide $24,600.00 with local in-kind matches from various school and health agencies in Marquette and Alger Counties totaling $10,457.00, the total grant being $35,057.00. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsennault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the submission of the Grant Proposal to the Kellogg Foundation to establish a Tobacco Free School Project serving Marquette and Alger Counties.

The Committee of the Whole considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development Dept., regarding two Quality of Life Recreation Grant Applications. James Kippola, Senior Planner, was present to discuss the grant proposals and answer questions.

Proposal 1 - Honor Camp Road Design - This project had been funded in the amount of $5,000.00 for 1989. The Staff estimates that $50,000.00 is required to complete the project, and recommends applying for a Quality of Life Fund Grant to perform the work. If successful this would require an additional County commitment of $7,500.00. Commissioners felt this project to be important to the development of the Honor Camp for recreational purposes, and believed that after the design of the road, the construction of the road should also take place. It was pointed out by Administrator, Dennis Aloia, that the Road Commission will probably be able to help in funding the road construction, and also there is some interest in a private developer.

Proposal 2 - Shooting Sports Complex Project - Estimated construction costs are $250,000.00 (plus any land acquisition costs), with a design cost estimate of $30,000.00. The Planning Staff is recommending application for a Quality of Life Grant for design money connected with this facility. The County Board on June 6th directed the Planning Department to begin working on the refinement of a Shooting Sports Complex Project Plan.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bays and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to proceed with the Quality of Life Grant Application for not only the Honor Camp Road Design, but also construction, however a recommendation on the Shooting Sports Complex will be held off until further information is available and presented at the August 1, 1989 Regular Board meeting.

The Committee of the Whole considered the billing from Somerville & Assoc. for professional services rendered on the New County Office Building Project (Jacks IGA) for the month of June. The Management Team recommends payment of the $8,904.73. Design work completed to date is in excess of 35% of the project, and has been of acceptable quality. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsennault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the payment of $8,904.73 for professional services for Somerville & Assoc. through June, 1989.

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

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, July 25, 1989 at 6:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT. [Joel Mearns]
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Correspondence from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding the Airport Terminal Project.
8. Memo from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding requests to purchase old courthouse iron fencing from Brookridge.
10. PUBLIC COMMENT.
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
12. ADJOURNMENT.

NOTICE

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Finance/Personnel meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 1989 has been cancelled.

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Executive/Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 1989 has been cancelled.