The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 27, 1990 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skevis Annex, Marquette, MI.


On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 13, 1990 were approved.

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

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following late additions: item 13a) Courthouse Retirees request for an E-1 Program Rider; item 13b) County Board Policy 403 on appointments; item 13c) a partial discharge of mortgage; and item 13d) a closed session for the discussion of pending litigation.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bays, Claims and Accounts for the period November 10, 1990 thru November 21, 1990, in the amount of $263,705.18 were unanimously approved.

The Committee considered the 1991 Airport Improvement Project "AIP Grant." Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that this pre-application/application for the AIP Grant between Marquette County and the Federal Aviation Administration is for the purchase of the new Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Vehicle, of which 90% is to be paid for by the Federal Government and the remainder to be divided between the State and the local sources. The County Board had previously reviewed and approved the project.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommended that the County Board approve the pre-application/application for the 1991 Airport Improvement Program Grant, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the necessary documents and resolution.

The Committee considered a request from Charles L. Manto, Executive Director, for either a grant or a guaranteed loan of $3,000.00, so the EDC can purchase an option for the Cliff’s Shaft Property. Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company has informed the EDC that they have until December 1, 1990 to exercise this option, after that all offers regarding the property will be null and void. Mr. Manto was present to answer questions and discuss the Cliff’s Shaft Property with the Committee.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Corkin, for discussion purposes, to give $3,000.00 to the EDC for the option on the Cliff’s Shaft Property. After a lengthy discussion the motion was denied, three-to-one on a roll call vote, with Comm. Arsenault voting aye, and Commissioners Bays, Seppanen and Corkin voting nay.

The Committee considered a proposed amendment to the bylaws of the Central Dispatch Policy Board. Comm. Seppanen, the County Board Representative on the Central Dispatch Policy Board, explained that the intent of the bylaw amendment is that when an elected member of a governing body is a representative on the Central Dispatch Board, and their term expires or ends for some reason, then their representation on the Central Dispatch Policy Board should also end.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommended that the County Board amend Article I of the Bylaws to include the following:

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"If an elected official's term of office on a governing board ends, their term on the Policy Board will terminate."

And further, that in Article I, and also referred to in Article II, the reference to "State Representative for Marquette County" should be removed.

GERALD O. CORBIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Committee considered the Pioneer Square Mall Lease to Community Mental Health. On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole referred the lease to the full County Board meeting without a Committee recommendation.

The Committee considered a request from Michael J. Anderegg, Probate Judge, for Diversion Staff backpay. Judge Anderegg was present and explained that the Diversion Staff have been eligible for backpay since October 1, 1989, and because of the County’s delay he feels that they should receive the 3% pay increase that all other Courthouse Employees have received, plus interest. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, was present and believed that paying interest on backpay would set a precedent.

Judge Anderegg then requested that Diversion Staff receive 4% backpay. Administrator Aloia agreed with Judge Anderegg that the Diversion Staff were paid less than County employees, but they were contract employees and had their own specific benefit package, and whether it’s 3% backpay plus interest or 4% backpay, it would not be the same as other courthouse employees bargained for.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bays, the Diversion Staff backpay issue is to be forwarded to the regular County Board meeting without a Committee recommendation.

The Committee considered a Classification/Compensation System Update from Mandell Girard, Director of Human Resources. Mr. Girard pointed out that there are six reclassification requests currently pending, and the effective date of a classification update is retroactive to the date of request. There are however, a number of reclassification requests that are in the initial stages of review, but have yet to be submitted. In light of the pending Morley and Assoc. Classification/Compensation System update, Mr. Girard recommends that the County Board place a moratorium on further reclassification requests until the update is complete.

On a motion by Comm. Bays, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole recommended that the County Board place the moratorium on further reclassification requests until completion of the Classification/Compensation System Update.

The Committee considered the status of the Flight Service Station at the Marquette County Airport. Comm. Defant is presently in Washington D.C. meeting with Senator Levin and officials of the FAA and will provide a full report when she returns at the next County Board meeting.

The Committee of the Whole considered a request from the Marquette County Retirees Chapter 113 for the adoption of a benefit program E-1 which provides for an annual cost of living increase up to 2-1/2 percent. Peter Dompierre, Michigan AFSCME Representative for Council 25, was present and spoke on behalf of the Marquette County Retirees. Mr. Dompierre contended that retirees have no bargaining power and are subject to the whim of elected officials. The Marquette County Retirees have not received a cost of living increase in twelve years. Last year they did receive a one-time E benefit, and in addition the County Board set a minimum retirement benefit of $100.00 per month.
Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, pointed out that labor negotiations will begin again in 1991 and the appropriate place for such requests is through the bargaining process. If the program benefit E-1 was adopted now, it would cost the County $235,000 over a fifteen year period, and would benefit only those employees presently retired and not future retirees.

Commissioners concur that something should be done to benefit the present retirees; however, felt long term benefits should be bargained for and be available to future retirees.

On a motion by Comm. Bays, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole recommended the County Board adopt the one-time E Plan which provides for a 2% increase in their retirement benefit. This would cost the County an additional $2,288.00 for 1991.

Because the Regular County Board meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., Chairperson Corkin directed that the remaining three Committee agenda items be placed on the Regular County Board agenda meeting as late additions.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 27, 1990
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. 1991 Airport Improvement Project "AIP Grant".
8. Proposed Amendment to By-Laws of Central Dispatch Policy Board.
9. Pioneer Square Mall Lease to Community Mental Health.
10. Diversion Staff Pay.
11. Classification System Update.
12. Discussion of Possible Visit to Senator Carl Levin regarding Flight Tower.
13. Late Additions
   a. Return request
   b. Comment on request
   c. Partial denial of mortgage
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.